Reception for 9th Anniversary of the Cedar Revolution and the Withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon

Sponsored by: Lebanese American Groups

Suggested Remarks:

Eliot engel

- Thank you for inviting me to be with you on this important day, the ninth anniversary of the Cedar Revolution.

- Like you, I had been working toward a free Lebanon for many years. I introduced the Syria Accountability and Lebanon Sovereignty Restoration Act in order to increase the pressure on the Syrian regime and help Lebanon achieve the independence it deserves.

- Nine years after the withdrawal of the Syrian army from Lebanon, Syria still looms large.

- The Syrian civil war has unloaded over a million refugees in Lebanon. This has strained host communities and basic services.

- The war has empowered Hezbollah and has given them operational experience that could be dangerous for the region now and in the future.

- Now, more than ever, Lebanon needs political institutions that can secure borders, confront militias, and implement international obligations.

- The United States must stand for and must support a free Lebanon.