

polluted for people to use for swimming. Who will be responsible for ensuring that the pollution does not continue? We, the Members of Congress, will be held accountable to the people who have entrusted us with their welfare.

Drinking water quality may not be an issue if you can afford to buy bottled water. However, many cannot afford this luxury; they are struggling just to feed their families. Safe drinking water is a right that the citizens of the United States deserve and demand. The cost of the human damage that may be incurred by drinking contaminated water is not worth near term savings from the EPA budget cuts. The most impacted groups are the most vulnerable segments: the young, elderly, and the poor. Moreover, there is evidence that living areas of the minority populations are subjected more to pollution than other segments of the populace. Unable to battle the air and water pollution or to afford alternatives, they succumb to the worst of the hazards. The cost of human illness and life is too high a stake in this gamble. We must use prevention to curtail any problems with our water sources, such as heavy metals, toxic chemicals, and dangerous microorganisms. The majority party must be able to understand the most cost-effective solution is pollution prevention. We have seen the cost of environmental cleanup and the health care expenses resulting from hazardous exposures and poor quality air and water.

Not only is health of people endangered, but so is the health and diversity of our wildlife and the stability of our forests. We now face a 38-percent cut in funding for the Endangered Species Act. The cuts and the moratorium on placing new species on the endangered species list will not cause the problem to subside. It will only cause a festering of the problem. We have a responsibility to ensure that the environment is examined in its totality. The decrease in species is a result of poor environmental management and will lead to subsequent compounded environmental imbalances.

Additionally, we must preserve our public lands for their environmental role, such as watershed capacity, as well as their scenic and recreational value. Tagging important legislation with amendments which, directly and indirectly, attack these treasured resources is not responsible. We must have comprehensive legislation to address the whole issue, not just a single Member's narrow interest. We must use a logical and scientifically sound approach. And as such, we must keep our research in ecological and environmental topics at a robust level. Recent efforts have stripped the EPA, and specifically Superfund, research by devastating amounts.

Overall, we cannot allow our environmental progress to fade and return to prior conditions. We should not take steps away from environmental improvement, but toward it. I urge support and passage of budgets which will allow Federal agencies to complete this important work without the impediment of restrictive language.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mr. SMITH of Michigan). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening, as I have year after year at this time, to honor the heritage of freedom and democracy which reintroduced itself in Greece 175 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, March 25 is Greek Independence Day. On that date in 1821, after more than 400 years of Ottoman Turk domination, Greek freedom fighters returned sovereignty to Greece, and in so doing, reconnected themselves and their Greek brothers and sisters to their heritage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN], who is a wonderful friend and has always been very much interested in the affairs of the Hellenes.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise to speak on this occasion which marks a day of tremendous historical significance for Americans and all who revere the blessings which a democratic way of life have afforded us. I thank the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for organizing this special order, and I want him to know how much we appreciate all his efforts in the House to keep Hellenic issues before us.

On March 25, Greece will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its declaration of independence from foreign domination. We revere and honor the contributions that Greek civilization has made to democratic traditions.

The cause of Greek independence and the adherence of the Greek nation to the path of democracy and true respect for the will of the people to determine their political course has always been dear to the hearts of democrats everywhere. We remember that the great Romantic poet, Lord Byron, gave his life for this cause during the tumultuous revolt of the Greeks against their Ottoman overlords, and the cause of democracy in Greece continues to be a matter of interest for us here today.

In particular, we in America are gratified by Greece's role as a close American ally, and by the contribution that the Greek-American community makes to this country—and we only have to look around this chamber to see our members of Greek heritage with whom I know we are all proud to serve.

Mr. Speaker, we look to Greece to continue to play the strong and responsible role it has played in assuring that the Aegean and eastern Mediterranean remain a region of peace and stability. I trust that our Government will also continue to support a free, prosperous

and strong Greece. I urge my colleagues to join in wishing the people and Government of Greece our best wishes and heartfelt hopes for a bright future.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so very, very much.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE].

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking Mr. BILIRAKIS for taking the lead in organizing what has now become an annual event: the celebration of Greek Independence Day here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. I am honored to participate in this year's tribute, which will mark the 175th anniversary of Greek independence and the 10th consecutive year the Congress sends a resolution to the President's desk asking that March 25 be designated as a National day of celebration of Greek and American democracy. Looking around, I am pleased to see that many of the same faces who were here last year have returned to once again commemorate this historic event.

You do not have to be a student of history to know that the United States and Greece will forever be connected to each other. We are all well aware of the fact that throughout history, our countries have turned to each other for advice on how best to shape our respective democracies.

The roots of America's very existence, as Thomas Jefferson once observed, are grounded in the foundation of ancient Greece. "To the ancient Greeks" said Jefferson, "we are all indebted for the light which lead ourselves [American colonists] out of Gothic darkness."

Conversely, the Greeks have long drawn inspiration from the American commitment to freedom. "Having formed the resolution to live or die for freedom," noted a former Greek Commander in Chief—Petros Mavromichalis—in an 1821 appeal to the citizens of the United States, "we are drawn toward you by a just sympathy since it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode, and by you that she is prized as by our fathers."

There is no doubt that the substance behind these words has held in full since they were spoken 175 years ago. Time and again Greece has sent its sons and daughters to fight alongside our children in defense of democracy. Over 600,000 Greeks—or a staggering 9 percent of the entire Greek population—died fighting with the allies in World War II. Greece, moreover, is one of only three nations not part of the former British Empire that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century.

Today, through their high levels of education and steadfast commitment to hard work, Americans of Greek descent enrich our culture, better our lives, and strengthen the bond that connects our two countries. From

George Stephanopolous in the White House, to my colleagues of Greek descent here in the Congress, to the world's No. 1 ranked tennis player Pete Sampras, to the millions of Americans of Greek descent who get up and go to work everyday, it is clear that the ties that connect our countries remain vibrant and unique.

And as we are here to pay tribute to Greek Independence Day, it would only be fitting for us in the Congress to reassure Greek-Americans, and Greek nationals, that we are committed to standing with them on those international disputes involving the sovereignty of Greek citizens and territories.

