

United States Senate

June 6, 2016

Friends of Israel Defense Forces
Central Region
29 E. Madison Street, #1010
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) on the 2016 FIDF Central Region Annual Dinner. On the occasion of this gathering of over 1,000 business and community leaders, along with soldiers from both the IDF and American Armed Forces, I am reminded of the Israel Defense Force's crucial role in safeguarding Israel, a fellow democracy and America's closest friend and ally in the Middle East.

This special event is an important opportunity to help support educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the young men and women in uniform who defend Israel every day. It is also a time to recognize the sacrifices of fallen IDF soldiers, by joining the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces in providing support for their families.

I am proud to reaffirm my commitment to being a steadfast defender of the Jewish State of Israel and her people in the U.S. Senate. I will continue to work tirelessly in Congress to reach bipartisan solutions that ensure fully funded U.S.-Israeli missile defense cooperation, punish those responsible for the chronic wave of Palestinian terror attacks against Israel, and penalize Iran for violations of the international nuclear agreement.

I wish you great success in your future endeavors, and I hope that this event, along with many others, continues to promote the wellbeing of the brave soldiers who defend the Jewish homeland. I am honored to represent you in the United States Senate.

Kol Tuv,



Mark Kirk

United States Senate