

years there have been African American members of Congress who have compelling stories that should be told. There are African American members of Congress that are lawyers, doctors, teachers, librarians and farmers, all of whom have very distinguished backgrounds whose lives are worth noting and should be embraced by the U.S. House of Representatives.

I support the revision of this document because it is a dynamic tool in building a path of knowledge respecting the struggles, victories and losses of black politicians throughout America's history. This resolution will continue to document African American representation in Washington and will assist African Americans in becoming more informed about and more active in national politics.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that the House document, "Black Americans in Congress" be revised so that the history and insight of the political process and the roles that black elected officials have played will have a permanent place in America's political memory and future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WINNERS
OF THE ELENA MEDEROS
AWARD AND THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judge Lilia A. Muñoz, Claudia L. Moreno, and Julia Valdivia, winners of the Elena Mederos Award, and Sandy Acosta, winner of the Outstanding Achievement Award. On March 25, 2001, the National Association of Cuban-American Women will honor these outstanding women for their great contributions to the Hispanic Community.

Sponsored by the National Association of Cuban-American Women, the Elena Mederos Award was instituted in memory of Dr. Elena Mederos (1900–81), who is considered the most prominent Cuban woman of the Twentieth Century.

Born in Cuba, Judge Lilia L. Muñoz is currently the Chief Municipal Court Judge in Union City, New Jersey, and has made history in becoming the first Hispanic woman to serve in that capacity. She was also the first Hispanic President of the Hudson County Bar Association. Judge Muñoz served as the municipal prosecutor for the Town of West New York from 1997 to 2000, and also served there as the prosecutor for the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. She currently serves on the Character Committee for the Board of Bar Examiners and as a Trustee for the Hudson County Legal Services Corporation.

Professor Claudia L. Moreno is a resident of Weehawken, New Jersey. She is currently an Assistant Professor at Columbia University School of Social Work. Professor Moreno serves as a Grant Reviewer for the Administration for Children, Youth and Families under the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Discretionary Grants Program. She is also a consultant with the Parent's Support Group of the New Center For Outreach and Services for the Autism Community.

Born in Cuba, Julia Valdivia earned a Master's Degree in Education from the University

of La Havana. In 1974, Union City hired Ms. Valdivia to perform outreach to the growing Hispanic community. While serving the Hispanic community, she focused on immigrants new to Hudson County and provided them with essential information regarding housing, employment, education, and business opportunities. She has served the last four Mayors of Union City, and has become one of the most powerful community activists in the city. Ms. Valdivia helped found the Alliance Civic Association, which helps Hispanic community leaders attain public office. In this past election, she was the only Hispanic in the State of New Jersey selected to be a delegate to the Electoral College.

Ms. Acosta is completing a Master's Degree in International Affairs concentrating on International Politics at American University. In 1998, she earned a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Florida International University. She currently serves as the assistant to the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in Washington, D.C. Ms. Acosta has served as an intern with Senator BOB GRAHAM and at Freedom House and the Center for a Free Cuba.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these four outstanding women for their great contributions to the Hispanic Community.

A TRIBUTE TO AACI

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI), which is celebrating 28 years of service to the people of Santa Clara County. Asian Americans for Community Involvement is the largest nonprofit advocacy, education, health and human service organization committed to the welfare of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Santa Clara County.

The 28th Anniversary Celebration Banquet will help the organization celebrate its years of service to the Asian Pacific Islander community. The Community Star Award will be presented to selected individuals whose dedication and hard work have enhanced the quality of life for Asian Americans. The proceeds from the banquet will allow Asian Americans for Community Involvement to continue their community, health and human service projects in the Asian Pacific Islander communities in Santa Clara County.

Asian Americans for Community Involvement provides an ever-growing number of services for people who have come to rely on this organization for help. Among the health and social services AACI provides are mental health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment and employment training, and programs to combat child abuse, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and youth gang involvement.

I am grateful to Asian Americans for Community Involvement for the organization's dedicated service in Santa Clara County, and wish to congratulate each of the 2001 AACI Community Star recipients.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN C.
LEONOUKAKIS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express the gratitude of the residents of San Francisco for the outstanding service of Stephen C. Leonoudakis as he retires from the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District Board of Directors. In every debate of the past 38 years involving the Golden Gate Bridge and transportation between Marin and San Francisco Counties, Steve has been an unfailing advocate for public transit and safety. We owe him an enormous debt of thanks for his visionary leadership and tireless service.

Since his appointment to the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District in 1962, Steve's continuous tenure on the Board has made him the second-longest serving Director in the District's history. He served as the President of the Board of Directors from 1973–1974.

When Steve joined the Bridge District, traffic on the Bridge had reached unmanageable levels. Unattractive traffic control arches were being designed to deal with the increase in vehicles, additional bridges between San Francisco and Marin Counties were being considered, and adding a second deck to the Bridge was proposed.

Steve offered a competing vision of what the Bridge District should be. Instead of moving cars, Steve was concerned with moving people. Because of his leadership, the law creating the District was amended to give the District the authority to develop a public transit system for the Golden Gate Corridor. Steve has since shepherded a comprehensive plan to decrease pressure on the Bridge that has included the revival of ferry service, a dramatic expansion of bus service, and may one day include rail service along the Corridor.

Steve has been remarkably successful. The bus and ferry system has held bridge traffic to manageable levels without altering the breathtaking beauty of the Golden Gate Bridge on the San Francisco Bay. We will be further grateful for his plan long after his retirement when the rail right-of-ways he fought to purchase are needed to build a rail system for future transit relief along the Golden Gate Corridor. In recognition of these efforts, the American Public Transit Association presented him with its Local Distinguished Service Award in 1996.