We will continue to insist on Turkish compliance with all U.N. resolutions pertaining to the Cyprus conflict. We will, moreover, stand with Greece against all Turkish attempts to ignore international law and infringe upon Greek sovereignty, such as the incident earlier this year when Turkey laid claim to the Greek islet of Imia—a territory that was ceded to Greece by Italy under the terms of the Paris Peace Accords of 1947.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the Congress has established an annual event to celebrate Greek Independence Day. Greek-Americans and citizens of Greece alike have made invaluable contributions to American life and I congratulate them on 175 years of independence.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I particularly thank him for his declarations. I know he means those, and will stand behind them.

As long as I have interrupted my own comments, Mr. Speaker, I will just continue and leave them interrupted, and yield to the gentleman from Cleveland, OH [Mr. HOKE].

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman doing this. I had the pleasure of being actually not in Greece, but in an island very close to Greece this summer with the gentleman from Florida, and we had some great adventures. We, I think, presented the Greek Cypriot position quite articulately and persuasively to some of the Turkish Cypriot representatives, and I felt like I learned a great deal by being there, and I also was certainly honored to be there in the presence of the gentleman from Florida and other really committed, passionately committed Greek-Americans.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day that we are celebrating with this special order this resolution where we have named March 25, 1996, as Greek Independence Day, a national day of celebration of Greek and American democracy.

I guess what is really, I think, particularly appropriate and important to talk about is that we took over 200 years ago the example that Greece had set over 2,000 years ago as an example

of how, under the rule of law, a disparate people living in far-flung city states at that time could be brought together in a confederation. And James Madison and Alexander Hamilton themselves also wrote in the Federalist Papers:

Among the confederacies of antiquity, the most considerable was that of the Grecian Republics. From the very best accounts transmitted of this celebrated institution, it bore a very instructive analogy to the present confederation of the American States.

That was written in 1787. That came full circle when in 1821 the Greek intellectuals translated our own Declaration of Independence and used it as their own declaration. What we found is that the freedom-loving people of this country who founded this country, who emulated the freedom-loving people of Greece, and particularly in Greece, their commitment to a form of government which—I live the way Plato describes it in the Republic, he says "Democracy is a delightful form of government. It is full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike."

If your spend any time at all on the floor of this House, you are immediately struck that we here are full of variety and disorder, and dispense a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike that Plato certainly would have been proud of, he would have recognized. Mr. Speaker, I think it is great that it came full circle, then, and the Greek intellectuals and the Greek freedom fighters of the 1820's used our declaration as their model.

I also want to just recognize some Greek-Americans of national and international note before I close. There are some whose names will be very familiar: George Papanicolaou, who invented the Pap smear for cancer; Dr. George Gotsius, who developed L-dopa, to combat Parkinson's disease; in music, Maria Callas, the fabulous soprano, whose recording of the Rachmaninoff Vocalese is one of my most prized records; Peter Sampras, the No. 1 tennis player in the entire world.

In government we have U.S. Senators PAUL SARBANES and our former colleague here, OLYMPIA SNOWE from Maine, and of course some very distinguished Members who just happen to be on the floor with me tonight; the gentleman from the great State of Pennsylvania, GEORGE GEKAS, and the gentleman from Florida, MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, and President Clinton's senior adviser, George Stephanopolous. I also particularly want to recognize a giant in the world of fashion, James Gallanos, who is a designer, and was the favorite designer of former First Lady Nancy Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, we know there have been many, many Greek-Americans that have added a great deal. We know that the contributions of Greek-Americans to this country have been extraordinary. There is one other thing that I came across as I prepared for this spe-

cial order that I thought was particularly interesting. It really goes to show what it is that Greek-Americans value in their families.

Greek-Americans became extremely successful in the United States in commerce, in trade, in many different areas. They recognized what my own grandfather recognized, who was not a Greek-American but was a Romanian-American, and that is that education is absolutely critically important to succeed in the United States of America, and education is in fact the great leveler. It is education that allows anybody to get ahead, anybody to achieve, and with education and hard work and a strong back and a will and determination, you can get ahead.

What is remarkable to me, Mr. Speaker, is that according to the United States census data, the first Greeks who became United States citizens ranked only 18th out of 24 nationals in their median educational attainment, but by 1970, their children had leapt to number one among all American ethnic nationals regarding median educational attainment, which shows that, first, Greek-Americans clearly value education, they value the written word, they value the spoken word, they value learning; and second, that learning not only is a value in and of itself, but it propels people to the top, in spite of all obstacles, and certainly we have seen that in this Greek-American community.

□ 2200

I am proud to be here, and I really appreciate the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] doing this every single year on Greek Independence Day. I am just glad to be able to be a part of it.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman. He has joined us every single year. He mentioned our trip to the island of Cyprus. We were the first Members of Congress, as I understand it, to go into the Turkish-occupied territory, up into the enclave area. We led a number of Cypriot-Americans who were not Members of Congress, just regular grassroots people, on that trip and we learned so very, very much. It was an honor to have done it with the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE].

I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS] for his remarks.

Mr. GEKAS. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to make remarks about the theme upon which the gentleman from Ohio struck a note, musician that he is, a rhapsody of history of the American born of Greek descent.

In fourth grade in public schools, in Pennsylvania at least, perhaps throughout the Nation, there began to shine the light on the students of ancient history. We first began to learn about Egypt and Phoenicia, then Greek civilization, Rome, et cetera. We all had images thrust upon us, wonderful images of the Acropolis, the Parthenon, the Aegean Sea, as it were, and

some of the ancient pillars and columns that were all over the Greek countryside in ancient Greece, and which were a part of tourism even then and our own beginnings of knowledge of Greek history.

Almost simultaneously, I must tell you, in the fourth grade, many of us who were born of Greek immigrants were also attending school sponsored by the church, our own Greek Orthodox Church, in which we had an embellishment of that which we learned in public school, almost on the same day. I would go from public school, which would finish at 3:30 or 4, and then go to what we called Greek school in the late afternoon. We were tired in the evening of learning.

At that moment we began to learn about the second phase of the grandeur that was Greece, which was alluded to by the gentleman from Ohio, in the 19th century. It seemed natural to us youngsters who had learned in public schools about ancient Greek democracy and Socrates and Demosthenes to make the transition to the glories of the revolution against the Ottoman Empire, and then to learn about Kolokotronis and Karaiskakis and Marcos Botsaris. So we had a second set of heroes and images and brilliance of achievement on the part of the Greek people inculcated into our young learning even at that time.

