

largest and most vibrant communities of Hellenic Americans anywhere in this country, I join with all of my Caucus colleagues and fellow residents of New York's 14th Congressional District in saluting the people of Greece. On October 29, 2004, the Hellenic community, together with many friends, convened in Astoria's Athens Square Park to recognize this outstanding accomplishment.

While it has been nearly three months since the Olympic flame was extinguished in Athens, the memory of how wonderful the 2004 Summer Games really were remains with us. The Athens Games attracted the largest American audience ever for an Olympic competition held outside the United States. The impact will be felt worldwide for generations to come. To me it was always clear that Greece would be an excellent host for the 2004 Olympic Games. Greek hospitality and warmth is renowned throughout the world. Thus, it is no surprise to report that the Greek people proved the naysayers wrong by hosting an impeccably organized and safe Olympic Games, an extraordinary world event in which the athletes took center stage.

For three weeks in August, the people of Greece welcomed the world to participate in a competition that allowed countries to set aside their political differences for a brief time and to come together in the spirit of peace and sportsmanship. Wanting to help make the 2004 Olympics a great event for visitors many volunteers, including those from New York City such as Andreas C George, Katherine George, Vlasia Anastasiou, Julia Anastasiou, Helen Skarla, Katerina Papaioannou, Joanna Savaides, Irene Aindili Kalliroe Argenas, Yeannis Kaltsas, Spiliotou Gianakopoulos, Elizabeth Bogiatzi, Marika Gianakopoulos, Argyris Ignatiades, Stephanos Pavlides, Ieanni Michaelides, Theodora Ziongas, George Costacos and Zacharoula Karyammi, gave generously of their time and energy. While they were there, the volunteers were able to see Greece's beautiful historic and natural treasures, ensuring that they would remember forever their experience in Greece.

On October 29th, the members of Hellenic cultural and civic organizations, Greek Orthodox churches, constituents and friends joined together to pay tribute to Greece for its extraordinary showing in the Olympics. The organizations represented included the Federation of Hellenic Societies and its members: Grinion Benevolent Society; Daughters of Roumeli Society of New York, Inc.; Society of Diplatanos, Saint Marina, Inc.; Nafpactian Brotherhood of New York, Galaxidi Brotherhood Eanthe, Thermopyles Phiotidos, the Laconian Brotherhood "Mani" Inc., Calavrytan Fraternity, Geros Tou Morea, Inc, Society Vryseon Anavretis, Pankeryraikos Association, Kephalos, Society of America, Ithacan Society, "Odessus" Ithacan Society, "Odessus" Aesculapian Thessalian Brotherhood, Inc., Society of Epirotes, Pyrrhus Benevolent Society, Inc., Society of Epirotes Ladies Auxiliary, Souliotissathessalonikian Society of Kastorians, Pontion Society of Kastoria, Inc., Panthracian Union of America, "Orpheus" St. John Theologos Society, Pan-icarian Brotherhood, Mytilenian Society of America, Pan-Iemnian Philanthropic Association "Hephaestus" Inc., Gnomagoras Nisyrian Society Inc., Zoodohos Pighe of Andros Society, Cretans Association, "Omonoia" Cretan Women's Association, "Pasiphae" Syllagos

