Long after the triumphs of 1821, Greece continues to prove itself as a loyal ally of the United States and an internationally recognized advocate of democracy. Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond those of the former British Empire to be allied with the United States in every major international crisis of the 20th century. I have little doubt this impressive and dependable relationship will continue throughout the 21st century and beyond. In the Balkans, Greece has played a steady hand of democracy in the face of regional unrest and instability.

As we continue in our efforts to free the world of terrorism, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece. Greece's reliability as a stable democracy and key NATO ally is critical in our efforts to advocate international peace and stability.

As we celebrate 182 years of freedom and independence, I salute and thank the Greek people for their spirit and their ongoing pursuit of peace. To Greece, a free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

COMMENDING THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL'S EFFORTS AT SUPPORTING PEACE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin an unjust invasion in Iraq, I think that it is appropriate that this chamber hears from citizens and leaders on the local level, and not just the representatives of the Administration.

Last week, on March 12, 2003, the New York City Council courageously passed resolution 549-A, condemning current plans for an invasion of Iraq. They did so representing their constituents, who have made it abundantly clear through letters, faxes, emails and public protests, that the costs are too great and the evidence too suspect to support an invasion.

This resolution represents the voice of the people of our great city.

I applaud the majority of the members of the Council for their principled fight for peace and diplomacy. I commend them for resisting the tempting severity of silence and risk being unfairly labeled and misunderstood as "unpatriotic."

We live in a time where no one wants to challenge our foreign policy decisions for fear of being perceived not supportive of freedom or of our brave men and women who poised for the world with consequences of mass destruction of our history. I applaud the members of the Council who elected leaders were at the time that this fateful decision between war and international cooperation was made, it will be clear that it was the City Council of New York who stood strongly as voices for peace.

I invite you to read excerpts of their resolution, so that it can be clear why the elected representatives of the citizens of the City of New York, still recovering from the attack of September 11, believe that real peace and democracy should be secured by law, not force.

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION URGING MILITARY RESTRAINT IN IRAQ

Resolution calling on the government of the United States to make all efforts to work through the United Nations Security Council in a manner that would reaffirm our Nation's commitment to the rule of law and the primacy of human rights in our international relationships, and should take all appropriate steps toward securing the participation of other nations and international organizations in the international community to maintain the infrastructure, human services and social programs necessary for our nation's security, general welfare and progress; and

Whereas, The United States government has not articulated how a military attack would result in the formation of an Iraqi government that respects the development of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and promotes freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, In the event that our armed forces are called into combat in Iraq, we recognize, honor and appreciate the commitment, service and valor of our military personnel, and similarly, we fervently hope for their safe return; and

Resolved, That the government of the United States should make all efforts to work through the United Nations Security Council in a manner that would reaffirm our nation's commitment to the rule of law and the primacy of human rights in our international relationships, and should take all appropriate steps toward securing the participation of other nations and international bodies in the effort to ensure that Iraq does not possess biological, chemical or nuclear weapons and that Iraq fully complies with United Nations resolutions calling for the elimination of mass destruction and the means for their development have failed.

Resolved, That the government of the United States should work through the United Nations Security Council in a manner that would reaffirm our nation's commitment to the rule of law and the primacy of human rights in our international relationships, and should take all appropriate steps toward securing the participation of other nations and international organizations in the international community to maintain the infrastructure, human services and social programs necessary for our nation's security, general welfare and progress; and

Whereas, The United States government has not articulated how a military attack would result in the formation of an Iraqi government that respects the development of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons and promotes freedom and democracy; and

Whereas, In the event that our armed forces are called into combat in Iraq, we recognize, honor and appreciate the commitment, service and valor of our military personnel, and similarly, we fervently hope for their safe return; and

IN MEMORY OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL THOMAS SLOCUM OF THORNTON, CO

HON. MARK UDALL
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I learned today that Colorado has suffered its first casualty in the war on Iraq. Lance Corporal Thomas Slocum was one of nine Marines killed near Al Nasiriyah on Sunday.