

and family values are a strong concern of the American people.

Immigrants have contributed to the wealth and success of this nation. They are an asset to our nation. I have in the past supported measures aimed at removing barriers to legal immigration and I will continue to do so. I voted for the Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-649), the first comprehensive revision of U.S. immigration policy since 1965, which was signed into law by President Bush on November 29, 1990, and which made long-overdue improvements with regard to the admission into the United States of family members of legal residents and highly skilled professionals.

Similarly, last year I voted against H.R. 2202, the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996, because many of the provisions of the immigration "reform" of 1996 are simply wrong and, furthermore, we have little to fear from people immigrating. Immigrants come to our country to escape the hardships of war and political persecution or to work to improve their lives and those of their families.

We, in turn, benefit from the cultural diversity their inclusion brings to our society and the boost their working, spending, and paying taxes bring to our economy. New York City has been revitalized by newcomers to America.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to put politics aside and do justice for these hard working, tax paying, law-abiding people. Vote no on the motion to instruct.

IN SUPPORT OF OXI DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I join people of Greek descent in Astoria, NY, the country, and the world in saluting the courageous acts of the Greeks against Mussolini and Hitler. October 28, 1997, marks the 57th anniversary of a very historic day in Greek history.

On October 28, 1940, the Italian Minister in Athens gave an ultimatum to the Prime Minister of Greece, demanding the unconditional surrender of Greece. His answer was "Oxi," which means "no" in Greek.

Military success for the Italians would have sealed off the Balkans from the south and helped Hitler's plan to invade Russia. In fact, the Italian army that was fully equipped, well supplied, and backed by superior air and naval power. They were expected to overrun Greece within a short time.

Fortunately, the Greek Army proved to be well trained and resourceful despite their lack of military equipment. In less than a week after the Italians first attacked, it was clear that their forces had suffered a serious setback in spite of having control of the air and fielding armored vehicles.

On November 14, the Greek Army launched a counteroffensive and quickly drove Italian forces far back into Albania. On December 6, the Greeks captured Porto Edda and continued their advance along the seacoast toward Valona. By February 1, 1941, the Italians had launched strong counterattacks, but the deter-

mination of the Greek Army coupled with the severity of the winter weather, nullified the Italians' efforts.

The Italians launched another offensive on March 12, 1941, but after 6 days of fighting, the Italians made only small gains and it became clear that German intervention was necessary if the Italians were going to win.

On March 26, Hitler shouted "I will make a clean sweep of the Balkans." It took him 5 weeks, until the end of April, to subdue Greece. It turned out to be an important 5 weeks, until the end of April, to subdue the Greeks. These 5 weeks delayed Hitler's invasion of Russia and contributed to the Germans' failure in Russia.

The victory of the Greek Army against the Italians astonished the world. The heroic stance by the Greeks against insurmountable odds, was the first glimmer of hope for the Allies, and today we can take great pride in those who risked their lives to defend their country.

THANKS TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE TO HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, we celebrate the opening of the Greater Houston Boys and Girls Club on October 14, 1997. When I was younger, I was a member of the Boys and Girls Club. This group gave me the opportunity to find myself and to grow into an adult.

The Houston Boys and Girls Club has been in service since 1952. With this new Shell Branch, we will have a total of five facilities in the Greater Houston area. There is an incredible variety of activities at these centers from basketball to baseball to soccer to arts and crafts. There is something for everyone.

I would personally like to applaud the efforts of the staff and volunteers at the Boys and Girls Club throughout Houston. They bring a strong commitment and dedication that we should all try to emulate.

The Boys and Girls Club strive to instill in our youth a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging and of power and influence.

Their mission takes our community's at-risk-youths off the street and provides them with a safe and positive environment that will lead them toward achieving a brighter future.

The Boys and Girls Clubs build character. It helps our children to realize what is right and what is wrong. It helps them to make better informed decisions. It also helps to build relationships with other people.

Programs such as Smart Moves and Smart Kids—which is an early prevention program has won national acclaim—keeps our young people off the street and away from drug, alcohol and tobacco. Additional Boys and Girls Club Programs provide young people with skills to develop into adults today. While one program—the Power Hour—is an extensive tutoring and education development program, another program—the Keystone Club—is dedicated to providing community and leadership skills to the young. These are just three of many programs offered by the Boys and Girls Club.

With the opening of this fifth facility, we can see the dedication of the staff, volunteers and the community. The Boys and Girls Club is dedicated to developing the youth of this city and making them the best that they can be.

I would ask that we return that same commitment to the Boys and Girls Clubs, and we make the extra effort to help them with whatever they need.

MOURNING THE PASSING OF RESPECTED COLLEAGUE, FORMER MEMBER JOEL PRITCHARD

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today in the House there was a Memorial Service for our former Member, Joel Pritchard, who passed away October 9, 1997. Congressman Pritchard was an outstanding legislator and, more importantly, a wonderful human being. He will be sorely missed by those of us who knew and worked with him.

Joel's legacy will be that of the dedicated work he did on the behalf of his constituents in the first district of the State of Washington. In his six terms on Capitol Hill, Congressman Pritchard was one of America's most valuable spokesmen for the environment. His district, which included the region around Puget Sound, is regarded as an environmental gem, even with the rising nearby metropolis of Seattle and its suburbs. Congressman Pritchard's advocacy for our Nation's natural treasures helped instill further an awareness among his fellow Congressmen on this important issue.

I knew Joel Pritchard from the time we spent together on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where we both served on our Subcommittee for International Operations. His caution and keen eye were a valuable asset in evaluating the policies of the United States in a global setting.

The spirit of Congressman Joel Pritchard will live on in this body, joining the memory of respected leaders of past generations. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me in extending our condolences to Joel Pritchard's family as we salute this great American who selflessly devoted himself to his country and his community.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2267, DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my profound disapproval at the proposed agreement reached by Representatives LAMAR SMITH and LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART. This agreement unfairly distinguishes between Central Americans who entered the United States before December 1995 and

Guantanamo Haitians who entered the United States during 1991 and 1992.

My disagreement with this proposed legislation is based on the exclusion of the Guantanamo Haitians from the proposed amnesty. It is shocking to find that this proposed law grants relief to Central Americans, without regard to the plight of those 11,000 or more Haitians who were admitted to the United States. After being processed in Guantanamo in 1991.

One of the arguments used to favor the Central Americans is that they are in the United States for political reasons. I believe this is the same argument for the Guantanamo Haitians who fled their country by boat to escape a violent military dictatorship, headed by General Cedras and Michel Francois. Many of them were reportedly killed by this military

junta. Those who escaped were intercepted at sea, and were brought to Guantanamo for screening. They were determined to have credible claims for political asylum and were permitted to enter the United States just like the Central Americans.

Besides the Guantanamo Haitians, many other Haitians escaped to the United States in search of peace and freedom. However, they were sent back to Haiti because they were considered economic refugees. Today, even the Haitians who were determined to be political refugees will be deported unless they are given the same consideration proposed for the Central Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, there is no legitimate reason to discriminate between the Haitians seeking asylum, and the Central Ameri-

cans who seek asylum. While I commend the Clinton administration's leadership in proposing legislation which provides that the pending asylum applications of Nicaraguans, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans be considered under the standards of the old immigration law, their proposal falls far short of what must be done.

Extending to Haitian refugees the same benefits that we extend to Central American refugees is the only just and moral thing to do. This legislation is flawed and has a double standard penalizing Haitians while favoring Latinos.

As is etched in marble on the U.S. Supreme Court: "Equal justice under the law". This proposed agreement fails this test. I demand equity for all refugees and will settle for nothing less