

Title 9 in this Chamber to enable our young girls to see opportunities that they had not seen before in the fields of sports and other areas of education. We have such a leader as the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) with us today, who is helping to groom the younger Members who are coming in and helping them to learn the process of this august body.

As we recognize Women's History Month, it is the leaders such as the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and others who have distinguished themselves in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I last evening spoke to a group of women veterans in celebration of this particular week dedicated to women veterans. We find that women have increased in our armed services from about 7 percent to 14 percent. They are now not only just the nurses in our armed forces, but they serve now and are really flying fighter planes in Afghanistan and other parts of the world, as we know, and see hot spots throughout the world. Certainly women have positioned themselves on the front lines of these very hot spots.

Women have positioned themselves in high tech, in viewing tomorrow's era, in viewing tomorrow's world, where young women will become scientists and biologists. And so today I am happy to recognize Women's History Month and to advance the leadership of women throughout the globe and to even put a spotlight on the women of this House, those who have been leaders for all of us.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand here in support of Women's History Month and Resolution 371. Before 1970, women's history was rarely the subject of serious study. Since then, however, this field has undergone a metamorphosis. Today, almost every college offers women's history courses and most major graduate programs offer doctoral degrees in the field.

It is no secret that the representation of women and men in government is not equal, but it is also worth noting that this Congress has the most females ever serving in the history of the United States. The strides women have made into public service, holding leadership positions on all levels of government, is something we should recognize and celebrate.

I would like to take a moment and recognize some remarkable women from West Virginia: Phyllis Curtain, a remarkable opera star; Pearl S. Buck, a fantastic author; Mattie Lee, a woman who created a home for women, where they could live and work early in the 1920s and 1930s in our country; Karen LaRoe, President of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Bertie Cohen, a community volunteer; and Henrietta Marquis, a physician in Charleston, West Virginia, who recently passed away, who practiced into her 90s. These women, all

West Virginians, all different, were pioneers of their time.

We know that democracy needs all genders, races, religions and ethnicities to participate in order to provide proper representation. As a mother and a wife, I think I bring a different perspective to the debate over issues than a husband or father would. Neither one is more right than the other, just different. The plurality of these different people working together as one government can better serve West Virginia and the rest of America.

I stand here today to celebrate all of the bold actions and wonderful achievements of the women who have gone before me. I ask my colleagues to stand up as we celebrate Women's History Month and work to broaden our perceptions to include all of those who normally could be excluded, especially in giving our sisters and daughters an opportunity to serve their communities, their States and their country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we ask this House to recognize Women's History Month, I think it is important to know how this whole project began.

In 1970 women's history was a very fledgling idea. It was started by the Education Task Force of Sonoma County, California. A Commission on the Status of Women was initiated and they put together a Women's History Week for that county. Our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), told me early on of her participation in establishing and recognizing this week. There were many projects that people participated in.

Finally, in 1979, the director of the Sonoma County Commission established a Women's History Institute, and from there it grew and grew until March of 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential message to the American people encouraging the recognition and celebration of women's history all throughout America. And so, from that point of March 1980, the recognition of women's history week at that time was part of the national agenda.

The Senators on the other side co-sponsored a joint resolution and in March 8, 1981, the first national Women's History Week was established. This has provided for the establishment of many clearinghouses. All across the country, schools have also adopted it as a project, and women within local communities have been recognized for the outstanding work that they have performed not only for their community but for the State.

In 1987, at the request of national women's organizations, museums, libraries and other leaders in this country, the national Women's History Project was formed, and Congress was petitioned to expand the national celebration to an entire month. So, since

1987, this has been a great event for women to celebrate.

So I am very pleased on behalf of our colleagues to join in this request to have the House unanimously endorse the designation of March as National Women's History Month for the year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) for her wonderful statement and also for the pioneering ways that you did that allowed me to come and be elected this very first time to my first term in Congress. I thank the gentlewoman for her contributions, and I thank her in joining me in celebrating March as Women's History Month.

I urge all of the Members to support this resolution and to reflect upon our democracy. This special month creates an opportunity for all of us to remember the women who have played a critical role in the life of our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 371.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and the strong ties that bind the nations of Greece and the United States.

One hundred eighty-one years ago the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles of human dignity were first espoused. They rebelled against more than 400 years of Turkish oppression.