What was significant about that was not just the expansion of learning, which is important in the education quotient which the gentleman from Ohio read, as far as achievement on the part of the Greek-Americans concerned. What was significant to me then and what is significant to me now is and was that it is an American experience.

We young Americans of Greek descent became better Americans as a result of that double dose of learning. In the American public schools, in the Greek church schools we became better Americans. We had a better sense of history, of education, of models, of role models and heroes and patriots and the glories of democracy.

One could not think of being an American without glorifying democracy, and it came to us naturally, we Americans of Greek descent. So we were doubly pierced with the arrow of democracy and democratic action and civilized behavior and politics and the search for good government, all from the fourth grade on, all intermeshed with our going to church and learning about the religion and the background of our parents, those lovable immigrants who came here to become great Americans in their own right.

One other note. When I mentioned that this was under the auspices of the church, that, too, was a natural phenomenon, having to do with the revolution of 1821, because it was a cleric, a churchman, who first raised the flag of independence on March 25, 1821. He did it on one of the most sacred holidays of the Greek Orthodox church.

So what we have then is a panoply of events all molding into one, patriotism, revolution, raising the flag of independence, glorifying the sacred holiday that the church held so high on that day, and bringing it all back into the well of the House of Representatives in 1996 where Americans all, Members of Congress, re-reflect the glory that was Greece in those two eras.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS]. Very well said.

Mr. Speaker, just before I interrupted myself to have recognized the four gentlemen, I spoke about the Greek freedom fighters having returned sovereignty to Greece and in so doing reconnected themselves and their Greek brothers and sisters to their heritage.

Mr. Speaker, this heritage of which we speak has brought forth our American principles of freedom and democracy that even now continues to spread throughout the world. Indeed, people of Greek heritage, as well as freedom loving people everywhere—can join in celebrating this very special day.

Our American patriot Thomas Paine wrote in his famous pamphlet, "Common Sense":

Tis Dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.

How dear freedom is to us all.

Socrates warned and Plato warned and Pericles warned, as did so many other great minds throughout history, that freedom and democracy are won and maintained only at great cost. And with that cost comes an unwavering acceptance of responsibility.

Donald Kagan argues this point in his book about Pericles titled, "Pericles of Athens and the Birth of Democracy."

Mr. Kagan writes:

The story of the Athenians in the time of Pericles suggests that the creation and survival of democracy requires leadership of a high order. When tested, the Athenians behaved with the required devotion, wisdom, and moderation in large part because they had been inspired by the democratic vision and example that Pericles had so effectively communicated to them. It was a vision that exalted the individual within the political community; it limited the scope and power of the state, leaving enough space for individual freedom, privacy, and the human dignity of which they are a crucial part.

It rejected the leveling principle pursued by both ancient Sparta and modern socialism, which requires the suppression of those rights. By rewarding merit, it encouraged the individual achievement and excellence that makes life sweet and raises the quality of life for everyone. Above all, Pericles convinced the Athenians that their private needs, both moral and material, required the kind of community Athens had become. Therefore,—

And I would like to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is what I mean by responsibility:

They were willing to run risks in its defense, make sacrifices on its behalf and restrain their passions and desires to preserve it.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is as true today as it was in ancient Greece—as much as during the American Revolution and certainly as it was in 1821 when Greece claimed its independence.

The Greek people sought the right to govern themselves and to determine their own destiny. There are few more precious rights than this and it is one highly treasured around the world.

If people are to live freely they must also live responsibly. If people are to govern themselves democratically, then they must also govern themselves responsibly. The same must be said for nations. For if not, it is either anarchy or tyranny that is sure to follow.

I believe that if we are to live in a world of peace, with freedom and democracy as our goal, then this is the message that must guide us.

Even as I speak, tensions still persist between Turkey and Greece over the sovereignty of the islet of Imia—in the Aegean Sea.

Turkey has violated international law by trying to claim territorial ownership of Imia and, in so doing, has failed to act responsibly. Indeed, the European Parliament approved a resolution stating that:

The Islet of Imia belongs to the Dodecanese group of islands, on the basis of the Lausanne Treaty of 1923, the protocol between Italy and Turkey of 1932, and the Paris Peace Treaty of 1947.

Another issue that demonstrates irresponsible leadership and weighs heavily on the minds of Greek-Americans and Cypriots alike is the recent statement made by Mr. Denktash—the Turkish-Cypriot leader of the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus that the five missing Americans and the 1,614 missing Greek-Cypriots captured in Cyprus during the illegal Turkish invasion of 1974, were turned over to the Turkish militia and then killed.

I have written a letter to President Clinton urging him to do everything possible to determine once and for all the fate of the missing in Cyprus.

I also question Mr. Denktash's statement that all the missing are dead—given the fact that there is much evidence to the contrary.

You don't have to be a Greek-American or a Cypriot-American to feel the pain and outrage felt by Cypriots who have had their land brutally and illegally occupied by Turkish forces for over 21 years.

I think this quote from the British newspaper the Guardian in an article written in 1979 called "Words Won't Shift Turkey," illustrates the impact of the continued occupation:

They (Turkey) invaded in two separate waves. They camped along the Attila line, holding 36 percent of Cyprus. They have not budged since. Worse, they have relentlessly filled northern Cyprus with mainland immigrants, squeezing all but a handful of Greeks from their territory . . . who can wonder . . . that the Greeks fear not merely permanent division along the Attila line but, at some suitable future moment with some

suitable future excuse, a further Turkish push to swallow all of Cyprus? Will world opinion be any more help than (—) than it is now?"

Mr. Speaker, last August I traveled to Cyprus, and I have already mentioned this, met the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] there, and heard firsthand the life experiences of the Cypriots. I will continue to do all that I can to ensure their freedom along with the help particularly of the gentlewoman from New York [Mrs. MALONEY]; the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. GEKAS]; the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE]; the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN]; and so many others. I am pleased to have cosponsored legislation to address the freedom and human rights for the enclaved people of Cyprus.

