

gathered food and clothing, and arranged for students from the Yale Divinity School to teach the Mendians English so that they were able to communicate their story to their defenders. Roger Sherman Baldwin, a New Haven attorney who later enlisted the aid of former President John Quincy Adams, volunteered to defend the captives. Today, a statue of Sengbe Pieh stands proudly near the site where he and the other Mendians of the *Amistad* were first imprisoned. New Haven is proud of the role it played in this crucial moment in the ongoing struggle for human rights and racial harmony. We are honored to have the *Amistad* with us today.

There are so many wonderful people that have committed themselves to this project—their hard work and dedication to this cause has made this day possible. My sincere thanks and appreciation to former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker, responsible for securing the initial state funding and support for the project; Al Marder and the *Amistad* Committee, which recreated the original committee that first came to the defense of the *Amistad* slaves; the Connecticut African American Historical Society, whose work with the *Amistad* Committee and Governor Weicker established *Amistad* America; *Amistad* America, a non-profit educational corporation that worked with Mystic Seaport to build the replica and will continue to operate the ship; and the students and faculty of the Sound School in New Haven, who crafted a lifeboat, named Margru after one of the four children aboard *Amistad*, that will now be carried on the *Amistad* replica. The participation and diligent efforts of all these groups and talented individuals have produced a tremendous contribution to the history of Connecticut and the United States.

As we reflect on the 161 years of history that has passed since the original *Amistad* landed on our shores, it is important to remind ourselves that this continues to be an unfinished journey. In the United States, we tore our nation apart in violence before we put an end to the institution that brought Sengbe Pieh to these shores. In Sierra Leone, it would be more than a century after their native sons and daughters left their shores before they would be able to claim the right to truly govern themselves. Today, we watch as the United Nations and Sierra Leone's African neighbors help in its struggle for peace. If the history of the United States and Sierra Leone have taught us anything, it is that our journey towards peace, justice, and freedom has not yet ended.

Whether at sea or in port, the *Amistad* will carry this message to all who will hear it. A reminder of an extraordinary moment in our history, I applaud the inspired dedication that the New Haven community has shown for this project. It is with great pleasure that I stand and add my voice to all of those who have gathered today to welcome the *Amistad* home.

TRIBUTE TO THE 11TH GREAT DOMINICAN PARADE AND CAR-NIVAL OF THE BRONX

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor for me to recognize the Great Do-

minican Parade and Festival of the Bronx on its eleventh year of celebrating Dominican culture in my South Bronx Congressional District. This year's festivities will take place on July 16, 2000.

Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles, the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond.

On Sunday July 16, thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse in honor of Juan Pablo Duarte, the father of the independence of the Dominican Republic.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of joyful people who will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street, and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. This year's festival includes the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the parade, President Febles and many organizers have provided the community with nearly two weeks of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Dominican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE KOREAN WAR

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize not only the importance of our strategic relationship with the Republic of Turkey but their historic contribution in the Korean War. Almost 50 years ago, in October of 1950, the Turkish brigade consisting of 4,500 army troops arrived in Korea. By the time Turkey had completed its commitment, 29,882 were rotated through the brigade, 717 were killed in action, and 2246 were wounded. These figures, the highest casualty rate of the United Nations mission, demonstrated that Turkey's reputation was well deserved.

The Turkish brigade's courage and contributions were repeatedly highlighted in the press at the time. For example, the battle of Kunuri was detailed in a TIME magazine article which stated "The courageous battles of the Turkish Brigade have created a favorable effect on the whole United Nations Forces." Their courage was also referenced on Capitol Hill, with former Representative Claude Pepper opining that, "There is no one left who does not know that the Turks, our valuable allies, are hard

warriors and that they have accomplished very great at the front."

Having become a member of NATO in 1952, Turkey also demonstrated its indisputable role in European security. Among all NATO allies, Turkey defended the longest border with the former Soviet Union, and carried a heavy responsibility in helping to contain, and ultimately defeat communism.

After the end of the Cold War, Turkey seized the opportunity to help shape the peace in the region. One of the first countries to recognize the independence of new emerging democracies, Turkey actively sought to assist with their efforts to integrate into the international community. Turkey provided them with direct assistance in credit and goods, military cooperation agreements to assist in building their national defense structure, scholarships for students to study in Turkish universities, offering an alternate route for transportation and communication facilities, and legal technical assistance and know how.