The revolution of 1821 brought independence to Greece and emboldened those who still sought freedom across the world. I commemorate Greek Independence Day, Mr. Speaker, each year for the same reasons we celebrate our Fourth of July. It proved that a united people, as is taking place today, a united people, through sheer will and perseverance can prevail against tyranny.

The lessons the Greeks and our colonial forefathers taught us provide strength to victims of persecution throughout the world today. Men such as Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, and Euripides developed a then-unique notion that men could, if left to their own devices, lead themselves rather than be subject to the will of a sovereign. It was Aristotle who said, "We make war that we may live in peace."

On March 25, 1821, Archbishop Germanos of Patras embodied the spirit of those words when he raised the flag of freedom and was the first to declare Greece free.

Revolutions embody a sense of heroism, bringing forth the greatness of the human spirit in the struggle against oppression.

News of the Greek revolution met with widespread feelings of compassion in the United States. The Founding Fathers eagerly expressed sentiments of support for the fledgling uprising. Several American Presidents, including James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, conveyed their support for the revolution through their annual messages to Congress. William Harrison, our ninth president, expressed his belief in freedom for Greece saying, "We must send our free-will offering. The Star Spangled Banner must wave in the Aegean . . . a messenger of fraternity and friendship to Greece."

It should not surprise us that the Founding Fathers would express such keen support for Greek independence, for they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks in their own struggle for freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves . . . American colonists, out of gothic darkness."

□ 1945

Our two nations share a brotherhood bonded by the common blood of democracy, birthed by Lady Liberty and committed to the ideal that each citizen deserves the right of self-determination.

We must always remember that the freedom we enjoy today is due to a

large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past, in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

Clearly apparent in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, freedom comes with a price. Thousands have sacrificed their lives to protect that freedom. Today, American military personnel are tracking terrorism at its many sources. It is another reminder that freedom must be constantly guarded. In the words of President Bush in his recent State of the Union address: "It is both our responsibility and our privilege to fight freedom's fight."

Madam Speaker, on this 181st birthday of Greek independence, when we celebrate the restoration of democracy to the land of its conception, we also celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the strength of man's will. The goals and values that the people of Greece share with the people of the United States reaffirms our common democratic heritage. This occasion also serves to remind us that we must never, never take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

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They rebelled against more than four hundred years of Turkish oppression. The revolution of 1821 brought independence to Greece and emboldened those who still sought freedom across the world. I commemorate Greek Independence Day each year for the same reasons we celebrate our Fourth of July. It proved that a united people, through sheer will and perseverance, can prevail against tyranny. The lessons the Greeks and our colonial forefathers taught us provide strength to victims of persecution throughout the world today.

Men such as Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, and Euripides developed the then-unique notion that men could, if left to their own devices, lead themselves rather than be subject to the will of a sovereign. It was Aristotle who said: "We make war that we may live in peace." On March 25, 1821, Archbishop Germanos of Patras embodied the spirit of those words when he raised the flag of freedom and was the first to declare Greece free.

Revolutions embody a sense of heroism, bringing forth the greatness of the human spirit. It was Thomas Jefferson who said that, "One man with courage is a majority." Quoting Jefferson on the anniversary of Greek independence is particularly appropriate. Jefferson, and the rest of the Founding Fathers, looked back to the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers for inspiration as they sought to craft a strong democratic state. And in 1821, the Greeks looked to our Founding Fathers for inspiration when they began their journey toward freedom.

The history of Greek Independence like that of the American Revolution, is filled with many stories of courage and heroism. There are many parallels between the American and Greek Revolutions.

Encouraged by the American Revolution, the Greeks began their rebellion after four centuries of Turkish oppression, facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds. Both nations faced the prospect of having to defeat an empire to obtain liberty. And if Samuel Adams, the American revolutionary leader who lighted the first spark of rebellion by leading the Boston Tea Party, had a Greek counterpart, that man would be Alexander Ypsilantis.

Ypsilantis was born in Istanbul, and his family was later exiled to Russia. Ypsilantis served in the Russian army, and it was there, during his military service, that he became involved with a secret society called the "Philike Hetairia," which translated means "friendly society." The "friendly society" was made up of merchants and other Greek leaders, but the intent of the society was to seek freedom for Greece and her people.

