

to get things done and who never fails to take on a challenge.

During the past several decades, I have been privileged to work with Jack and Georgia on issues of concern at local, State and Federal levels and have valued their friendship and counsel. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Jack Koszdin and Georgia Mercer for their outstanding contributions to our community and thanking Hillel at CSUN, Valley and Pierce Community Colleges for its great work generally, and for making tonight's Gala Dinner a wonderful success.

NEW YORK'S YMCA CELEBRATES
ITS 150TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the YMCA of Greater New York in celebration of its rich and vital 150 year history.

Throughout its history, the "Y", as many of us know it, has spanned three distinct historical periods. The first, from 1852–1902, is marked by a commitment to help newcomers to the city and the creation of programs of social change to help groups impacted by war, population shifts and industrial changes. The New York "Association" was staunchly abolitionist and formed a commission to minister to soldiers in camps and hospitals, and on the battlefields of the Civil War. After the War, new YMCA programs were started for African Americans, railroad workers and young boys from urban centers.

From 1902–1952, the YMCA expanded its scope to all areas of public life and affairs, and women became members. Racial integration was attained nationally in the 1940s and much earlier in many New York City YMCA branches. The YMCA's expertise produced numerous vocational, skills training and job placement programs during these years.

From 1952–2002, the YMCA focused aggressively on urban programs to help girls and boys, and their families, in the city. Programs were developed to deal with poverty, youth unemployment, delinquency and drug abuse, and many programs were put on wheels, such as Jobmobiles and Youthmobiles, in order to be located in the neighborhoods most in need. In New York City, during fiscal crises and national recessions, the YMCA maintained its firm commitment to the city through large-scale childcare and expanded family programs. A growing emphasis on physical fitness led to many new program offerings, such as aquatics, cardiovascular fitness and sports leagues, including two sports invented at the YMCA in the late 19th century—basketball and volleyball.

In the past decade, the YMCA of Greater New York also has become a presence in nearly 200 public schools in every school district in the City. In partnership with the United Way and the New York City Board of Education, the Virtual Y currently enrolls 7,500 children and is expanding. Teen Action NYC, currently operates in five schools and provides academic support, life skills and career planning. Most recently following 9/11, the YMCA of Greater New York has developed programs

in response and made its 20 branches available for a variety of community needs. In 2002, the YMCA of Greater New York serves 170,000 youth and 200,000 adults.

Throughout its 150 years, the YMCA of Greater New York has been a model of public/private partnerships with a close connection to the City's business and civic leadership. Early lay leaders, such as William E. Dodge Jr., J. Pierpont Morgan and Cornelius Vanderbilt II, were among the most prominent businessmen and philanthropists of their time. Former elected officials, such as Governor Thomas Dewey and Major John Lindsay, served on the YMCA board. Mayors David Dinkins, Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg have all been proactive supporters of YMCA community centers and programs.

The YMCA of Greater New York's fundraising efforts, including its Capital Campaign for Kids, are supported by hundreds of corporations and foundations that recognize the YMCA's major and continuing commitment to the youth and families of New York City. This support is led by the YMCA of Greater New York's 14 Corporate Champions: AT&T/AXA Financial, Bloomberg, Con Edison, Credit Suisse/First Boston, Deloitte & Touche, Deutsche Bank, JPMorganChase, Merrill Lynch, Metropolitan Life Foundation, New York Life, Pfizer, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and UBS/PaineWebber.

Mr. Speaker, 150 years after the YMCA of Greater New York first came into existence it is now bigger and better than ever before. As such, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable organization on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO 9/11 HEROES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2002, I stood on the House floor to recognize and celebrate the 181st Anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

As I stated on that day, the Hellenic community, as every community in New York and worldwide, was hit heavily by that travesty of 9/11.

Fortunately, we have members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Port Authority, military and other volunteers who will continue to lead this war and to protect us on the homeland and abroad. They are led by Captain John Casamatis, Nicholas Biancovisio (NYPD), Sgt. Emanuel Vrettos (Triborough Bridge & Tunnel Authority), Paul Pallas (NYPD), Demetrios Kaloudakis (NYPD), Constantine Kaloudakis (NYPD), US Marshall John Svinos, Nicholas Mitsinkos (NYPD), Special Agent Genie Poumpouraas (Secret Service), Steve Savvas (NYPD) and Athanasios Ganosis (NYPD).