Turkey remains at the center of our energy security policy to develop the "east-west" access for the transport of both oil and natural gas from the Caspian region. This strategy would further shore up the economies of the countries involved, and encourage the development of democracy in the region.

At the time of the Korean War, most strategic thinkers would probably have envisioned Turkey as playing an important role in the future of European security, but the scope and breadth of the relationship which developed has most likely surpassed even the greatest expectations. Our relationship with Turkey has developed into a strategic one which we should continue to develop and nurture.

AIMEE'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 894, the No Second Chances for Murderers, Rapists, or Child Molesters Act (Aimee's Law).

Each year more than 14,000 murders, rapes, and sexual assaults are committed by previously convicted murderers and sex offenders. While the United States has been moving towards lengthy mandatory sentences for a number of crimes, sentences for murder, child molestation and rape often fall short.

Aimee's Law would add accountability to the existing formula for distributing federal crime funds to states that convict a murderer, rapist, or child molester, if that criminal had previously been convicted of the same crime in a different state. The cost of prosecuting and incarcerating the criminal would be deducted from the federal crime funds intended to go to the state where a criminal previously committed one of these horrible crimes, and instead be sent to the state that is forced to prosecute the same criminal, for the same crime, against another innocent victim.

Tragedies like this are happening all across America, including in my home state. This type of tragedy struck close to home when a child in my District was molested and murdered by a repeat offender. Every day that we

wait to pass this bill we put another innocent person at risk of being harmed.

I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BASIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a group of students and their teacher for their outstanding achievement and their remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of American constitutional government.

The students from Basic High School in Henderson, Nevada, were recognized for their expertise on the topic, "What Rights Does the Bill of Rights Protect?" at the We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution national finals held in Washington, D.C. The outstanding young people competed against 50 other classes across the nation and demonstrated their ability to understand and articulate the individual liberties granted by the Bill of Rights.

Additionally, the Basic High School students worked as a team to exemplify the ideals our nation was founded on. Their dedication, hard work, and unity truly embodied the three simple words in the preamble of our Constitution: "We the people."

The Constitution of the United States is the oldest working document in our nation's history, and thus the wisdom we have inherited is invaluable. As these students continue to carry out those values, we can be assured that our country will continue to strengthen and prosper. They will be ready to face the challenges of tomorrow and be leaders of our community.

The students who participated in the event are: Kate Bair, Joshua Bitsko, Ryan Black, Daniel Croy, Scott Devoge, Danielle Dodgen, Courtney England, Starlyn Hackney, Jill Hales, Alia Holm, Janae Jeffrey, Ryan Johnson, Aimee Lucero, Nathan Lund, Jessica Magro, Jasmine Miller, Holli Mitchell, Gary Nelson, Krystaly Nielsen, Mark Niewinski, Amanda Reed, Jeni Riddle, Leslie Roland, Landin Ryan, Alena Sivertson, Ashley Stolorow, Tarah Strohm, Tyler Watson, Kara Williams, Ricky Zeedyk. Other individuals who should be recognized for their love and dedication for the students are their teacher, John Wallace; State Coordinator, Judith Simpson; and District Coordinator, Debbie Berger.

I thank their teachers and their parents for investing and sacrificing for the future of America. And once again, I congratulate these students for their accomplishment, and wish them every success in future endeavors.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF UKRAINE'S SOVEREIGNTY DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago, on July 16th 1990, the Supreme

Soviet (parliament) of the Ukrainian S.S.R. adopted a far-reaching Declaration on State Sovereignty of Ukraine. The overwhelming vote of 355 for and four against was a critical and demonstrative step towards independence, as Ukraine was at that time a republic of the Soviet Union.

