**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 464**

**WHEREAS**, The Lone Star State has always been a steadfast supporter of the historic alliance between the United States and the democratic nation of Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, In early May 2021, long-standing tensions in Jerusalem boiled over, and clashes broke out at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound between Israeli police and Palestinian protesters; the mayhem quickly escalated into the worst spate of violence in the city since 2014, when the kidnapping and killing of three Israeli teenagers by Hamas members led to a seven-week conflict and scores of deaths in Israel; and

**WHEREAS**, Hamas, an Islamist militant group sworn to Israel's destruction and designated as a terrorist group, began firing long-range rockets from Gaza toward Jerusalem on May 10, 2021; Israel responded by bombing targets in Gaza, and because Hamas employs civilians as human shields, more than 200 Palestinian lives were lost; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the course of 11 days, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and other militant groups launched more than 4,000 rockets at Israel, killing 12 people, mostly civilians; Hamas fired at nonmilitary targets, and the death toll would doubtless have been much higher, but for the Iron Dome, Israel's short-range air defense system, a tactical and technological marvel that has received substantial support from the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, A cease-fire mediated by Egypt began at 7 p.m. EST May 20, 2021, but the history of Israeli-Palestinian hostilities is littered with agreements that have yet to resolve underlying disputes; and

**WHEREAS**, Deeply committed to the preservation of democracies around the world, Texas has ever been a staunch ally of Israel and an opponent of its enemies and of terrorism; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby express support for the democratic nation of Israel and its right to defend itself and condemn the provocative attacks against Israel by Palestinian militants.

Hughes, PerrySeliger, Zaffirini

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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    President of the Senate      I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 31, 2021. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate