

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.

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."

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."

Mr. 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 take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

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.

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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

military will continue to lead this war and to protect us on the homeland and abroad.

On this day of independence and strong bond with Greece, the Hellenic and Philhellenic community remember that the future has much to offer: the Olympics in Greece and New York; the efforts of the Hellenic Caucus to seek a peaceful understanding with Turkey on the issues of the Greek Islands and Cyprus occupation.

On this day of Greek independence, let us remember the words of Plato: "Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike."

I ask the Members of the Congress to rise with me and pay tribute to the heroes of 1821 and 2001. We will not forget you.

Zeto E Eleftheria. Se Ollo to Kosmo.

Mr. GILLMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of the celebration of Greek independence, and I thank our colleagues, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS and the gentlelady from New York, Mrs. MALONEY, who have once again shown great leadership in their efforts to organize this special order for Greek Independence Day.

Since the people of Greece declared their independence on March 25, 1821, the people of the United States and Greece have enjoyed close relations, and generations of Greek immigrants have helped to strengthen and enrich the relations between our two nations. However, our mutual devotion to democratic ideals is rooted deep in history. Some 2,500 years ago, ancient Greek city-states helped to plant the seeds of democratic thought among men. The admiration that our Founding Fathers had for those very ideals are evident in our own Constitution, and in the letters our Founding Fathers exchanged with one another in charting the course for American democracy.

Since the rebirth of a democratic Greece in 1974, a vibrant Greek democracy serves once again as an inspiration to its neighbors and the world. Our two Nations continue to stand together as friends and allies in a region of the world beset by strife and hardship.

Accordingly, I wish to thank the people of Greece for their continued friendship, and I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the Nation of Greece on the 181st anniversary of its independence.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues today to recognize the 181st anniversary of Greek Independence Day. As the U.S. Representative of a region with over 5,000 people of Greek descent, I know that this important event will be joyously celebrated throughout Northwest Indian.

I would like to honor not only this important day in Greek history, but the strong and unique relationship that exists today between the United States and Greece. The development of modern democracy has its roots in ancient Athens. The writings of Plato, Aristotle, Cicero and others were the first to espouse the basic tenets of a government of the people and by the people. While these ideals were not always followed in ancient Greece, these writings provided a roadmap for later governments in their attempts to establish democracy in their countries.

The Founding Fathers of the United States were particularly influenced by the writings of

the ancient Greeks on democracy. A careful reading of "The Federalist Papers" reveals the significant role the early Greeks played in the formation of our government. Thomas Jefferson called upon his studies of the Greek tradition of democracy when he drafted the Declaration of Independence, espousing the ideals of a government representative of and accountable to the people. Decades later, these ideas were a catalyst in the Greek uprising and successful independence movement against the Ottoman Empire—the event we celebrate today.

On March 25, 1821, the Archbishop of Patros blessed the Greek flag at the Aghia Laura monastery, marking the proclamation of Greek independence. It took 11 years for the Greeks to finally defeat the Ottomans and gain their true independence. After this long struggle against an oppressive regime, Greece returned to the democratic ideals that its ancestors had developed centuries before.

Today, the United States' relationship with Greece is as strong as ever. Greece has been our ardent supporter in every major international conflict of this century, and they play an important role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. Greece has also been a key participant in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Bosnia, providing troops and supplies. In turn, the United States has worked to attain a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Cyprus, the island nation that was brutally invaded by Turkey in 1974.

Madam Speaker, I would thank our colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mrs. MALONEY, for organizing this Special Order, and I join all of our House colleagues in recognizing Greek Independence Day. I salute the spirit of democracy and family that distinguish the Greek people, as well as their courage in breaking the bonds of oppression 178 years ago. I look forward to many more years of cooperation and friendship between our two nations.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 181st anniversary of Greek Independence Day, and I thank my colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mrs. MALONEY, for their leadership on Greek-American issues and for organizing today's tribute.