We salute the clergy and volunteer heroes, lead by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, His Grace Bishop Andonios Parapoulos, His Grace Bishop Savas Zembillas, Fathers John Angel, James Antokas, John Heropoulos, Alexander Karloutsos (Port Authority Chaplain), Michael Kontogeorge, Alexander Leondis, James Moskovitis, James Moulketas, Geore

Orfanakos, Paul Panos, Angelo Pappas, Nicholas Rafael, John Romas, Elias Villas, and Decons Niktarios Morrow and Panteleimon Papadopoulos. The volunteers include: Sofia Cotzia, George C. Zouvelos, Tony Benezatos, Maria Andriotis, Keana Balahtsis, Marissa Costidis, Jerry Dimitriou, Fran Karivalis, Michael Karloutsos, Xanthi Karloutsos, Ioanna Kekropidou, Theo Nicolakis, Andrea Pappa, Nitsa Sinanis, Gkorge Schira, Nick Terizis, Harry C. Zouvelos and Dina Theodosakis to name a few.

Today, as every day, we pay tribute to the heroes of 9/11. We will not forget you! Zeto E Eleftheria (Long Live Freedom), Se Ollo to Kosmo (In the entire world).

INTRODUCING A JOINT RESOLUTION
HONORING THE 102ND
FIGHTER WING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
AIR NATIONAL
GUARD

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, without question, September 11th, 2001 was one of the most tragic days in our nation's history. Millions of lives were adversely affected by the terrorist acts that were perpetrated in New York City, Washington, DC and Pennsylvania. However, like so many times before, Americans from across the country rose to the challenge of defending this great nation. Out of this dark period came amazing stories of heroism, patriotism and selflessness. Today, I rise to introduce a joint resolution, on behalf of the Massachusetts Congressional delegation, that pays tribute to a group of men and women who played an indispensable role in defense of the nation during and following September's terrorist attacks.

Before most of America could come to grips with what was happening on the morning of September 11th, the 102nd Fighter Wing of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, located at Otis Air National Guard Base, had assumed its position as the tip of the spear in defense of the nation's skies. Known as the Minutemen, in honor of their Revolutionary War forefathers, the 102nd became the nation's first airborne responders when it scrambled two F-15s just six minutes after being informed of the hijackings. Within the first hour, the wing launched six armed aircraft on Combat Air Patrol over New York City and Boston. Incredibly, with significantly fewer pilots and maintainers than their active duty counterparts, the 102nd generated, loaded and accepted fourteen aircraft in less than seventeen hours for around-the-clock combat operations. As a result of its ability to respond so quickly and effectively, the 102nd Fighter Wing became the country's lead air defense squadron for Operation Noble Eagle.

In the first three days of the national crisis, the 102nd flew forty-six sorties and better than 160 hours protecting every major city in the Northeast Air Defense Sector. During this period, the 102nd was the country's sole clearance and identification authority and their flawless execution expedited the flow of medevac

and recovery aircraft to the World Trade Center site. By day sixteen, the squadron had tripled its alert commitment, flying 144 sorties totaling 450 hours, and expanded its area of responsibility to include the entire mid-Atlantic coast.

From September 11th until receiving orders to stand down on February 1, 2002, the 102nd Fighter Wing flew a total of 770 sorties, compiling over 3200 hours in direct support of Operation Noble Eagle and Combat Air Patrols over New York, Washington DC, and Boston. During this nearly five-month period, the unit came close to surpassing their annual flying hour allocation and witnessed an astounding 300 percent increase in operational tempo. The operation tempo increase included such tasking as escorting Air Force 1 and Air Force 2, providing air support when the President addressed the United Nations, and patrolling the skies over New York City during baseball's World Series. Hopefully, that venue will be in Boston this fall!

Especially noteworthy was the twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week aspect of the operation. Normally, major aircraft maintenance can be accomplished during non-flying periods, and all maintenance personnel can concentrate on fixing the jets instead of flying. Naturally, this is not possible with an around-the-clock flying commitment. However, the 102nd's maintenance crews rose to the challenge and were able to provide fully mission capable aircraft that enabled the squadron to meet 100 percent of its Combat Air Patrol and alert tasking. If that were not amazing enough, in addition to fulfilling its own missions, the 102nd, as a result of the superior maintenance efforts, were able to fill in for other units when those units could not meet their tasking.

When you take into account the accomplishments of the unit during this period, you cannot help but have a deep sense of honor and appreciation for the 1000 men and women that make up the 102nd Fighter Wing. No single flying organization has ever been tasked with this level of responsibility for such a long period of time. Make no mistake; every American owes each one of these citizen air-men and women a debt of gratitude to them for their hard work, dedication and tireless commitment to ensuring the operational success of each and every mission.