Steve has also worked consistently to increase the safety of the Bridge. During the 1970's and 1980's, he was a leader in the maintenance program that significantly upgraded portions of the Bridge including the rivets, suspender ropes, deck, and sidewalk. In the 1990's, he helped oversee the campaign to seismic retrofit the Bridge including finding the funding for this enormous project.

Steve has given his boundless energy and talent to serving the people of the San Francisco Bay Area. He has provided far-sighted leadership and dedicated service in an area where it was greatly needed. It is my honor to thank Steve on behalf of all the people who benefit daily from his vision. I wish him and his wife Rosemary all the best.

AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Town of Hempstead's special ceremony honoring African American World War II veterans for their dedicated commitment and service to the country.

Throughout our nation's history, our armed forces have gone off to battle and served bravely and effectively in every situation we have asked. As of late, we have done much to recognize the accomplishments of the generation that fought the Second World War, and rightly so. But we should not forget the special role that African Americans played in that conflict. The road to preserving democracy was paved by a legacy of racism. For this reason, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 1.2 million African-Americans who served in World War II, and in many cases died for their country.

We cannot expect future generations to understand fully what those who came before saw, experienced and felt in battle, but we can make sure that our children know enough to say, "Thank you." Fighting against tyranny and participating in the liberation of Europe, they risked their lives to defend freedom, even though they did not enjoy those same freedoms at home. In the process, they forever changed the face of America's armed forces and society.

We owe them a debt of gratitude. As a precursor to the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's they resisted America's centuries old hypocrisy about race. If it was not for their belief in the future, surely we would not have had President Truman's Executive Order desegregating the armed forces. If it was not for sacrifices, surely there would not have been the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. And surely, if it was not for their faith, I fear we would not have the 1965 Voting Rights Act ensuring the right of everyone to participate in our democracy. For all of this, we thank them. With bravery and determination they led a struggle for racial equality that doomed segregation and changed America forever.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF
THE BASKETBALL TEAM OF
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the outstanding basketball season of my alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University. Their season ended last night with a near miss in the quarter final round of the NCAA Division 2 Tournament in California. Earlier this month, our team won the Central Intercolle-

giate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament in Raleigh, NC, and one week later, won the South Atlantic Regional Championship which gave them a shot at the NCAA Division 2 crown.

Johnson C. Smith University is a small liberal arts school in Charlotte, NC. It was founded in 1867 with support from the Presbyterian Church. This season marks the best basketball record in the school's history, and its first CIAA championship. I join other proud Smith alumni, proud North Carolinians, and sports enthusiasts everywhere to commend the team and the school for a job well done.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO FORMER SEN-
ATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy in recognition of his exemplary service and life-long dedication to the nation and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy has a distinguished record of public service to the American people. As a member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, and as a private citizen, Senator McCarthy made lasting contributions to the nation's welfare.

During his ten years of service in the House of Representatives, Eugene McCarthy dedicated himself to improving the lives of his fellow Americans by forming the Democratic Study Group, devoted to advancing the interests of working Americans. Eugene McCarthy also served honorably as a United States Senator while he fought to advance the causes of peace and democracy in the United States and abroad.

Through his efforts to shape legislation, Eugene McCarthy has exemplified the highest standards of public service. His dedication to the principles of honesty and fairness are evident in his efforts to pass civil rights legislation, increase the minimum wage, shape a just tax policy, reform government institutions, and promote a peaceful foreign policy.

Senator McCarthy waged a principled campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. His stand against the Vietnam War inspired young people to believe they could make a difference in public life.

Since leaving the United States Senate, Eugene McCarthy has dedicated himself to sharing his ideas and knowledge by writing books and poetry and by speaking to audiences throughout the United States and around the world. Eugene McCarthy epitomizes the most deeply held and cherished values of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy is an esteemed fellow Minnesotan and friend. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy for his unique contributions to our nation.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my Colleagues and the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues this evening in celebrating the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence.

March 25, 2001 marks the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottomans. After almost 400 years of slavery under the oppressive Ottoman Empire—during which time the Greek people did not enjoy any civil rights, including the right to an education or to worship in their religion—the people of Greece took up arms and risked their lives to successfully fight for their freedom. This date also marks the creation of modern Greece.

That is why commemorating Greek Independence Day is so important and why I am proud to join our Greek brothers and sisters in celebrating this great milestone. As someone who fled communism, I am fully aware of how precious our freedom is and what a joyous occasion this is to the Greek-American community and to freedom lovers everywhere.

The Greek influence is inherent in our own democratic form of government. As Thomas Jefferson has stated, "... to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves [American colonists] out of Gothic darkness." This quote illustrates how much Greek democratic ideals helped forge our own government, including the right of self-governance, independence, and freedom.

But we need not only look behind us to appreciate the gifts Greece has given us. In recent history, Greece has also been a great friend of the United States. For example, according to research conducted by the The National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in this century.

Today, in the United States, Greek-Americans are one of the most successful nationalities. According to data obtained by the U.S. Census, children of the first Greeks who became United States citizens ranked first in median educational attainment among the American ethnic nationalities. Greeks and Greek-Americans in this country have made many invaluable contributions to society in the areas of medicine, fine arts, sports, and education. It is only fitting that we also recognize these individuals who are the product of an independent Greek society.

I am proud to know many Greek and Greek-American individuals and am honored to celebrate Greek Independence Day. I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such a special celebration.