We must seek a peaceful world so that freedom and democracy may flourish. Let us never squander the precious gift of liberty that is known to all our citizens through democracy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York City [Mrs. MALONEY], which includes Astoria with a very large Greek population.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to thank very much the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] for organizing this special order to celebrate Greek independence day.

I am very fortunate and very pleased and privileged to represent Astoria, NY, one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. It is truly one of my greatest pleasures as a Member of Congress to be able to participate in the life of this community, and the wonderful and vital Greek American friends that I have come to know are one of its greatest rewards.

March 25, 1996, will mark the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the Greek War of Independence.

□ 2215

From the fall of Constantinople in 1453, until the Declaration of Independence in 1821, almost 400 years, Greece remained under the heel of the Ottoman Empire. During that time, the people were deprived of all civil rights. Schools and churches were closed down and many were forced to convert to the Moslem religion.

One hundred seventy-five years ago, the Greek people were able to resume their rightful place as an ideal of democracy for the rest of the western world. The Greek ideal inspired our Country's Founding Fathers. Thomas Jefferson called ancient Greece "The light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

Yet half a century later, the American Revolution became one of the ideals of the Greeks as they fought for their own independence. Since their independence, Greece has become one of the most trusted partners allied with the United States in every major international conflict in this century.

In light of this special and long standing relationship, some recent ac-

tions taken by the administration are particularly troubling. The sale of high-powered missiles to Turkey is a case of point. These are medium-range antipersonnel missiles of great destructive power which have never been sold to another country, ever. Along with Mr. BILIRAKIS and others participating in this special order, we wrote to the President voicing our strong opposition to this sale. It is clearly contrary to the spirit of the 1996 Foreign Operations appropriations bill which cut aid to Turkey.

Likewise, the administration's proposed sale of 10 Super Cobra attack helicopters I believe sends the wrong signal to Turkey, particularly given the tense situation in the Eastern Mediterranean which Mr. BILIRAKIS just mentioned in his comments.

Last week Mr. BILIRAKIS joined me in a special order on that problem in Imia, an island in the Aegean over which there was recently a very heated conflict and confrontation between Greece and Turkey. In the Imia incident, Turkey challenged an established international boundary in an attempt to expand its Aegean border. This never would have happened if Turkey abided by international law.

As we approach the 21st century, the use of violence and the threat of the use of violence are totally unacceptable. This Imia incident is just one of a long list of Turkish violations, including human rights violations of the Kurds, the blockade of Armenia, and the continuing occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus.

Congress responded to these actions last June by cutting aid to Turkey. I believe that it is time for the administration to reach the same conclusion and end unfortunate weapons sales until certain actions are halted. We need a rational policy that does not encourage aggressive actions and attitudes. There can be no middle or neutral position between those who uphold the rules of law and those who violate it.

One final note to my colleagues that are participating in this special order. The gentleman from Florida and myself have recently established a congressional caucus on the Hellenic issues. For Members of the House who would like to work toward better United States-Greek and United States-Cypriot relations, I would like to personally invite any Member participating here to night to join the caucus.

Once again, I thank the gentleman from Florida, my very dear friend, for organizing this special order.

Mr. BILBRAY. I thank the gentlewoman, and join her in that invitation, obviously. I just cannot tell you how proud I am, CAROLYN, to be working with you, particularly on these issues.

I would at this point yield to another gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. RONALD KLINK, who is a fellow Kalimnian, which means that our parents immigrated to this country from

the island of Kalimnos in the Aegean Sea, which is actually the group of islands that sort of is the closest to this disputed rock, I say "disputed," it isn't disputed by anybody but Turkey, in the Aegean, this disputed rock called Imia.

I would yield to the gentleman at this time for his remarks.

Mr. CLINGER. I thank my dear friend and Kalimnian for yielding to me. It was amazing, as the gentleman knows, I went back to Kalimnos last August and saw Imia, and, of course, it is uninhabited. A lot of people are making the comment, well, this is a pile of rocks in the middle of the Aegean sea, there are no people who live there, so who should care about this?

The fact of the matter is these are Greek rocks. This is a Greek island. There are parts of southern Texas I would remind people who some would say that are not inhabited. They happen to be on this side of the Rio Grande. But if Mexico came over and planted a flag, there would be a battle, there would be a big fight, because everything on this side of the Rio Grande is American property.

The Greeks feel the same about this. As the gentleman mentioned in the earlier part of his statement, there has been no question about this. We are here to talk about Greek Independence Day and the issues.

The Greek people were never the provocateurs, throughout the entire history. For 400 years they lived under the Ottoman Empire, and they suffered greatly. Now again Turkey is the provocateur, coming into the Aegean and making claims that are completely illegitimate. And at the time the world was focused on this tiny, rocky inlet, most of what live there are sheep and goats, while the world was focusing on this and there was all this maneuvering around by military vehicles, what much of the world missed is the fact that Turkey at that time took 80 American-made tanks into Cyprus in violation of United States law, in violation of international law.

I have spoken with Ambassador Jacovites, the Ambassador from Cyprus, who said yes, this has, in fact, happened. We are making inquiries to the State Department to try to find out what, in fact, is going to happen.

Again, it is one more sign that Turkey is again, as they have been for hundreds of years, the provocateurs in the Aegean. They are risking peace, they are risking harmony in the European union. In fact, the European Parliament has condemned Turkey's action in a resolution that passed 342 to 21, with 11 abstentions. They understand the seriousness of the action that has been taken by Turkey in this and in other actions.

The gentleman also, my friend from Florida, made mention of the 1,619 people who are missing after the 1974 invasion of Cyprus. All of a sudden we have these comments made they were turned over to Turkish Cypriot militia

and they are dead and we should dismiss this after 21 years.

We are dismissing nothing, because it is time to have these questions answered and make sure what were the circumstances of these deaths. Where are these people buried? Five of these people are American citizens. One is a 17-year-old boy from Michigan. I would say to the Speaker pro tem, I know the State of Michigan is important to him. From Michigan, a 17-year-old boy with his American passport in his hand, and 21 years, almost 22 years later, is completely unaccounted for.

I understand the State Department talks about the fact that both Turkey and Greece are important to the United States. I will go back in closing, and then relinquishing the time back to my friend. I would like to just give a couple of quotes.

One quote says:

Our Constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority, but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law. When it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which man possesses.