Greece has long held a special place in the hearts and minds of Americans. From the architecture of this building to the design of our government, we are indebted to the best ideas of the Greeks. They brought us a rational explanation for the universe, provided the basis for Western medical science, and laid the foundation of Western philosophy on which our country is built. As Thomas Jefferson acknowledged, "to the ancient Greeks, we are indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

As the ancient state was an inspiration to the United States, the modern state of Greece is a trusted friend. From the first World War to the current struggle against terrorism, Greece and the United States have fought side by side for the principles of liberty and self-determination the ancient Greeks set forth so eloquently. A valued member of NATO, Greece today is a thriving democracy that Aristotle would recognize and of which he would be proud.

But it almost wasn't this way. For nearly 400 years, the land that gave the world democracy lived under tyranny. Between 1453 and 1821, as part of the Ottoman Empire, the Greek

people lived without freedom of religion, access to education, or representative government. Surrounded by the ruins of their noble heritage, however, they never lost their identity as a free people. On March 25, 1821, drawing inspiration from our own struggle for independence, the revolution against the oppressive Ottoman rule began. The revolution succeeded, and a free, democratic nation was reborn.

Here in the United States we are blessed by the presence of many Greek-Americans. In San Francisco, the Greek-American community is a vibrant part of our wonderful diversity. From the daily contributions of thousands of hardworking citizens to the leadership of former Mayors George Christopher and Art Agnos, Greek-Americans have enriched San Francisco and our nation.

After enjoying the recent Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, the world now turns its attention to the 2004 summer games to be held in Athens, Greece. The 108th anniversary of the modern Olympics will be held where the games were born some 3,000 years ago. The innovations of ancient Greece continue to light our world, and modern Greece, our friend and ally, continues to uphold its legacy.

It is my honor, as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, to join my colleagues in celebrating Greek Independence Day.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be able to participate in honoring 181 years of Greek Freedom and Independence. I want to express my appreciation to Congressman BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman MALONEY for their leadership on Greece and Cyprus and for keeping all Members informed and educated on Hellenic issues.

While there is much to celebrate this year about Greece—its strong and growing economy, its role in the European Union, and the preparations for the 2004 Summer Olympics—I most want to mention the clear and unwavering support that Greece has given to the international campaign against terrorism.

In his address to the U.N. General Assembly on November 13, 2001, Foreign Minister George Papandreou called for the abandonment of rivalries and a new spirit of international cooperation in a "common fight for humanity" against terrorism. Mr. Papandreou went on to describe a global community engaged in issues and programs that are very near and dear to my own heart, calling on nations to reach beyond their borders to alleviate disease and starvation, to oppose sex, religious and racial discrimination, to protect the environment, to include the poor in the benefits of development, and to provide equal educational opportunities.

Greece has known the scourge of terrorism and has long fought a battle against domestic and international terrorist groups. Now Greece is a full partner in the international war against terrorism. It has provided the United States the use of its airspace, air bases and naval facilities on Crete, as well as intelligence sharing and investigation of suspect bank accounts that may be linked to terrorist activities worldwide. In addition, Greece has sent several C-130 planes with food and other needed supplies for Afghan refugees, offered to send peacekeeping troops to Afghanistan, and is working with the international community in the development of post-conflict development priorities for Afghanistan.

Greece has long been a crossroads for many cultures. As such, we have much to learn from Greece about diversity, tolerance, democratic inclusion, and how to create a genuine multicultural society that honors its past and looks forward to the challenges of the future.

I am proud to be able to honor Greece on 181 years of freedom and independence.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, as we approach Greek Independence Day, it is a great honor for me to pay tribute to one of the United States' most important allies and one which is held in such deep affection by millions and millions of Americans.

Western civilization as we know it today owes the deepest debt and, indeed, its very origins, to the Greek nation. Greek philosophy, sculpture, and theater set standards to which today's practitioners still aspire. And, as the cradle of democracy, Athens is the spiritual ancestor of our own Republic. The history of Greek independence is one of the inspiring stories of our time. It is the tale of the revival of an ancient and great people through sheer commitment, sacrifice, and love of freedom and heritage. Transmitted through the generations, the ideals of the ancient Greeks inspired their revolutionary descendants in the nineteenth century, and great and gallant stalwarts of the War of Independence such as Theodore Kolokotronis and Rigas Velestinlis wrote of their belief in the rights of man.

The histories of the United States and Greece have been intimately intertwined ever since the beginning of modern Greek sovereignty. The cause of Greek independence evoked sympathy throughout the Western world. Well known is Lord Byron, whose uncompromising commitment to Greece was epitomized by his declaration "In for a penny, in for a pound." Less renowned but no less committed were the many American Philhellenes, who repaid their debt to Greek culture by crossing the ocean to fight for Greek liberation. I am pleased that these American citizens were honored with a monument in Athens 2 years ago.

Greek citizens also crossed the ocean in the other direction, emigrating to the United States, where they enjoyed great success and shared their prosperity with their kinfolk in their original homeland. They have served as a bridge of understanding between our two nations, and they have refreshed America with their spirit, their patriotism, and their hard work. Today, some five million Americans claim Greek ancestry, with understandable pride.

Greece is one of less than a handful of nations which has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in every major war of the 20th century. Our close relations became even closer after World War II. The Truman Doctrine helped save Greece from communism, indeed helped save it for the Western world, and the Marshall plan helped in its economic regeneration. In 1952, Greece joined NATO, formalizing the deep, mutual commitment of Greece and the rest of the Western world to protecting freedom.

In more recent times, Greece has been one of the world's amazing success stories. A full-fledged member of the European Union for two decades, Greece has become increasingly prosperous; it has whipped chronic inflation and qualified to join the "Euro currency zone." Its once unsettled domestic politics has long

since given way to an incontestably stable, yet colorful, democracy.

Greece remains our critical strategic partner in today's post-cold war world. We cooperate closely in promoting peace and stability in the Balkans. Economic ties with Greece are vital to virtually every Balkan state. Athens has been a firm supporter of inter-communal talks in Cyprus, and it remains committed to a just, lasting, and democratic settlement of the Cyprus issue. And I'm sure everybody in this body applauds Greece's historic and courageous effort to resolve differences with its neighbor Turkey.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Greek people on the 181st anniversary of their independence and I join my colleagues in thanking them for their vast contributions to world civilization and especially to our Nation.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is an honor today to join my colleagues, Representatives BILIRAKIS and MALONEY in celebrating Greek Independence Day.

Much like the ruins of ancient Greece, the traditions and thoughts this society brought to the world are still standing. On this day which marks Greece's Independence, we celebrate the spirit of liberty and self-determination as manifested in 1821 when Greece began a 7 year struggle against the Ottoman empire, which led to the restoration of democracy to the land of Aristotle and Plato.

Madam Speaker, as the first Olympic flame ignited in ancient Greece spread the spirit of sportsmanship and friendship around the world for centuries to come, Greece gave the world the tool with which to create a more just and peaceful society that continues to spread across the globe today—democracy. Hence, as the Olympic flame makes its way back to Athens in 2004, we celebrate today, that 181 years ago, democracy was returned to its birthplace continuing to make Greece a pillar of liberty and civility for the world to look onto.

The tenants of rule of law, due process, and civil liberties were philosophical notions in ancient society, which the modern world took, developed and solidified in legal customs and traditions creating a safer world for the oppressed. Aristotle spoke of democracy and said, "If liberty and equality are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost." It is this legacy of democracy which our forefathers emulated for our young republic in its founding days.

It is not surprising to see an ever stronger partnership between the United States and Greece in forging a commitment to democracy and respect for every individual's inherent right to freedom around the world. Greece was a strong ally of this country during World War II and is a continual friend in NATO. Today, as the world once again joins together to fight terror and oppression, the country of Greece has made valuable contributions in terms of personnel and technical support for his global effort.

Greece's commitment to peace and stability in the Aegean region can be further noted through the continual leadership it has displayed in helping shepherd along the current talks taking place in Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, the democratic heritage shared by the United States and Greece make them formidable allies in the defense of democracy around the world. It is with great joy that I stand here today and join the Greek

Community in celebrating their Day of Independence.

Mr. COYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in this special order commemorating Greek Independence Day.

At the time of the American Revolution, most of Greece was part of the Ottoman Empire. At that time, Greece had been under Ottoman rule for 400 years. Some Greeks held positions in the Ottoman government, and Greek merchants throughout the empire were active and successful, but the Greek people were unwilling subjects of the Ottomans. Greek Orthodox Christians were a religious minority within the empire, and were subject to discrimination on that basis. Moreover, the Ottoman Empire had begun the long, slow period of decline that would end in its disintegration in the wake of World War I. The Ottoman government was becoming increasingly characterized by corruption and violent oppression.

In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the Greek people developed a national identity. Many Greeks began to come into greater contact with Western Europeans, and through these contacts they gained exposure to the ideas of liberty and self-government that had been developed in ancient Greece and revived in modern times by the French and American revolutions. The development of a vision of an independent Greek nation at that time was due in no small part to the interaction of these radical ideas with the increasing depredations of the Ottoman government.

In March of 1821, Greek patriots rebelled against the Ottomans. The rebellion lasted for eight tumultuous years, but the Greek people persevered in their uphill struggle.

The Greeks' heroic struggle inspired support from people in Western Europe and the United States. Many people in these countries developed an interest in Greek culture, architecture, and history. Europeans and Americans identified with the Greek people because of the ancient Greece's legacy as the cradle of democracy. A number of private citizens like Lord Byron were so inspired by the Greeks' fight for freedom that they actually traveled to Greece and risked their lives to support this revolution. Many of the people of Europe pressured their governments to intervene on the side of the Greeks, and as a result, in 1826 Great Britain and Russia agreed to work to secure Greek independence. France allied itself with these states the following year. Foreign assistance helped turn the tide, and in 1829 the Ottoman Empire signed a treaty recognizing Greece as an autonomous state.

Madam Speaker, it is important that we recognize the courage and heroism of these early Greek patriots, who fought and died for the same principles of freedom that inspired our forefathers to rebel against Great Britain. I am pleased to join our country's many Greek-American citizens in observing this very special day.

Mr. SWEENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of celebrating March 25, 2002, as Greek Independence Day. The ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. The Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy.

Greece is one of only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that

has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the twentieth century. Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in Greece presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, which set off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II.

Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights. Those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples.

March 25, 2001, marks the 180th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born.

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Greek people and their successful struggle for independence from Ottoman occupation that began nearly 181 years ago. Greek Independence Day has special symbolic resonance for Americans. Our forefathers founded our democratic system of government on the principles of popular representation introduced to this world by the ancient Athenians.

Our word democracy is, in fact, of Greek derivation and literally translates as people ("demo") rule ("kratos"). The ancient Greek experiment with democracy, however, was a visionary aberration that was centuries ahead of its time. Democracy did not last long in Ancient Greece as the first of empires—Romans, Byzantine, and Ottoman—silenced democratic yearnings for nearly two millennia.

Although democracy temporarily disappeared, the Greeks continued to thrive and prosper. As the Roman Empire expanded in the early centuries after the birth of Christ, the Greek peoples dominated the eastern half of the Roman Empire, known as Byzantium, and it was in the Greek city of Constantinople where the Roman emperor Constantine converted himself and the entire Roman Empire to Christianity.

Upon the fall of Rome in 476 AD, the Greek-led Byzantine Empire emerged as a potent force in the world and the protectorate of Christian Orthodoxy. The Greeks remained strong and independent until the Central Asian Ottomans crushed the Byzantine armies and conquered the spiritual capital of the Byzantine world at Constantinople in 1453.

The victory of the Ottomans cast the Greek speaking peoples into more than 400 years of occupation. But even while under the yoke of Ottoman rule, the Greeks were an impressive force. As successful and educated merchants, they dominated the Ottoman middle class and were the backbone of the Ottoman economy.

Still, the Greeks were not meant to be subject peoples and they began to oppose the imperial policies of the Ottoman government. Greeks, many of whom were educated in the universities of the West, began to adopt revolutionary ideas from France, Great Britain, and the United States. The concept of the nation-state, self-determination, and liberal democracy found their ways into the Greek villages and cities from Athens to Constantinople.

On March 25, 1821, Greek patriots from the southern tip of the Peloponnese to the northern outskirts of Macedonia finally rebuked the

yoke of the Ottomans and declared the independence of the Greek people from subjugation. At first, the Hellenic fighters met with violent failure, but their just cause ignited the imaginations of their people and of scores of Western philhellenes, such as the English poet Lord Byron, who left their homelands to fight and die with the Greeks for their liberation.

The United States was never far from the minds of the revolutionary Greeks, nor was the struggle of the Greeks unnoticed by Americans. As Greek revolutionary commander Petros Mavromichalis, one of the founders of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you."

By 1833, the Greeks had secured independence and with it a place in history as the first of the subjugated peoples in Europe to overthrow their Ottoman masters.

As the Greek nation developed and grew, it emerged as a stalwart ally of the United States. The Greek people fought alongside the American and Allied forces in both of the world wars of the twentieth century. The Greeks again took up arms against their Ottoman foes in the First World War and then handed the Axis powers their first defeat in World War II when the Greek army pushed back the forces of Mussolini. Soon after, however, they would suffer through a long and painful Nazi occupation.

After World War II, Greece became an instrumental member of the NATO alliance. Greece's strategic location made it a vital buffer between the Western Democratic world and Soviet Communism.

Over the last 30 years, Greece has made major strides forward for its people. In 1974, Konstantine Karamanlis finally restored democracy to Greece, bringing representative government back to its birthplace. Greece became a member of the European Community and then the powerful European Union.

Today, Greece continues to move in the right direction thanks to the enlightened leadership of Prime Minister Costas Simitis. He and Foreign Minister George Papandreou are working with their Turkish counterparts to end generations of strained relations between Turkey and Greece. Economically, Greece is prospering and recently became a member of the European Monetary Union. In 2004, Greeks will display their successes to the world when they host the Olympics, another Greek invention, in Athens.

Strategically, Greece remains important. It is a force of stability in the volatile Balkans where it continues to promote open markets and democracy. The Greek government is also united with the United States in its war on terrorism. Greece has sent a troop contingent to participate in the international force in Afghanistan and has allowed U.S. aircraft use of its airspace and its airbases.

I cannot overstate the importance of strong ties between Greece and the United States. As an American citizen who believes firmly in the principles of democracy and as a representative of thousands of Greek-Americans that live in Central New Jersey, I rise today in humble recognition of Greek Independence Day.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 181st anniversary

of Greek independence. One hundred and eighty one years ago, after nearly 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire, the courage and commitment to freedom of the Greek people prevailed in a revolution for independence. It is an honor today to celebrate Greek Independence Day in the House of Representatives.

Greece and the Greek people have made remarkable contributions to the United States and societies throughout the world. The achievements of Greek civilization in art, architecture, science, philosophy, mathematics, and literature have become legacies for nations across the globe. In addition, and most importantly, the Greek commitment to freedom and the birth of democracy remains an essential contribution for which we as Americans are eternally grateful.

Greek civilization has inspired the American passion for truth, justice, and the rule of law by the will of the people. The forefathers of our Nation recognized the spirit and idealism of ancient Greece when fighting for American independence and drafting our Constitution. Forty-five years after our own revolution for independence, this tradition and commitment to freedom was carried forward by the Greek people through their successful revolutionary struggle for sovereignty.

Greek Americans can take pride today in the contributions of Greek culture and in their ancestors' sacrifice. The effects of the vibrant Greek people can be witnessed throughout the United States in our government, culture, and economy, as well as in our commitment to freedom and democracy throughout the world. We, as Americans, are grateful for these gifts.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to recognize and celebrate this day together with Greece to reaffirm our common democratic heritage. I am proud to join in this celebration and offer my congratulations to Greece and Greeks throughout the world on this very special day.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I offer my congratulations to the Hellenic Republic on the 181st anniversary of its independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Two and a half millennia ago, Greek philosophers and politicians developed the democratic ideals that inspired our Founding Fathers and became the foundation for the American political system. Greek thinkers made discoveries that for thousands of years helped advance the world's knowledge of science, medicine, mathematics, and astronomy. Greek drama and poetry became the model, in many ways, for much of Western literature. The list of Greek contributions to world culture is endless.

After freeing itself from foreign domination, including nearly 400 years under Ottoman rule and occupation by Nazi Germany, Greece is once again a fierce proponent of freedom and democracy. It is a key NATO ally, a partner in the war against terrorism, a critical contributor to stability in the Balkans, and a participant in the International Security Assistance Force that is working to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan. Greek military observers and police serve in United Nations Peacekeeping missions on the Iraq-Kuwait border, on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border, and in Bosnia, Kosovo, and the Republic of Georgia. The democratic ideals of ancient Greece continue to thrive in the Hellenic Republic today.

The 3 million Americans of Greek descent have made critical contributions to American business, culture, education, art, and politics and helped ensure the success of this great nation.

Madam Speaker, my fellow colleagues, please join in congratulating the Greek government and our fellow Americans of Greek heritage as they celebrate the 181st anniversary of Greek independence.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Greek Independence Day.

In this year following the horrific terrorist attacks on our Nation, in which our democratic society has been challenged like never before, it is important that we join together and honor the ideals that embody Greek Independence Day. On this 181st anniversary of the decision by the Greek people to rise up against the Ottoman Empire and live freely, we celebrate democracy, a common bond that the United States shares with Greece.

For the thousands of Greek-Americans that I represent, Greek Independence Day celebrates the sacrifice made by their family members, friends, and fellow countrymen. The decision by the Greeks to govern themselves was a courageous action, and we honor the spirit of those who lost their lives in this quest for freedom. This spirit will be on display for all the world to see when Athens hosts the Olympic Games in 2004.

During this celebration of Greek Independence, Congress memorializes the sacrifice of a generation of Greeks so that freedom and independence could be secured for the Greek people. America is involved in a similar struggle now. As we continue our struggle based on our love of democracy, freedom, rule of law, tolerance and justice, we draw strength and inspiration from the Greek people who shed blood and tears in their struggle for independence.

Today, we honor the just cause that the Greek people fought for in 1829, and I join my colleagues in recognition of this special anniversary and the strong U.S.-Greece relationship.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to salute the nation of Greece and celebrate the 181st anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. This great day in Greek history commemorates the successful struggle of the Greek people for national sovereignty.

The Ancient Greeks forged the notion of democracy, something for which the United States and the rest of the world will always be thankful. Indeed, we owe Greece the inspiration for our own democratic form of government. As Thomas Jefferson pointed out, Greece is "the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." I think it is safe to say that the Founders of both Greece and the United States would be proud of the tremendous achievements of both nations.

Throughout the past 181 years, there have been repeated challenges to the independence of Greece, yet its people have stridently fought to maintain both their democracy and their independence. The United States and its people have been proud to stand by her and provide strength, assistance and friendship to overcome those struggles. Greeks across the United States and throughout the world have much to celebrate on this great day of independence.

Today, the United States shares many common threads with Greece, including commitments to democracy, peace and human rights. Greece has sent us her sons and daughters in past generations, helping us to build our proud nation. We will not forget the fierce resistance with which Greece opposed the Axis powers in World War Two, nor their equally staunch resistance to the expansion of communism in the war's immediate aftermath. Greece has been one of our strongest allies ever since. For nearly 5 decades now Greece has been a key NATO member, helping to stabilize its area of the Mediterranean. Since Greece and the United States share many interests and many values, the celebration of the 181st Anniversary of Greek Independence gives us the opportunity to call for an even closer collaboration between both our countries.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate once again Greek culture and to toast the Greek people. It is an honor to rise and commemorate the 181st Greek Independence Day. On this day we celebrate more than just Greece's independence, we celebrate Greece as a nation and as a friend.

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, the American people join with the people of Greece in celebrating the 181st Anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

The bedrock of our close relationship with Greece is our mutual devotion to freedom and democracy and our unshakable determination to fight, if need be, to protect these rights.

Greek philosophers and political leaders—Cleisthenes and Pericles and their successors—had great influence upon America's Founding Fathers in their creation of these United States.

We, as a nation, owe a great debt to Greece. Greece is the birthplace of democracy, as we know it.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves (American colonists) out of Gothic darkness."

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were an attack on democracy and freedom—not just against our people, but also against all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The Greek people understand this.

I congratulate the people of Greece and wish them a Happy National Birthday.

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Greek people on the 181st anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. The thoughts and ideas emanating from the Greek Isles have had a profound influence on the world. Ancient Greece's embrace of democracy, contributions in philosophy, spirit of athletic competition, and fierce adherence to freedom have shaped America in deep and significant ways. America would not be the country it is without the remarkable influence of Greece.

Again, I congratulate the Greek people on their country's day of independence and hope for many, many years in which freedom and democracy reign throughout Greece.

