

The Girl Scouts of Suffolk County have designed a special patch that was unveiled yesterday, the six-month anniversary of September 11th, in memory of the horrific tragedy and Attack on America. The patch will be distributed across the nation; to earn it, each girl must participate in four activities that commemorate September 11th.

The Suffolk County Girl Scouts have pledged to perform 90,000 hours of community service benefiting Long Island this year. Their dedication to the community is to be commended.

I wish great success to the Girls Scouts as they embark on this great endeavor to make Suffolk County a better place.

COMMEMORATION OF ST.
PATRICK'S DAY

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Irish community in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

On March 17, 2002, people from around the world will come together to celebrate the life of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. During the fifth century, St. Patrick devoted his life to sharing the Christian faith with the native Irish people. As it has been for centuries, the entire Irish community will celebrate the day with music, parades, and family gatherings. When Irish soldiers serving in the English military held the first St. Patrick's Day parade on March 17, 1762, through the streets of New York City, they started a tradition that continues until the present day.

During the mid-1800s, millions of Irish immigrants came to America to seek new lives. Today, the United States is enriched not only by the contributions of these immigrants, but also by that of their sons, daughters, and grandchildren. Irish-Americans have made major contributions to all aspects of American society, including sports, medicine, religion, politics, and the arts.

Their innumerable contributions are why it is appropriate to honor the Irish community with a commemorative postage stamp honoring Irish American Heritage Month. This commemorative stamp would salute the accomplishments of all Irish-Americans and their invaluable contributions to the American way of life. From President John F. Kennedy to F. Scott Fitzgerald to the brave firefighters who gave their lives on September 11, 2001, Irish-Americans have strengthened and enhanced our Nation and it is only appropriate that those contributions be honored and celebrated by all Americans.

America can boast a population of 44 million Irish-Americans and I am proud that my home State of Michigan has a thriving Irish-American community. In our State, many Irish-American organizations work each day to enrich our neighborhoods. These institutions provide invaluable public service, as well as a strong foundation for the community as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I join the people of Ireland, all those of Irish ancestry around the world and our own Irish-American community in celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

IN RECOGNITION OF AKTINA
PRODUCTIONS, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to AKTINA Productions Inc. This year, AKTINA Productions Inc., which produces Greek-American radio and television programs, will be commemorating the 47th anniversary of the beginning of the battle for independence from British colonial rule waged by Cyprus. In memory of those Cypriots who lost their lives in the struggle for freedom, on March 17, 2002, AKTINA Productions will be hosting an anniversary event entitled "To the Immortals."

Founded in 1993, AKTINA Productions Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Cypriot and Greek culture. Known as the "voice of Cyprus" in America, it emphasizes cultural and educational development through radio and television as well as live performances, including concerts and dance shows.

In May of 1993, AKTINA Productions Inc. had the distinction of introducing the first ever bilingual Greek-American radio show, known as AKTINA FM. AKTINA FM is a live call-in Greek-American Radio Magazine which highlights Greek culture, heritage and tradition and focuses on national and international issues affecting Cyprus and Greece. AKTINA FM is presently heard by more than 500,000 listeners on the radio, and more than 7,000 on the Internet. Call-in segments often feature a wide range of diverse participants and subjects, including education, immigration, health, crime prevention and the arts.

AKTINA FM also facilitates a number of educational programs dedicated to children ranging in ages from 7–17 years. They also offer platforms for children from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds to display their various talents in poetry, speech, composition and other areas. AKTINA FM also offers a monthly Student Essay Contest in which more than 100 public schools participate and almost all of the Greek-American day and afternoon schools of the Greek Archdiocese in the tri-state area participate. Nearly 60 children ages 7–15 years will take part in the "To the Immortals" anniversary event.

For its many contributions to the community, I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting AKTINA Productions Inc.

GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the Girl Scouts of the USA in celebrating their 90th anniversary. Since the organization's inception in 1912, the Girl Scouts have taken on the mission of giving all girls the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. For the last 90 years, Girl Scouts has empowered girls to become leaders, helping adults be positive role models and mentors for children, and helping

to build solid communities. We have experienced this in our own family and still remember fondly the visit with our daughter to founder Juliette Gordon Low's home in Savannah. Through Girl Scouting, girls acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—the qualities that are essential in good citizens and great leaders.

Today, Girl Scouting has a membership of 3.8 million—2.7 girl members and over 900,000 adult members—making it the largest organization for girls in the world. Girl Scouting is available to all girls ages 5–17 through participation in more than 233,000 troops throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The Pines of Carolina Girl Scout Council, which serves girls in North Carolina's Fourth District, boasts a membership of more than 21,000 girls. As an organization, the Girl Scouts have recently rededicated themselves to ensuring that Girl Scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or geographic boundaries.

The positive impact that Girl Scouting has on our communities cannot be overstated, and I am proud of the work of the Girl Scouts of the USA, particularly the work which benefits thousands of families in North Carolina. It is my pleasure to congratulate and commend this organization on its 90th anniversary.

HONORING MAYOR LUTHER JONES
OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my friend, a great man and Mayor Emeritus of Corpus Christi, TX, Mayor Luther Jones, who passed away last week after a very short hospitalization. He was a great man, a beloved friend, and a figure known far beyond Corpus Christi as a moral, lovable man who loved life, his home, and all the people in it.

To see the future, you must stand on the shoulders of a giant. Mayor Jones' political legacy, his legacy of good government, is easily the leadership he exhibited in 1983 when he forced all parties in disagreement about the election of city officials to sit together in the same room until the issue was resolved. His leadership at that moment in our history was pivotal to restructuring the city's election process.

In the highly charged emotions of the time, Mayor Jones saw around the curve of history, and through the sheer force of will, personality, and the righteousness of the cause, he persuaded all parties to find a compromise—modified single member-districts—which changed the face of Corpus Christi politics and offered minorities entry into city government.

As much as he will be remembered for delivering Corpus Christi into the late 20th century in terms of political participation, it is his personal legacy that made him a widely loved friend and leader.

While many in south Texas have extolled the mayor for his contributions to the Nation's military through his leadership at the Corpus Christi Army Depot and his support for education, particularly his successful effort to get

a four-year institution of higher learning in Corpus Christi, that was not what was most important to him.

The thing that he loved the most was the school that bore his name, the Luther Jones Elementary School, because he knew the silver bullet, the single most important thing in the life of a young person was education, pure and simple. He knew you had to get kids early to make an impression on them.

The children there loved him, and he loved them. He never missed a graduation; he came to every event and spoke to everyone there. He wanted these young people to know there was an adult who believed in them. And they believe in him.

In the weeks just before the mayor passed, the children at Luther Jones Elementary were building a monument to him. The pentagon-shaped monument had words on each side of it most often associated with the mayor: Integrity, Honesty, Perseverance, Success, and Victory. These were the traits of the only man ever afforded the title of Mayor Emeritus in the history of Corpus Christi.

If the measure of a man is in the number of lives touched, of positive changes made, Corpus Christi Mayor Emeritus Luther Jones will be the yardstick by which the rest of us are measured. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this great American patriot today.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the legacy of Juliette Gordon Low. Ninety years ago this week, she founded an institution—the Girl Scouts of the United States of America—which has since inspired over 50 million American women.

In our nation, over two and a half million young women participate in this institution that has a simple goal—to endow our girls with self-confidence, responsibility, integrity and leadership skills; and to help them develop physically, mentally and spiritually into successful adults.

Further, as Chairman of the House Committee on Science, I would like to commend the efforts of the Girl Scouts to close the gap in math and science education that exists between our boys and our girls. While only around one-fifth of our scientists and engineers are women, the Girl Scouts are working to expose girls to a wide variety of experiences and career choices and open new opportunities for girls in science.