That statement could be made by anyone on the floor of the House, any President of the United States, but it was made by Pericles in an address made in Greece 2,000 years ago. Our Nation is founded on that democracy.

Likewise, the comment that "Democracy is a charming form of government. It is full of variety and disorder and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike." It was not made on the floor of this House during our debates with one another and our differences among parties or regions. It was made by Plato in "The Republic" in the year 370 B.C.

From Thomas Jefferson, whom we all revere, he said "To the ancient Greeks we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves," speaking of the American colonists, "out of Gothic darkness."

Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of Greece in formulating this idea of democracy and equality and understood how important the Greek people were to the people of the United States. Thomas Jefferson likewise wrote to the leaders of Greece during their occupation by the Ottoman Empire and encouraged them in their revolution. It took many, many hundreds of years after that for his dream for the Greeks to come to fruition. But they are still not shed of the inequities and the provocation that Turkey has perpetrated on that part of the Aegean and that part of the world for many hundreds of years.

So I would say that those of us who love freedom, those of us who have a sense that the birthplace of democracy should itself be free and not have to live under the thumb of the Turks, have a lot of work cut out for us.

I thank the gentleman, my friend from Kalimnos, and now from Florida,

for yielding to me, and I thank him for his leadership on these issues and many other issues in this U.S. Congress. It is my pleasure and my distinct honor to serve with him. I thank him for taking this time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. I thank the gentleman. Certainly the same applies from my side of the aisle.

So you can see, Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate this Greek Independence Day, we, all of us, must remember the price that has been paid to attain freedom here in the United States and everywhere, as the gentleman from Pennsylvania just reminded us. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the ancient Greeks, who forged the very notion of democracy. The American philosopher Will Durant said it best, "Greece is the bright morning star of that western civilization which is our nourishment and life."

We must remember our responsibility to those who sacrificed their lives to secure our freedom by preserving it for generations to come. So let us never forget or ignore that liberty demands responsibility, for on this Greek Independence Day, let us reflect on how dear freedom is to us all, and let us remember those Greek patriots who, as they valiantly fought off foreign oppression 175 years ago, shouted for all of us to hear "Eletheria i thanatos," "Liberty or death."

Mr. Speaker, I thank you, and I particularly thank the staffs of the Cloakroom and the staffs of the people here for their indulgence at this very late hour. I know we are very tired, but we very much appreciate your allowing us to do this special order.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join today with my colleagues in commemorating Greek Independence Day. I thank my colleague from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for his leadership on issues of importance to the Greek-American community and for organizing this special order tonight.

On March 25, we will celebrate the 175th anniversary of the revolution which released Greece from the tyranny of the Ottoman Empire. This date is a very important one, yet it represents only one facet of Greece's long-standing inspiration to the world as the home of democracy.

The people of Greece and the people of the United States share a special and strong bond which goes back to the founding of our great Nation and which echoes through the ages. Greece's philosophical tradition inspired our Founding Fathers in their struggle for freedom and democracy. Their struggle, in turn, inspired the Greek patriots whose courageous fight for independence in the 1820's we acknowledge and commemorate today.

Greece's intellectual, philosophical, cultural, and artistic contributions to the history of Western civilization are an important underpinning of the world in which we live. Today, here in the House of Representatives, we pause to acknowledge those contributions. Without Greek democratic thought, we might not have the democracy we practice here on a daily basis, one which is too often taken for granted.

Greece's contributions to life in the United States are not just those based on lofty ideals.

In communities across the country, Greek-Americans contribute in untold ways. The contribution of the Greek-American community to my district of San Francisco is a great one. This special community is a vital, historic, and vibrant component of San Francisco's world-renowned diversity.

I am proud to join my colleagues in the House of Representatives and my friends in the Greek-American community in celebrating Greek Independence Day.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, democracy and democratic governing is a style that is quickly being embraced by governments all over the world and it is an amazing spectacle. While the United States can take much credit for being the model of modern democracy, America is not its birthplace. Athens is the home of democracy.

Greek sages like Aristotle were the architects of those democratic principles which set the foundations of our government and for many others around the world. It was the Greeks who began the battles to preserve the concept of ruling by the people, a concept for which we also fight.

On March 25, 1996, Greece will celebrate its 175th anniversary, its *doctrasquicentennial*, of independence from the Ottoman Empire. It is in this celebration that those democratic principles will be reaffirmed. Because our nations are so ideologically intertwined, we also have reason to celebrate.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join my colleague, Mr. BILIRAKIS, in celebrating Greek Independence Day. Today we celebrate the lasting tradition of Greek and American friendship and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, March 25, 1996, will mark the 175th Anniversary of the revolution which freed the people of Greece from nearly 400 years of the oppressive and suffocating rule of the Ottoman Empire. We as Americans, as well as each of the new and older democracies of the world, owe much to the country of Greece because of their important role in fostering the freedom and democracy we know today. Edith Hamilton said it best, "The Greeks were the first Westerners; the spirit of the West, the modern spirit, is a Greek discovery and the place of the Greeks is in the modern world."

The relationship between Greece and the United States is one based on mutual respect and admiration. The democratic principles used by our Founding Fathers to frame our Constitution were born in ancient Greece. In turn, our Founding Fathers and the American Revolution served as ideals for the Greek people when they began their modern fight for independence in the 1820's. The Greeks translated the United States Declaration of Independence into their own language so they, too, could share the same freedoms of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, in modern times, the relationship between the Greeks and the United States has only grown stronger. Greece is one of only three nations in the world that has allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century. More than 600,000 Greek soldiers died fighting against the Axis Powers in World War II. After World War II, the Greek soldiers returned to their hometown to again defend their democratic foundation from the threat of Communist rebels. Fortunately, democracy prevailed and

Greece emerged the strong and victorious nation it is today.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion commemorating the strong relationship between the United States and Greece, I would like to urge my colleagues to join me as a member the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. Becoming a member of this caucus will enable Members of Congress to work together on issues that affect the Greek and Greek-American community.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and with the Clinton administration to unravel the Cyprus problem, and promote a solid, cooperative relationship between Greece and Macedonia. In addition, I will continue to see that the countries of Turkey and Albania no longer infringe on human rights or violate international law.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Greek Independence Day, I celebrate the strong and lasting bond between the people of the United States and Greece. I urge my colleagues to join me on this special day in paying tribute to the wisdom of the Ancient Greeks, the friendship of modern Greece, and the important contributions Greek-Americans have made in the United States and throughout the world.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Florida for once again taking the leadership to organize this special order which provides us the opportunity to celebrate a great day in the history of Greece, our close ally.