Earlier this month the 102nd's achievements were properly recognized when the wing was selected as the 2002 recipient of the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, given to the country's most outstanding Air National Guard fighter unit. Additionally, the 102nd is a finalist for the 2002 Hughes award, which recognizes the top fighter unit in the entire United States Air Force. The professional qualities and dedication to duty demonstrated this year by the unit were without equal and it is this Member's opinion the 102nd Fighter Wing is deserving of this honor as well.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that even before the events of September 11th, the men and women of the 102nd Fighter Wing personified the true meaning of patriotism. The Fighter Wing has a long and distinguished history of service to the people of Massachusetts and the nation. I am extremely honored to have the 102nd Fighter Wing in my state and particularly proud to know that when the nation called for its most capable fighters to protect America's skies, the 102nd Fighter Wing responded in true Minuteman fashion. It is my

hope that Congress will acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing by considering and ultimately passing this resolution.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GUAM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the nation marks the ninetieth anniversary of the city of Tokyo's original gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the people of Washington, D.C. in 1912, I also would like to take the time to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of an organization centered around the annual celebration of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Fifty years ago this year, the Guam Territorial Society was organized under the Congressional charter to the Conference of State Societies. The advent of this organization brought together former residents of Guam living in Washington, D.C. and the suburbs of Virginia and Maryland. A special venue for these people was made available to gather through receptions, dinners, picnics, and a host of other events.

Since its inception, the society and its members have been responsible for making sure that Guam was represented by a princess in the National Cherry Blossom festival. On two instances, the Guam princesses were crowned National Cherry Blossom Queens—Angela Alley in 1982 and Tanya Monique Manibusan in 1993. Its affiliation with the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS), enabled two of the organization's past presidents to become NCSS presidents. General Frank Torres as NCSS president during the 1974–75 term while Mr. William Barbee, Jr. Served during the 1986–87 term.

Along with its NCSS affiliation, the society has been an active participant of the National Organization of Pacific Island Association (NOPIA) and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Council (APAHC). For years, it has co-hosted the annual Pacific Night reception which brings together the various nations from the Pacific region. In addition, the society has supported and established a working relationship with Chamorro Clubs all over the United States and abroad.

The society's commitment to Guam and its people is strongly manifested by the assistance and support it extends to the office of the delegate of Guam, the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor of Guam, the Guam Legislature, and the many Chamorro men and women in the United States Armed Forces. An instrument in bringing people from Guam together, the society hosts the largest Chamorro gatherings in the East Coast during Memorial Day, Liberation Day and the Annual Chamorro Night Ball. Its members put together annual children's Christmas parties for member's children and their guests and hosts receptions for the Guam Close-Up kids who come to visit our nation's capital.

In 1986, the Guam Territorial Society was reorganized to become the Guam Society of America, Inc. (GSA). The organization's name might have undergone a slight change but its commitment to Guam, its people, its culture and its traditions has endured. It has since or-

ganized Chamorro Language conversational classes and has established a scholarship fund. The annual Guam Society of America Golf Tournament is a fundraising event that goes towards these worthwhile efforts.

GSA promotes Guam's age-old tradition of placing high regard upon its elders. The blessings we enjoy today were made possible through their labors and their guidance. It is with great pride and pleasure that I join the society's endeavor this year to honor our mañaina. Along with the society's principal organizer, the Honorable Carlos Taitano, special individuals from the D.C. area such as Jose and Bride Bamba, Roman Benavente, Juan and Matilde Cruz, John Flores, Brigida Lizama, Margarita S. Perez, Joseph and Margaret Sablan, Isadora Taitano, Jose Taitano, Vicente Torres, George and Rosita Eustaquio, my predecessor, Ben Blaz, and his wife, Ann, possess the wisdom and pass along the knowledge regarding our culture and traditions on to future generations.

For the past fifty years, the Guam Society of America has developed into a unique civic and social club for individuals in the National Capital region who have retained ties to the island of Guam. The society and its members have brought together friends and family through its efforts towards the preservation and promotion of Chamorro culture. As the Guam Society of America celebrates its golden anniversary, we also take the time to honor our mañaina—esteemed individuals who have laid the foundations and through whose leadership and guidance the society is able to celebrate this milestone today. I also commend Linda Perez, the society's president, Cindy Atoigue, its vice president, Annie Rosario, its secretary and Doris Yanger, its treasurer, who along with the society's many members made this celebration possible. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate the Guam Society of America, its members, and, most especially, the mañaina. The past fifty years have been fruitful, rewarding and beneficial to the friends of Guam in the National Capital region. My wife, Lorraine, and I wish the society many more such years.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAKE ROBIN GOLF CLUB, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 65th Anniversary of Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. In noting this milestone, I am particularly pleased to honor the outstanding contributions that the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made to increase the involvement of African Americans in golf.

Since its beginning in 1937, the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made many important contributions to expand opportunities for African Americans, particularly for women, in the District of Columbia and our nation. In 1938, members of the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. drafted a petition to the Secretary of the Interior requesting the desegregation of public golf courses in Washington, D.C. Three years later, because of their great persistence and energy, the Secretary issued an order honoring this courageous and groundbreaking request.