The group planned a secret uprising for 1821 to be led by Ypsilantis. He and 4,500 volunteers assembled near the Russian border to launch an insurrection against the Turks. The Turkish army massacred the ill-prepared Greek volunteers, and Ypsilantis was caught and placed in prison, where he subsequently died. However, the first bells of liberty had been rung, and Greek independence would not be stopped.

When news of Greek uprisings spread, the Turks killed Greek clergymen, clerics, and laity in a frightening display of force. In a vicious act of vengeance, the Turks invaded the island of Chios and slaughtered 25,000 of the local residents. The invaders enslaved half the island's population of 100,000.

Although many lives were sacrificed at the altar of freedom, the Greek people rallied around the battle cry "Eleftheria I Thanatos"—liberty or death, mirroring the words of American Patriot Patrick Henry who said: "Give me liberty or give me death." These words embodied the Greek patriots' unmitigated desire to be free.

Another heroic Greek whom many believe was the most important figure in the revolution was Theodoros Kolokotronis. He was the leader of the Klephts, a group of rebellious and resilient Greeks who refused to submit to Turkish subjugation. Kolokotronis used military strategy he learned while in the service of the English Army to organize a force of over 7,000 men. The Klephts swooped on the Turks from their mountain strongholds, battering their oppressors into submission.

One battle in particular, where Kolokotronis led his vastly outnumbered forces against the Turks, stands out. The Turks had invaded the Peloponnese with 30,000 men. Kolokotronis led his force, which was outnumbered by a ratio of 4 to 1, against the Turkish army. A fierce battle ensued and many lives were lost, but after a few weeks, the Turks were forced to retreat. Kolokotronis is a revered Greek leader, because he embodied the hopes and dreams of the common man, while displaying extraordinary courage and moral fiber in the face of overwhelming odds.

Athanasios Diakos was another legendary hero, a priest, a patriot, and a soldier. He led 500 of his men in a noble stand against 8,000 Ottoman soldiers. Diakos' men were wiped out and he fell into the enemy's hands, where he was severely tortured before his death. He is the image of a Greek who gave all for love of faith and homeland.

While individual acts of bravery and leadership are often noted, the Greek Revolution

was remarkable for the bravery and fortitude displayed by the typical Greek citizen. This heroic ideal of sacrifice and service is best demonstrated through the story of the Suliotes, villagers who took refuge from Turkish authorities in the mountains of Epiros. The fiercely patriotic Suliotes bravely fought the Turks in several battles. News of their victories spread throughout the region and encouraged other villages to revolt. The Turkish Army acted swiftly and with overwhelming force to quell the Suliote uprising.

The Suliote women were alone as their husbands battled the Turks at the front. When they learned that Turkish troops were fast approaching their village, they began to dance the "Syrtos," a patriotic Greek dance. One by one, rather than face torture or enslavement at the hands of the Turks, they committed suicide by throwing themselves and their children off Mount Zalongo. They chose to die rather than surrender their freedom.

The sacrifice of the Suliotes was repeated in the Arkadi Monastery of Crete. Hundreds of non-combatants, mainly the families of the Cretan freedom fighters, had taken refuge in the Monastery to escape Turkish reprisals. The Turkish army was informed that the Monastery was used by the Cretan freedom fighters as an arsenal for their war material, and they set out to seize it. As the Turkish troops were closing in, the priest gathered all the refugees in the cellar around him. With their consent, he set fire to the gunpowder kegs stored there, killing all but a few. The ruins of the Arkadi Monastery, like the ruins of our Alamo, still stand as a monument to liberty.

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Various Members of Congress also showed a keen interest in the Greeks' struggle for autonomy. Henry Clay, who in 1825 became Secretary of State, was a champion of Greece's fight for independence. Among the most vocal was Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, who frequently roused the sympathetic interest of his colleagues and other Americans in the Greek revolution.

It should not surprise us that the Founding Fathers would express such keen support for Greek independence, for they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks in their own struggle for freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves . . . American colonists, out of gothic darkness." Our two nations share a brotherhood bonded by the common blood of democracy, birthed by Lady Liberty, and committed to the ideal that each individual deserves the right of self-determination.