Also today, I would like to recognize the fortieth anniversary of the Foothills Girl Scout Council in my Congressional district. This year, along with other outstanding young women across the country, Jennifer Fleischer, Krystina Novak and Jessica Walker from the Foothills Girl Scout Council have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. They have done so through considerable efforts and contributions to their communities, and I congratulate them on their wonderful achievements.

Girl Scouts of the United States of America, I salute you at your ninetieth anniversary, and

thank you for strengthening the minds, bodies and spirits of America's girls and young women.

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, this week is the 90th anniversary of Girl Scouting in America. After its founding in 1912, and its Congressional Charter in 1950, it has grown to a membership of over 2.7 million girls. Today, in Oklahoma, there are 25,000 Girl Scouts, with 8,500 volunteers helping girls develop to their full potential. Evidence has demonstrated that the more time a girl spends in Girl Scouts, the more likely she is to be drug free, avoid sexual activity that can lead to unwanted pregnancy, and attend college. I commend all of the leaders across America who are working to make our children's lives better, and to prepare the next generation for a healthy and productive future.

ACKNOWLEDGING AHEPA'S SALUTE TO AMERICA

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the largest and oldest association of Americans of Greek heritage and Philhellenes. This entity plans to honor and memorialize members of the community who perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. It will also salute those who have carried out courageous acts or performed tremendous philanthropic and humanitarian deeds during one of the most trying moments of our country's history.

The attack on America was an assault upon the values of democracy which have enabled our nation to persevere with strength and resolve for well over two hundred years. These values, given to Western Civilization by the ancient Greeks, comprise our freedoms, our liberty, and our commitment to uphold justice. Together these ideals, combined with the American tradition of tolerance for people of different faiths and ethnic backgrounds, will help us to overcome our current challenges and be victorious in our common fight against terrorism.

On March 25, 2002, in the spirit of that tradition, the descendants of ancient Greece, who as immigrants came to America because of the very democratic ideals fostered by their ancestors, will come together to "Honor America." This event will be hosted by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, an organization founded by visionary Greek immigrants eighty years ago. They will pay their respects to family, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens, who lost their lives to terror and will express their humble gratitude to those who placed their lives in harm's way to save the lives of others.

President George W. Bush, in an address on November 8, 2001, said our nation was

born in a spirit of courage and optimism "as immigrants yearning for freedom courageously risked their lives in search of greater opportunity." The decedents of Greek immigrants offer thanks and pay homage to America, warmly embracing this spirit of optimism and courage that President Bush said "must guide those of us fortunate enough to live here."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the efforts of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association to honor, memorialize, and salute members of the community affected by the sad events of September 11, 2001, during the organization's 35th Biennial Congressional Banquet, held March 25, 2002, in Washington, DC.

HAPPY 90TH ANNIVERSARY, GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate and thank the Girl Scouts of the USA for their 90 years of service and dedication to the young women of our nation.

I am extremely blessed to have two extraordinary Girl Scout Councils in my district that truly deserve to be honored during this 90th Anniversary Celebration. Serving over 4,000 girls, the Green Meadows and Centrillio Girl Scout Councils have clearly demonstrated their strong commitment to the development of strong and confident young women. We must not forget that these women are those who will become the future leaders of our communities, our nation, and our world. In addition, the Girl Scouts have throughout their history allowed many adult volunteers the opportunity to reach out to young women in the community and act as positive role models and mentors.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House to join me in taking the time this week and throughout the year of their 90th Anniversary Celebration to honor the Girl Scouts of the USA for their hard work and dedication in providing an atmosphere "Where Girls Grow Strong".

THE SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2001 COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the "September 11th, 2001 Commemorative Coin Act" which calls for the introduction of a circulating commemorative coin that would honor the victims of the events of September 11th.

A generation ago, the events of December 7th, 1941 became not only a day of infamy, but also a reference point that no one has forgotten. My father knows precisely where he was on that Sunday in December, just as I suspect nearly all Americans know what they were doing when the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were attacked.