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today, as Greece celebrates its 181st anniversary of its struggle for independence, I join my colleagues in congratulating the people of Greece and Greek-Americans, many of whom I am proud to call constituents.

When we celebrate Greek Independence Day, we celebrate the fight for freedom. An-

cient Greece was the world's first democracy. With modern Greece, it stands as an example to people around the world of overcoming tyranny.

Since its war of independence, Greece has been a strong ally to the United States. In turn, the U.S. has opened its heart to multitudes of Greek immigrants. The contributions of the Greek community in the United States are immeasurable.

The strong relationship between Greece and the United States is steeped in culture, history, and philosophy and remains of critical importance. Since September 11, Greece shared in our loss—21 of its citizens died at the World Trade Center—and has stepped up its efforts to combat terrorism at home and abroad. Equally important is Greece's membership in NATO, and its role in ensuring the security of Europe's southern flank.

I remain committed to strengthening U.S.-Greek ties, and to working on issues of interest to the Greek American community, including a permanent solution in Cyprus.

I thank my colleagues, Mr. BILIRAKIS, for organizing this special order to highlight the important contributions of Greece to our country.

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today, as a member of the Human Rights Subcommittee, to join in commemorating the 181st Anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman empire.

I congratulate Greece on celebrating its 181st anniversary. The Greek people have much to be proud of.

As a senior member of the International Relations Committee, I have long been involved in, and have followed issues affecting the Greek-American community.

I am aware that Greece achieved its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1829.

During the second half of the 19th century, and the first half of the 20th century, it gradually added neighboring islands and territories with Greek-speaking populations.

Following the defeat of communist rebels in 1949, Greece joined NATO in 1952. A military dictatorship, which in 1967 suspended many political liberties and forced the king to flee the country, lasted seven years.

Democratic elections in 1974 and a referendum created a parliamentary republic, and abolished the monarchy.

Greece joined the European Community or EC is 1981 (which became the EU in 1992).

I originally introduced a bill in March 2000, calling for the return of the Parthenon Marbles to their rightful home in Greece.

I am re-introducing that same bill tonight.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Greek people in their celebration of democracy. Once again, congratulations on your 181st anniversary celebration!

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 181st anniversary of the revolution that earned the independence of the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. Nearly 400 years ago, after the fall of Constantinople, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at Agia Lavras, sparking a powerful revolution against the Ottoman oppressors.

Following the triumphs of 1821, Greece continued to prove itself as a loyal ally of the United States and an internationally recognized advocate of democracy. Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond those of the former British Empire to be allied

with the United States in every major international conflict of the 20th century. In the Balkans, Greece has played a steady hand of democracy in the face of regional unrest and instability.

Now, in the wake of September 11, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece. Greece's role as a stable democracy and key NATO ally is critical as the international community fights against global terrorism.

On this special occasion, I commend and thank the Greek people for their spirit and their ongoing pursuit of peace. To Greece, a free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, Greece celebrates its 181st year of independence. I am here tonight to praise a society that represents, in a historical sense, the origins of what we call Western culture, and, in a contemporary sense, one of the staunchest defenders of Western society and values. There are many of us in Congress, on both sides of the spectrum, who are staunchly committed to preserving and strengthening the ties between Greek and American people. I would particularly like to thank the co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Congressman BILIRAKIS from Florida, and Congresswoman MALONEY from New York for their fine leadership and their tireless efforts to strengthen the ties between our two countries.

Just two years after the Greek people began the revolution that would lead to their freedom, one of our predecessors in this Chamber, Massachusetts Congressman Daniel Webster, referring to the 400 years during which the Greeks were ruled by the Ottoman Empire, observed, "These Greek people, a people of intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise, have been for centuries under the atrocious and unparalleled Tartarian barbarism that ever opposed the human race."

The words Congressman Webster chose then to describe the Greek people—intelligence, ingenuity, refinement, spirit, and enterprise—are as apt today as they have ever been.

In the years since, Americans and Greeks have grown ever closer, bound by ties of strategic and military alliance, common values of democracy, individual freedom, human rights, and close personal friendship.

The qualities exhibited by the nation of Greece, Madam Speaker, are a reflection of the strong character and values of its individual citizens. The United States has been greatly enriched as many sons and daughters of Greece made a new life in America. They, and their children and grandchildren, have enriched our country in countless ways, contributing to our cultural, professional, commercial, academic, and political life.