We all know that the price of liberty can be very high—history is replete with the names of the millions who have sacrificed for it. Socrates, Plato, Pericles, and many other great scholars throughout history warned that we

maintain democracy only at great cost. The freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past—in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

Clearly apparent in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks, freedom comes with a price. Thousands have sacrificed their lives to protect our freedom. Today, American military personnel are tracking terrorism at its many sources. It is another reminder that freedom must be constantly guarded. In the words of President Bush in his recent State of the Union address, "it is both our responsibility and our privilege to fight freedom's fight."

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GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise also today with my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, which I chair with him, to recognize the Hellenic Americans and their heritage and their tremendous contribution to our country and really to the world.

The ancient state of Greece inspired our country in so many ways, from the architecture, the design of the very building in which we are residing right now, to the design of our government; and today we pay tribute to Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire on March 25. In 2002 it will be the 181st anniversary.

History tells us that in 1821 Greece rose up in a bloody revolt against the repressive might of the Ottoman Empire. Determined to end 400 years of slavery or die in the attempt, Greek patriots began their unyielding struggle for liberty and independence.

The legend says that on March 21, 1821, Bishop Germanos of Patras hoisted the Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavra in the Peloponnese in an act of defiance that marked the beginning of the war of independence.

At a time when we in the United States are fighting to preserve our democracy from terrorists, I find a great deal of significance in our firemen raising the American flag at the World Trade Center after the attack on September 11. That act symbolized our war for democracy and freedom, as did the flag at Agia Lavra many years ago.

To honor Greek Independence Day and honor the victims and heroes of September 11, the Federation of Hellenic Societies of New York is spon-

soring the annual Greek Independence Day Parade for New York City. As many of my colleagues know, New York City is the home of the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece and Cyprus.

I would now like to place in the RECORD the members of the board of directors, the officers, all of whom are organizing this important tribute.

The members of the Board of Directors are: Bill Stathakos, President; Demos Siokis, 1st Vice President; Peter Michaleas, 2nd Vice President; Demetrius Kalamaras, 3rd Vice President; Demetrius Demetriou, General Secretary; Demetrius Katchulis, 1st Ass't. Secretary; Chris Orfanakos, 2nd Ass't Secretary; Elias Tsekerides, Treasurer; George Kalivas Ass't Treasurer; Ekaterine Livanis, Public Relations.

Andreas Savva; Antonios Fokas; Avgitides Anastasios; Christos Gousis; Demosthenes Triantafyllou; Ektor Polykandriotis; Eleftherios Avramidis; Jhon Zapantis; Maria Kalas; Paul Hatzikyriakos; Stelios Manis; Legal Advisors; Gregory Sioris and Attorney at Law, Katerine Nikiforou, Esquire.

This year, the board has elected the grand marshals for the parade. They will be from both sides of the ocean, representing the strong bond and friendship between Greece and the United States. From the U.S. Alax Spanos and Denise Mehiel; and from Greece, Apostolos Kakkomanis and Dora Kakoyiani. Ms. Kakoyiani was a victim of a terrorist who assassinated her husband. These outstanding individuals will lead the parade to symbolize that no terrorist can extinguish the light of democracy and freedom.

As the representative of the 14th Congressional District, where a large number of my constituents are of Hellenic descent, I have often had the opportunity to speak with them about the victims and heroes of 1821. Today, we speak also about the heroes and victims of 2001.

The Hellenic community, as every community in New York and worldwide, was hit heavily by the travesty of September 11. Those of Hellenic decent that were lost that day were: Ioanna Ahladiotis; Anastasios-Ernestos Alikakos; Katerina Bandis; Peter Brennan, a firefighter; John Catsimatides; Thomas A. Damaskinos; Anthony Demas; Gus Economou; Michael Eleferis, also a firefighter; Anna Fosteris; Kenneth Grouzalis; Steve Hagis; Bill Haramis; Nick John; Steve Kokinos; Danielle Kousoulis; James Maounis; George Merkouris; Peter-Constantios Moutos; James Papageorge; George Paris; Theodoros Pigis; Daphni Pouletsos; Richard Poulos; Tony Savvas; Muriel Siskopoulos; Timothy P. Soulas; Andreas Stergiopoulos; Michael Tarrou; Michael Theodoridis; William Tselepis; Jennifer Tzemis; Steve Zannettos; Gus Zavvos; Steve Savvas, from the New York Police Department; and Prokopios Paul Zios. These victims are the patriots. They gave their lives on that terrible attack against our country and our democracy.

The members of the fire department, police department, port authority and