I also want to commend the gentleman from Florida and the gentlewoman from New York for organizing the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues. Those of us who are concerned about our friends in Greece and Cyprus have worked together informally over the years, and I am pleased to now be part of a more organized and concerted effort to speak out on those issues which are important to Greece, Cyprus, and to our constituents of Hellenic descent.

It is very fitting for us to take time here to celebrate the beginning of Greece's struggle for independence from the cruel oppression of the Ottoman Empire. With our own war for independence as an example, the people of Greece began their struggle for freedom on March 25, 1821. How fitting that we could offer an example to Greece in the struggle against oppression, for the example of Athenian democracy was an inspiration to our revolutionary heroes.

The bonds between our two nations are deep and long-standing. On this occasion, we set aside time to honor those ties, but in fact each day that we meet is a celebration of the debt America owes to Greece. Greece was the birthplace of democracy, and we pay homage to this every day when we meet and debate and vote and freely share ideas.

When we begin each day affirming our commitment to liberty and justice for all we are, in fact, honoring the gifts of Greece to America. When citizens meet in a town hall, or attend a town meeting, or go to the polls on election day—they continue traditions begun in Greece.

This building in which we meet every day, and the Supreme Court across the street, are physical reminders that the roots of democracy were planted in Athens. It is no accident that the laboratory of democracy looks back to Greece for guidance on building the halls of democracy.

Ideas are not the only contribution made by Greece to America. As my own State of Rhode Island can attest, the sons and daughters of Greece who have come to the United States have made a tremendous impact on their communities.

Starting in the 1890's, Greek immigrants moved into Providence, Pawtucket, and Newport, RI. There they built business, neighborhoods, churches, schools, and raised families. Today, the grandchildren of those immigrants are leaders in our State, and Rhode Island is richer because of all they have given.

Tonight we do so much more than just salute the valiant bravery of Greece in 1821—for the brave acts of that revolution were just one more firing of the torch of liberty that was lit with the birth of democracy in Athens.

I join my colleagues in honoring Greece for all it has given the United States and share their optimism for all we will do together in the years ahead. I thank my colleagues for all of their hard work in making this special order possible and for their leadership on Hellenic issues.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 175th anniversary of the independence of the nation of Greece.

The significance of the Greek War of Independence goes well beyond the scope of Greece and its history, and beyond even the history of the entire region encompassing the Balkan peninsula and the eastern Mediterranean. The struggle of the Greek people was the first major war of liberation following the American Revolution; it was the first successful war for independence from the Ottoman Empire; and it was the first explicitly nationalist revolution.

It is generally recognized that the Greek War of Independence began in earnest on March 25, 1821, when Bishop Germanos of Patra raised the standard of rebellion at the monastery of Aghia Lavra in the northern Peloponnese. This incident represented the joining together of lay and secular forces in outright rebellion to Ottoman domination.

As evidence of the commitment to democracy as an underpinning of this struggle, the first National Assembly was convened at Epidaurus by the end of 1821. By taking action to develop a representative legislature at the earliest stages of revolution, well before victory was achieved in 1832, the broad coalition of forces striving for Greek independence recognized that a modern political state must be based on a framework which seeks to include those from all walks of life.

In looking at Greece today, one can see how the character of the Greek War of Independence has added to the success of the modern state of Greece. Throughout the twentieth century, Greece has stood strong, first in the face of imperialism during World War I, then against the fascist incursion of the Axis powers during World War II, and finally in facing down the Communist threat during the cold war.

Today, Greece stands firm as a bulwark of stability in an otherwise volatile region. The shared victory of western democracies in defeating communism would not have been possible without the dedicated participation of Greece. Also, as Americans, we must continue to recognize the pivotal role played by Greece in meeting our goal of maintaining and enhancing the economic and politically stability of Europe and the Mediterranean.

Again, I congratulate the people of Greece on 175 years of independence and salute their ongoing positive contribution to peace and democracy throughout the world.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of the declaration of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire, on March 25, 1821. I would also like to very much associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and commend him for arranging this special order. His leadership on issues of concern to Greek-Americans has been unmatched in Congress, and I'm proud to work with him on this and other important matters.

Mr. Speaker, the world has changed greatly since 1821, but at least one common theme seems to link these two eras—the fight for democracy and freedom as a precious way of life for all people. It was a long and hard-fought battle in 1821 for Greece, and it continues to be one in 1996, in countries all over the world, from Asia, to Africa to Latin America. Greece, as the founder of democracy as we know it, however, has a special place in the hearts of all those who cherish democracy and freedom. In that respect, Greece and the United States have always shared a close relationship, which continues up to the present time, in the form of NATO, and other such alliances and ties. And it doesn't stop there. The contribution of Greece and Greek society to American society is immeasurable. Aside from the neo-classical architectural gems that grace our Capital City, Greek immigrants have been providing contributions to all facets of our society, from medicine to law to education and sports, just to name a few. In fact, one of the greatest contributions that Greece has made to the international community will be commemorated and celebrated this summer in Atlanta: the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympics.

This of course is only a small token of expression of support for Greece and Greek-Americans, but it is something upon which I, and many Americans across this country and across all political spectrums, fervently hold forth. Simply put, without the democratic ideals that originated in ancient Greece, we would not have had an American Revolution. And without the contributions of Greek immigrants over the last 200 plus years, we simply would not have the America that we have today.

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order commemorating Greek Independence Day.

One hundred and seventy five years ago, most of Greece was part of the Ottoman Empire. At that time, Greece had been under Ottoman rule for over 400 years. Greeks held high positions in the Ottoman Government and Greek merchants dominated trade within the empire, but the Greek people were unwilling subjects of the Ottomans. Taxes and restrictions on landholding were onerous, Greek Orthodox Christians were a religious minority, and Ottoman Government was becoming increasingly characterized by corruption and violence.

