

178TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and profound admiration that I rise today to pay tribute to Greece on the occasion of its 178th anniversary of independence. Greece is a country rich in history and culture which has not only dramatically influenced its own people but people throughout the world.

March 25th is a date that will forever live in the hearts and minds of Greeks and Greek-Americans. After suffering more than 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire, the people of Greece commenced a revolt on this day in 1821. Many dedicated, patriotic Greeks lost their lives in the struggle which lasted over 7 years. Ultimately, the freedom Greeks aspired to was courageously achieved, and the modern day Greece was born.

Greece has influenced our society in many ways. Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and our Founding Fathers found inspiration in the writings and ideals of Greek philosophers Plato and Aristotle. The Founding Fathers searched antiquity for an appropriate model for democracy, and found it in ancient Athens. No doubt, without Greece's influence, the United States would be a completely different country today.

Historically, Greece has been a dedicated United States ally. A fierce supporter during World War II, Greek soldiers fought beside Americans to preserve democracy and independence. For almost half a century, Greece has stood beside the United States as an active and important member to NATO. Greece has consistently proved to be a valuable player in preserving security in the Mediterranean. Just recently, Greece held a significant role in negotiations between the Republic of Cyprus and Turkey to deter deploying Russian missiles on the Cypriot island, thereby thwarting an international incident.

One could not live in the United States for too long without experiencing first hand the impact Greece has had on American society. Greek-Americans have significantly contributed to American culture and economy. Nearly 7,000 people in the Eighth Congressional District of Massachusetts are of Greek descent. Throughout the neighborhoods in Boston, Waverlytown, Cambridge, Chelsea, Belmont and my hometown of Somerville, Greek-Americans are one of the most active groups in politics and community service. The Hellenic Cultural Center, the Greek Orthodox Church and other Greek-American organizations in the district are working to improve education, healthcare, and the environment.

The Greek people also take pride in their heritage. In my district alone several events will take place to commemorate Greek Independence Day. From the grand parade in Boston to the small town festivities, Greek-Americans will be celebrating their freedom.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I hope the United States will continue to cultivate relationships both culturally and economically with our Greek neighbors, and I again offer my congratulations to all Greeks as they celebrate Greek Independence Day.

HONORING COLORADO GIRLS
STATE BASKETBALL A CHAMPIONS—CHERAW HIGH SCHOOL**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Cheraw High School girls basketball team on their impressive Colorado State A Championship. The victory, a 58-45 win over Prairie High School, was a superb contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Cheraw proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Charles Phillips, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel and the community. From now on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 girls basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Girls State A Championship, and know something special had taken place here.

The Cheraw basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of her own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young people, local athletes are heroes to the youth in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursuing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Cheraw players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State A Championship to future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE CHARLIE
PARKER**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Charlie "Yardbird" Parker as the Charlie Parker Memorial Site is dedicated at 17th Terrace and Vine Street in my hometown of Kansas City, Missouri. Charlie Parker was a bebop innovator. He not only shaped the sound of modern jazz in the 1940s, but he has also served as an inspiration to all jazz musicians since that time. His alto sax virtuosity marked the zenith of the jazz age and set a standard for other musicians to aspire to.

Charlie Parker's family settled in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1927, when Parker was only 7 years old. While growing up there, he pursued his musical education on the stages of Kansas City. By 1936, when Charlie Parker turned 16, Kansas City music had begun to influence the national jazz scene. Parker was a big part of this explosion, having obtained his union card at the age of 14. He spent a few years idolizing and studying Lester Young's saxophone playing, and then continued his studies under Buster Smith, one of the early stars of County Basie's Reno Club band and Walter Page's Blue Devils. By 1938, Parker was playing in the Jay McShann band, the last great band to play in Kansas City, as the principal soloist. The McShann band's national success after 1944 meant that Parker would no longer play in Kansas City.

It was in New York that Charlie Parker got his nickname of "Yardbird" because he loved to eat fried chicken. From the time he arrived in New York until he passed away on March 12, 1955, his success escalated. As the news of his passing spread, "Bird Lives" began to appear all over New York and the nation because his fans refused to let him die. Although he is buried in Lincoln Cemetery in Kansas City, he lives on in the hearts of jazz lovers everywhere. From March 25th through the 27th the nation's ears will focus on Kansas City, where some of Charlie Parker's contemporaries will gather to remember the great jazz legend at the American Jazz Museum in the 18th and Vine Historic Jazz District. Max Roach, Dr. Billy Taylor, Jay McShann, Milt Jackson, Claude "The Fiddler" Williams, and Ernie Andrews are a few of the internationally acclaimed artists who are participating in the Symposium and Concert celebration.

This weekend's dedication of the new Charlie Parker Memorial will remind us all of this great musician and inspire the jazz musician in all of us to hum a little bebop: "Hello, Little Girl, don't you remember me? I mean, been so long, but I had a break you see." (from "Hootie Blue," recorded for Decca Records by the Jay McShann Orchestra, April 30, 1941, Parker's first commercial recording session).

HONORING HENRIETTA PRESNALL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to recognize the accomplishments of Mrs. Henrietta Presnall, of Flint, Michigan. On Friday, March 26, friends and family will gather to honor the career of this remarkable woman, who is retiring from Sears Corporation after 23 years of dedicated service.

A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Henrietta moved to Flint and married James Presnall in 1968. She attended Charles Stewart Mott Community College and graduated in 1973 with an Associates Degree in Nursing. Upon graduation, she joined Heritage Manor Nursing Home as a Nurses' Aide. On July 26, 1976 she joined Sears and Roebuck Corporation as a part-time salesperson. Henrietta received numerous recognitions for outstanding work ethics and customer service, from her superiors as well as her customers. Henrietta was promoted to the position of Sears Service

and Product Maintenance Agreement Lead Person, then she was later promoted to Technician Secretary for the Sears Service Center, leading to her current position as Cashier Accountant.