The timeless values of Greek culture have endured for centuries, indeed for millennia. As Daniel Webster noted, 400 years of control by the Ottoman Empire could not overcome the Greek people's determination to be free. But, I regret to say, Madam Speaker, to this day, the Greek people must battle against oppression. For almost 27 years now, Greece has stood firm in its determination to bring freedom and independence to the illegally occupied nation of Cyprus.

Given instability around the world, now is a good time to heal the wound in Cyprus that

has poisoned the relations between Greece and Turkey for so many years.

I am concerned, however, that Turkey is once again not negotiating in good faith. Over the years, I have become quite familiar with the Turkish side's well-known negotiation tactics. The Turkish side agrees to peace negotiations on the Cyprus problem only for the purpose of undermining them once they begin and then blames the Greek Cypriots for their failure.

The time has come for Denktash to realize his demands for recognition of a separate state are not acceptable. The framework has already been laid by the United Nations Security Council's Resolutions establishing a bizonal, bicomunal federation with one single international personality and one single citizenship.

Like their forefathers who were under the control of a hostile foreign power for four centuries, the Cypriot people hold fast in defiance of their Turkish aggressors with every confidence that they will again be a sovereign nation. They will. And the United States will be by their side in both the fight to secure that freedom and the celebration to mark the day when it finally arrives.

I will continue to work with my colleagues here in Congress to ensure that the United States government remains on the right side of this issue—because there is no gray area when it comes to this conflict.

In closing I want to congratulate the Greek people for 181 years of independence and thank them for their contributions to American life.

INTRODUCTION OF CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF IRAN

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about a resolution which I have had drafted and will be introducing very shortly, and I hope my colleagues will join in supporting. I would like to read it tonight. It is a resolution supporting the people of Iran:

"Concurrent resolution, expressing the sense of Congress in support of the people of Iran and their legitimate quest for freedom, economic opportunity, and friendship with the people of the United States.

"Whereas, the first day of spring, celebrated by millions worldwide as Nowruz, the Persian Iranian New Year, symbolizes renewal, birth and new beginnings;

"Whereas, the people of the United States respect the Iranian people and value the contribution that Iran's culture has made to the world civilization over three millennia;

"Whereas, the United States recognizes the legitimate aspiration of the Iranian people for democratic, civil, political and religious rights and the rule of law;

"Whereas there exists a broad-based movement and desire for political change in Iran that represents all sec-

tors of Iranian society, including youth, women, students, military personnel and religious figures and that is pro-democratic, seeking freedom and economic opportunity;

"Whereas, the Iranian people have increasingly expressed their frustration at the slow pace of reform while still pursuing nonviolent change in their society;

"Whereas, in four consecutive elections the Iranian people have opted for nonviolent reform;

"Whereas, following the tragedies of September 11, 2001, thousands of Iranians filled the streets spontaneously and in solidarity with the United States and the victims of the terrorist attacks; and

"Whereas, the people of Iran deserve the support of the American people.

"Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Congress of the United States expresses its heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the courageous people of Iran for their brave expressions of support following the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States;

"Two, recognizes and supports the people of Iran in their daily struggle for democracy, reform, human rights, economic prosperity and the rule of law;

"Three, makes a clear distinction between the peace-loving people of Iran, endowed with a rich culture and history and the unelected officials of Iran; and

"Four, urges the President of the United States to:

"A, engage and support the people of Iran in their legitimate aspiration for freedom and democracy;

"B, to continue to pursue areas of common interest with the people of Iran while taking an uncompromising stance on terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and the human rights of Iranian citizens; and

"C, to use available diplomatic means to support the Iranian people's demand for an immediate release of all political prisoners and for the removal of the ban on the freedom of the press."

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important resolution. We need to send a clear message that we stand with the freedom-loving people of Iran.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in the memory of our former beloved colleague, Claude Pepper of Florida, who fought at our side in 1938 to preserve the Social Security system, I rise this evening to make my remarks.

I want to talk about fiscal responsibility, responsibility to our Nation, responsibility to the future, responsibility to our children, responsibility to our senior citizens.