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, the Greek people developed a strong national consciousness. Many Greeks began to come into greater contact with West Europeans, and through these contacts they gained exposure to the ideas of liberty and self-government that had been developed in ancient Greece and revived in modern times by the French and

American Revolutions. The development of a vision of an independent Greek nation at that time was due in no small part to the interaction of these radical ideas with the increasing depredations of the Ottomans and their minions.

In March 1821, Greek patriots rose up against their Ottoman overlords in a revolution that lasted for nearly 10 years. They enjoyed initial success, but met with several subsequent reversals. Nevertheless, the Greek people persevered through 8 bloody years of conflict. They experienced adversity and setbacks frequently, but their revolution continued. In 1825, the Ottoman Government, unable to defeat the rebels, brought in foreign mercenaries—much like the Hessian soldiers in the American Revolution—to crush the Greeks. The Greeks fought on.

The Greeks' heroic struggle inspired support from people in Western Europe and the United States. Many people in these countries developed an interest in Greek culture, architecture, and history. Europeans and Americans felt especially sympathetic to the plight of the Greek people given the role of ancient Greece as the cradle of democracy. The writings of early Greek philosophers like Plato and Polybius had helped inspire many of the patriots of the American Revolution, who had been schooled in the classics. A number of private citizens like Lord Byron were so caught up with the Greeks' fight for freedom that they actually traveled to Greece to take part in the revolution. Many of the people of Europe pressured their governments to intervene on the side of the Greeks, and as a result, in 1826 Great Britain and Russia agreed to work to secure Greek independence. France allied itself with these states the following year. Foreign assistance helped turn the tide, and in 1829 the Ottoman Empire signed a treaty recognizing Greece as an autonomous state.

Mr. Speaker, it is only appropriate that we recognize the courage and heroism of these early Greek patriots, who fought and died for the same principles of freedom and self-government that inspired our forefathers to rebel against Great Britain. Greece and the United States can both lay legitimate claim to the title of cradle of democracy. The democracies of ancient Greece inspired our Founding Fathers. Democracy in the United States and the principles laid out in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have inspired countless people around the world over the last 220 years.

Greece and the United States share much in common, including the 1.1 million American citizens who are of Greek ancestry. I am pleased to join our country's Greek-American citizens in celebrating this very special day.

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a member of the recently formed Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues to recognize Greek Independence Day. This is a day to honor the sacrifices made by the Greek people over hundreds of years in their struggle against the oppressive rule of the Ottoman Empire.

The victory of the Greek revolutionaries is particularly important for Members of this body which is one of the greatest institutions of democracy ever created on Earth. The foundation of our country stems directly from the advances in philosophy and law established by the ancient Greeks. Aristotle taught us that:

[c]learly then a state is not a mere society, having a common place, established for the

prevention of crime and for the sake of trade. These are conditions without which a state cannot exist; but all of them together do not constitute a state, which is a community of families and aggregations of families in well-being for the sake of a perfect and self-sufficing life * * *. And the state is a union of families and villages in a perfect and self-sufficing life, by which we mean a happy and honorable life.

This is the tradition that has been given to the people of the United States of America by the people of Greece to whom we shall be forever grateful.

The ties that bind America to Greece are not only historical, but also modern. Americans have fought side by side with Greeks in two World Wars as well as in the Persian Gulf war. Today, Greece is our invaluable ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We must continue to nurture the relationship between our two nations. We must lend our support to our Greek allies in their continuing conflicts with Turkey. A resolution to this long standing problem must be a focus of American foreign policy and I would urge President Clinton and others in the administration to work to ensure the protection of Greeks in Turkey and Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would ask all Members of the House to join with me in honoring the historical ties between the United States and Greece and in continuing to foster the close relationship between our two countries that has proved so successful.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, for Greek-Americans and those who practice the Greek Orthodox faith, I rise in their honor to join in the commemoration of the very special 175th anniversary of Greek Independence Day. Our mutual respect for freedom and liberty for all mankind dates back to the late 18th century when our Founding Fathers looked to ancient Greece for direction on writing our own Constitution. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson persuaded a noted Greek scholar, John Paradise, to come to the United States for consultation on the political philosophy of democracy. Later, the Greeks adopted the American Declaration of Independence as their own, sealing a bond which has endured between our two nations ever since.

March 25, marks the date when in 1821, the Greek people rose against four centuries of Ottoman rule. Under the leadership of Alexander Ypsilanti, the Greek people fought valiantly in pursuit of freedom and self-rule for 8 years. Finally, in 1827, the Allied powers lent support to the Greek effort. In 1829, not only did the united forces defeat the Turks, but the Greek people also gained recognition of their independence by the very power that had oppressed them since the fifteenth century.

The Greek people continued their struggle against the threat of undemocratic regimes into the 20th century. At the height of World War II, when it appeared that Nazi forces would soon overrun Europe, the Greek people fought courageously on behalf of the rest of the world—at a cost of a half a million lives. The Greek people dealt a severe blow to the ability of the Axis forces to control the Mediterranean and seal off the Black Sea which helped to turn the tide of the war. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill declared: "in ancient days it was said that Greeks fight like heroes, now we must say that heroes fight like Greeks."

During the Truman administration, the United States finally realized Greece's unwavering

commitment to democracy. President Truman recognized this commitment by including Greece in his economic and military assistance program—the Truman doctrine. And, in 1952, Greece joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was later tested when Russia threatened to crush the Acropolis unless Greece abandon the alliance. Greece stood firm and proved its commitment once again.

Mr. Speaker, March 25 marks Greece's accomplishment as an independent nation. However, more importantly, this day symbolizes the Greek people's continued defense of democracy, an idea given birth by the great philosophers in Athens more than 2,500 years ago.

Unfortunately, this year's independence celebration is tempered by the loss of one of Greece's greatest poets, Odysseus Elytis, who died 3 days ago. Elytis is most famed for "Axion Esti" ("Worthy It Be"), an epic poem described as a "Bible for the Greek people" by renowned composer Mikis Theodorakis, who, admiring it so much, set it to music. In 1979, Elytis became the second Greek to win the Nobel Prize for poetry. In his own words he said, "I am personifying Greece in my poems * * *. All the beautiful and bitter moments beneath the sky of Attica." Odysseus Elytis personifies the Greek spirit of love and respect for culture and freedom. Although he will be missed, Elytis left a wonderful legacy for his people.