The Declaration, inspired by the democratic movement Rukh whose key members were veterans of the Helsinki movement seeking greater rights and freedoms, proclaimed Ukraine's state sovereignty and stressed the Republic's intention of controlling its own affairs. Ukraine and its people were identified as the sole source of state authority in the republic, and they alone were to determine their own destiny. The Declaration asserted the primacy of Ukraine's legislation over Soviet laws and established the right of Ukraine to create its own currency and national bank, raise its own army, maintain relations with foreign countries, collect tariffs, and erect borders. Through this Declaration, Ukraine announced its intention not to use, possess, or acquire nuclear weapons. Going beyond Soviet leader Gorbachev's vision of a "renewed" Soviet federation, the Declaration asserted Ukraine's sovereignty vis-a-vis Moscow, a move that only a few years earlier would have been met with the harshest of sanctions.

The Declaration's assurances on the protection of individual rights and freedoms for all of the people of Ukraine, including national and religious minorities, were extremely important and viewed as an integral aspect of the building of a sovereign Ukraine. The Declaration itself was the outcome of emerging democratic processes in Ukraine. Elections to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet—the first in which non-communists were permitted on the ballot—had been held only a few months earlier, in March 1990; one-third of the new members elected were representatives of the democratic opposition. Even the Communist majority voted for the Declaration, reflecting the reality that the Soviet Empire was steadily unraveling. A year later, on August 24, 1991, the same Ukrainian parliament declared Ukraine's independence, and in December of that year, on the heels of a referendum in Ukraine in which over 90 percent voted for independence, the Soviet Union ceased to exist.

Mr. Speaker, since the adoption of the Declaration ten years ago Ukraine has witnessed momentous transformations. Independent Ukraine has developed from what was, for all practical purposes, a colony of the Soviet empire into a viable, peaceful state with a commitment to ensuring democracy and prosperity for its citizens. It has emerged as a responsible and constructive actor in the international arena which enjoys good relations with all its neighbors and a strategic partnership with the United States. Obviously, the heavy legacy of communism and Soviet misrule has not yet disappeared, as illustrated by stifling corruption, and inadequate progress in rule of law and economic reforms. However, the defeat of the communists in last November's presidential elections, and the appointment of genuinely reformist Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko have given grounds for renewed optimism, which is supported by evidence of growth in some sectors of the economy.

Mr. Speaker, now is the time for the Ukrainian people to strengthen and ensure independence by redoubling their efforts to build democracy and a market economy, thereby

keeping faith with the ideals and goals of the historic 1990 Declaration on Sovereignty.

A SALUTE TO COL. ALTHEA WILLIAMS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Col. Althea Williams for her outstanding service to our country as an accomplished nurse for the US Army.

Her dedication to the Nurse Corps spanned three major wars following her graduation in 1941 from the Beth-11 School of Nursing in Colorado Springs, Colorado. In World War II, she primarily served in the Southwest Pacific area, in addition to Australia, New Guinea, Netherlands, East Indies and the Philippines.

Later in the Korean War, Williams served in Japan with the 279th General Hospital. Finally, during the Vietnam War, she served with the 44th Medical Brigade. As a result of her dedication and outstanding abilities, she was awarded with the Legion of Merit with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Col. Williams exemplified outstanding service in other assignments including Chief Nurse at Valley Forge General Hospital, Phoenixville, Pennsylvania; Chief Nurse of First US Army, Governor's Island, New York; Chief Nurse at Madigan General Hospital, Tacoma, Washington and the 44th Medical Brigade. Furthermore, Williams served as Chief Nurse at the Headquarters of the Sixth US Army at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Throughout her years of patriotic devotion, this Platteville, Colorado native also achieved several other degrees. Initially, from the Colorado State University she graduated with a Bachelors degree in Home Economics in 1948 and soon thereafter another Bachelors in Occupational Therapy. Notably, in 1970 she received the "Honor Alumni" award from CSU. Finally, in 1960 she graduated from Baylor University with a Masters in Hospital Administration.

Since Retirement in 1970, working as a representative of the USO and volunteering around Ft. Collins, Colorado has occupied Col. Williams, which further exemplifies her commitment to service.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress I hereby thank and salute Col. Althea Williams for her steadfast dedication to the US Army Nurse Corps and for her leadership for our beloved country. On her 80th birthday, may she enjoy the bountiful Liberty with which God has so richly blessed the United States of America, and which Col. Williams has herself so completely and patriotically preserved for all posterity.

TRIBUTE TO FABIUS-POMPEY HIGH SCHOOL'S MENS VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, June 24, 2000, the Fabius-Pompey Falcons