Henrietta is often found using her personal skills in the community as well. She is involved with groups such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Flint, The Fair Winds Girl Scout Council, Zeta Phi Beta Amica Sorority, and the Michigan Women's National Bowling Association. In 1971, Henrietta became a member of the Foss Avenue Baptist Church, where she faithfully serves as a member of the Senior Usher Board, Foss Avenue Catering Committee, and the MLA fellowship Sunday School class.

I know that Henrietta would want to point out that the love and support of her family have contributed greatly to her success. She is very proud of her children, Veronica and Lucetia, grandsons Demetrice and Trevino, granddaughter Elexus, and of course, her husband, James Presnall.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a privilege for me to rise today before my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in congratulating Henrietta Presnall on her retirement. I wish her continued success in all her endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MATH AND SCIENCE PROFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act. The purpose of this legislation is to improve mathematics and science education for students in kindergarten through 12th grade as well as to train mathematics and science teachers.

My legislation, which has 52 cosponsors, accomplishes its objective by forging a unique partnership between students, parents, teachers and the business people in their communities.

In years past, America's schools served as unilateral learning centers where students studied, graduated and then entered the workforce. The demands of the information age and the global economy now compel U.S. educators and business people to band together in the national interest. Schools and businesses need to be partners to educate our children. Otherwise, our nation will see its preeminence in information technology implode as other nations expand their high-tech driven economies.

Already there are alarming trends. When it comes to mathematics and science education U.S. high school seniors need to be better prepared. Compared to their international peers, American high school seniors ranked near the bottom of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) that was released last year. This poor performance holds true for both mathematics and science as well as for moderate-level and top-level students.

Mathematics and science are the disciplines that have created the Internet and have driven

the Information Age. Two of the fastest growing job areas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, are computer technology and health services. Both fields demand a strong background in mathematics and science.

As the Subcommittee on Basic Research's Ranking Member, I have had several discussions with representatives from the information technology community. These business people in the high-tech field have expressed their frustration in not being able to find qualified job applicants. In fact, one in ten positions in information technology is currently unfilled, according to the Information Technology Association of America. One in three job applicants tested by U.S. companies lacks the reading or mathematics skills for the job as reported by the American Management Association.

The Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act will help reverse the trends of poor test performance by U.S. students and empower businesses to enrich the pool of job applicants.

The purpose of this legislation is to improve math and science education in urban and rural areas by establishing partnerships between participating schools and businesses. My bill authorizes the National Science Foundation (NSF) to award 10 partnership grants through its Urban and Rural Systemic Initiative programs. The NSF Director will make five grants to urban areas and five grants to rural areas. Each grant will not exceed \$300,000 and the total amount authorized is \$3 million.

The purpose of these partnership grants is to train teachers and to improve teaching for students in math, science and information technology. The grants will be awarded to schools that have established partnerships with businesses.

Eligibility of the partnership grants will be based on how well the participating schools and businesses have forged their partnerships. Ways that businesses can participate with schools include: setting up college scholarships for promising math and science students, establishing jobsite mentoring and internships programs and donating computer software and hardware to their participating schools.

The legislation directs the NSF Director to conduct a long-range study on the students who have participated in the partnership grant scholarship program and their ability to land and to retain jobs in the fields of mathematics, science and information technology.

Mr. Speaker, I am gratified by the support the Mathematics and Science Proficiency Partnership Act has already received and urge all Members to cosponsor this important legislation that will help prepare today's American students for tomorrow's workplace.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JERRY BELL

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the works of Jerry Bell, an outstanding volunteer for Noon Day Ministry in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Jerry Bell volunteers her time to the homeless at Noon Day Ministry. Noon Day Ministry

serves approximately 300 homeless men, women and children four days a week. Jerry's commitment to volunteer work comes from a strong family support system that instilled the value of helping others. By those who work with Jerry she is described as the organizer, the person who really keeps the place in shape. By those she serves, Jerry is known for providing more than lunch. She offers hugs, a pat on the shoulder and a kiss on the cheek—the sincere message of caring for another.

Please join me in thanking Jerry Bell for her caring contributions to individuals, families and our community of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

LITTLE BOSTON BRANCH OF THE KITSAP REGIONAL LIBRARY WINS BEST SMALL LIBRARY AWARD

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to announce that The Little Boston branch of the Kitsap Regional Library system is the best small library in America.

Little Boston recently won the 1998 Service Award for Excellence from the National Public Library Association. This library is unique because it is located on the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's reservation and is frequented by patrons who live both on and off the reservation.

Public libraries are the great equalizer in our society as they ensure free and unlimited access to invaluable educational resources for anyone who simply has the desire to learn. Libraries enhance the knowledge of not only ourselves, but also the world around us. Great libraries, like Little Boston, deserve our utmost praise and recognition. Employees continually go above and beyond the call of duty with their exceptional service to its patrons and commitment to provide enriching and informative information to everyone in the community.

Congratulations, again, to The Little Boston Library for your commitment to excellence.

THE PARENT HELP LINE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Help Line of Springfield, Illinois for their extraordinary contributions to their community.

This volunteer organization's primary function is to help parents become better parents by providing advice, support, and referrals to various community agencies. The Parent Help Line is funded by several different sources including St. John's Hospital Foundation, Ronald McDonald Charities of Central Illinois and Ameritech.

Currently, the Parent Help Line consists of 25 volunteers who respond to about 100 calls per month. While these numbers may not seem significant, each one of those hundred