I am grateful for the opportunity to join in observing this very important celebration. This week I will remember where our own democratic principles were derived, and I will honor the countless, invaluable contributions Greek-Americans have brought to this country. The more than 700,000 Greeks who have come here, benefited us with a stronger, civilized and more cultured heritage. Mr. Speaker, I salute Greek-Americans for their outstanding achievements and their commitment to the ideals of freedom.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing Greece on its 175th anniversary of independence. I am glad to participate in this special order and I thank my colleague Mr. BILIRAKIS for his commitment to commemorating Greek independence each March.

The United States has a strong and special relationship with Greece. Our great experiment in democracy drew its primary lessons from the ancient Greeks, and not too many years after our Revolutionary War, the people of Greece succeeded in throwing off the Ottoman Empire. We have in common the struggle to be free, belief in justice and in equality, and a faith in the people's judgment. We often speak today about the rights of the majority and minority in a democracy, about the rule of law and the ideal role of government. When we do that, we are really recalling the Greeks who wrote and argued with vigor and dignity about these fundamental issues. The vision of the Founders is drawn from the work of the ancient Greeks.

Today that creative essence can still be found within our vibrant community of Greek-Americans. My constituents of Greek descent are dynamic, hardworking, and active in the community. I am proud to represent them and I believe all Americans can learn a lesson from the strength of Greek-American families and their generosity of spirit.

We in the United States owe Greece a debt of gratitude, for being our steady partners and friends over many years, for inspiring our thoughts about democracy, and for sending us so many sons and daughters who have made and continue to make a contribution to the work of our Nation. I wish the people of Greece and all Greek-Americans a very happy Greek Independence Day, and I look forward to sharing the celebration in years to come.

Mr. REID. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Greek Independence Day, which falls on March 25. On this historic day, the Greek people broke from the Ottoman Empire after more than 400 years of foreign domination, clearly demonstrating their long-standing and continuing love of freedom.

Greece's democratic ideals and institutions continue to inspire people and nations around the world, and they have enabled the United States and Greece to enjoy a strong relationship. The contributions that Greek-Americans have made in our society are especially evident in my home State of Rhode Island, where the oldest Greek settlement dates back to the late 1890's. Many of the early Greek immigrants to the State worked as mill workers, foundrymen, fishermen, or merchant seamen. Today, the descendants of these hard-working people form a proud and prosperous Greek-American community, which continues to enrich Rhode Island and our Nation.

While we are here today to celebrate Greek history and its contributions, it is also important to recognize the continuing struggles of the Greek people. For more than 20 years, military occupation and human rights abuses by Turkey continue to hamper efforts to bring about a resolution to the situation in Cyprus. The time has come to end the strife and violence that have racked Cyprus since the Turkish invasion. I am a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 42 which calls for the demilitarization of Cyprus and I urge my colleagues to join as cosponsors. The United States can and must play a role to help the people of Cyprus and stabilize relations between Greece and Turkey.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate, the spiritual leader for over 250 million Greek Orthodox Christians, is located in Turkey and continues to be the victim of harassment and terrorist attacks. I am also a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 50, which calls for the United States to insist that Turkey protect the Ecumenical Patriarchate and all Orthodox Christians residing in Turkey and I would urge my colleagues to sign onto this important legislation.

The relationship between the United States and Greece continues to be of political, economical, and social importance. It is my hope we will continue to strengthen the bond between the United States and Greece, and to promote peace and stability in this region of the world. I would like to commend my colleagues, Representatives BILIRAKIS and MALONEY, for forming the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issue. As a member of this caucus, I look forward to working with them and my other colleagues to heighten awareness of issues of concern to the Greek-American community and to further our mutually beneficial relationship with Greece.

In closing, I am proud to participate in the celebration of Greek Independence Day. I wish to extend my congratulations and best

wishes on this day to the millions of Greek-Americans and all the citizens of Greece.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. LIPINSKI] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] is recognized for 60 minutes.

[Mr. CHABOT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. WATERS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week on account of official business.

Mr. OLVER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. NADLER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. FIELDS of Louisiana, for 60 minutes, today.

Mr. SANDERS, for 60 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MORELLA, for 5 minutes, on March 21.

Mr. CHRISTENSEN, for 5 minutes, on March 21.

Mrs. SEASTRAND, for 5 minutes, on March 21.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, for 5 minutes, on March 21.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Mr. DREIER, and to include extraneous matter, on the Dreier amendment to H.R. 2202, in the Committee of the Whole today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. NADLER) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. BECERRA.

Mr. NEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY.

Mrs. MALONEY in two instances.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. ACKERMAN in two instances.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. REED.

Mr. GORDON.

Mr. JACOBS.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin.

Mr. CONDIT.

Ms. HARMAN.

Mr. POSHARD in two instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. HAYWORTH) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. SAXTON.

Mr. WALKER.

Mr. KING.

Mr. FLANAGAN.

Mr. DAVIS.

Mr. CRANE.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. GOODLING.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana.

Mr. GILMAN in two instances.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINK) and to include extraneous matter:)

Mr. ROHRBACHER.

Mr. PORTER.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 21, 1996, at 10 a.m.

CONTRACTUAL ACTIONS, CAL- ENDAR YEAR 1994 TO FACILI- TATE NATIONAL DEFENSE

The Clerk of the House of Representatives submits the following report for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD pursuant to section 4(b) of Public Law 85-804:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, DC, Mar. 14, 1996.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
*Speaker of the House of Representatives, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: In compliance with Section 4(a) of Public Law 85-804, enclosed is the calendar year 1995 report entitled Extraordinary Contractual Actions to Facilitate the National Defense.

Section A, Department of Defense Summary, indicates that 35 contractual actions were approved and that two were disapproved. Those approved include actions for which the Government's liability is contingent and can not be estimated.

Section B, Department Summary, presents those actions which were submitted by affected Military Departments/Agencies with an estimated or potential cost of \$50,000 or more. A list of contingent liability claims is also included where applicable. The Defense Logistics Agency, Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, Defense Information Systems Agency, Defense Mapping Agency, and the Defense Nuclear Agency reported no actions, while the Departments of the Army, Navy,