

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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CORRECTION (SEE PAGE TWO)

GOVERNOR SIGNS PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

Gov. Christie Whitman today highlighted the deep bonds of friendship and solidarity forged between New Jersey and Israel as she signed a proclamation commemorating the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel.

"I like to think that New Jersey's bond with Israel is truly reflected in the close relationship between the Jewish community here in New Jersey and the Israeli people," Gov. Whitman said. "It is this relationship that will continue to deepen our bonds of friendship and solidarity, in this anniversary year and far into the future."

"As Israel embarks on its second half-century, New Jersey will be there as a trading partner, as a supporter, and, most important, as a friend," the Governor said.

"On the occasion of this 50th anniversary, we can truly say that what makes Israel special is the unwavering faith and determination of her people to preserve Israel's existence," Gov. Whitman said. "I am very proud of what New Jersey has done to help Israel grow and prosper. My administration has worked tirelessly to support the Jewish community and the State of Israel."

Gov. Whitman pointed out that in 1994 New Jersey was among the first states to mandate Holocaust education in public schools and the state has produced one of the most successful programs in the country.

In 1995, New Jersey established the first trade office in Israel in Ra'anana and doubled the funding for the New Jersey- Israel Commission.

The Governor traveled to Israel with a New Jersey trade delegation in 1996 and in 1997, she signed a memorandum of understanding with the New Jersey-Israel Chamber of Commerce that greatly expanded the state's economic ties with Israel. Israel is New Jersey's eighth* largest trading partner.

*The previous release incorrectly stated that Israel is New Jersey' sixth largest trading partner.