Kretan "Minos" Pancyprian Association, Inc., Greek Cultural Center Inc., Northern Chios Society of "Pelineon", United Pireotes of America, Aetoloakarnanian Mutual Society, Mutual Aid Society, Aigioton Vostitsa Epidavrou Limiras Association, Inc., Pan-eliakos Society of New York, Kalamata Society, Ltd., Aristotelis Society of Halkidikipansamian Brotherhood "Pythagoras" of New York, "Labrys" Cretan Youth Organization of New York, Pontian Society "Kommninoi", NY Greek American Folklore Society, Inc., Greek American Folklore Society, Inc., El Greco Society of Visual Arts, Inc., "St. Demetrios" Naupaktias Brotherhood of America, Greek American Homeowners Ass., Society Agiagalousion Amerikis, Greek-American Labor Council, Greek Society Elatousion of "St. Stefanos", Syllagos Noumou Magnisias "Argonaytes", Benevolent Association of Calamatahellenic Veterans Society of Greater New York, Inc., Panhellenic Organization "Martyrs of Kavo Melanios" Othoni Society of USA, Inc., Association of Logastra, Inc., Hellenic Organization of University Graduates of America, Philoptohos Adelfotis Arahoviton Nafpaktias Olympiakos Fan Club of NY, USA Greek and American Retirement Club, Pankritiki Enosis Athlitismou, Inc., Pan-Grecorian A.E.K. Fan Soccer Club of USA, Inc., Greek-American Mothers Association of USA, Omilos Metanaston Karitsis Messinian Benevolent Association, Hellenic American Educators Association, Gnomogoras Nisyrian Society, Inc., Benevolent Society of Athanasios Diakos "Apostole", Association Magouliton of Spartasyllagos Patrion Kostis Palamas and other prominent organizations, including PSEKA, Athens Square Park Inc., American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, St. Paul Soc., Pan Dodecanese Society of America, Krikos; Eastern Orthodox Lawyers, Pan Macedonian Cultural Center; the Modern Greek Studies Center; the Hellenic American Medical Society; Euro-American Women's Council and the Pan Erikoussa Society of America, as well as our friends in the Greek press: National Herald, Hellenic Harmonies, Hellas News, National Greek TV, Hellenic Times, Estiator & Greek American Review, Antena, Aktina, Esei Magazine, Maria Papadatos Show; Orthodox Observer, Hellas FM, and Mike Zapitis Hour.

The millions of Americans who watched the Games achieved a better understanding of the Greek people, their warmth, generosity and graciousness. These Olympics helped solidify the reputation of Greece and the Hellenic people for abundant hospitality, or "filoxenia". Greece has earned our gratitude and sincerest congratulations. "Axie!"

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise to pay tribute to Greece for giving the world a spectacular 2004 Summer Olympics.

IN HONOR OF FOREST HILL
MANOR

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Forest Hill Manor on its fiftieth anniversary of serving our community's seniors. This historic building was once the illustrious

Forest Hill Hotel, and is still known today for the fine service it offers its guests.

In 1954 the hotel was acquired by the California-Nevada Methodist Homes for the purpose of providing a retirement residence in picturesque Pacific Grove. Throughout the years the Manor has continued to undergo improvements, designed to maintain the high quality of life residents have come to expect from this institution.

Currently the Manor is beginning work on the latest expansion project, responding to the growing needs of the community. There will be an additional thirty-two independent living apartments, and six more assisted living apartments. The Manor is also adding a skilled nursing facility on the property, with twenty-six beds, so residents will not have to receive care offsite. These new developments will expand the Manor's ability to work for the elderly community in the Monterey Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Forest Hill Manor on the outstanding service it has provided our community for the last fifty years. The Manor is a model retirement home, offering a pleasant living experience for 693 residents since 1954. I extend my congratulations to Forest Hill Manor and wish it many more successful years.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF MARK
TRACY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Tracy who is retiring after ten years as the Santa Cruz County Sheriff. Mr. Tracy's lifelong dedication to the Santa Cruz community consists of over 32 years as a police officer, as well as numerous volunteer and leadership positions within local organizations. Beginning his career as a Deputy Sheriff with Santa Cruz County, Mark rose through the ranks to become a Sergeant and a Lieutenant. He was elected Sheriff-Coroner of Santa Cruz County in 1994.

During his years with the Sheriff's Office, Mark has worked in and represented nearly every bureau and capacity in the department and has received numerous awards and commendations. Notably, he has acted as Coordinator of the Search and Rescue Team, was a founding member of the Hostage Negotiating Team, and has served as Chairman for both the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council and the Santa Cruz County Commission on Domestic Violence. By establishing the Domestic Violence Unit and working with advocacy groups throughout the county, he has promoted better services to victims of domestic abuse. Additionally, Sheriff Tracy established the High Tech Crime Unit to address the growing problem of identity theft and computer crimes.

In his career as Sheriff, Mark has also established unprecedented levels of trust and cooperation with the community, including women's groups, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, as well as medical marijuana organizations. He has overseen the opening of new service centers throughout Santa Cruz County and has placed school resource officers at high schools and junior high schools throughout the region.

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office has a proud history of aggressively attacking crime in a proactive and timely manner. Mark has been at the forefront of working towards unbiased policing and problem-solving techniques. In his partnerships with local organizations, he has established himself as an integral part of the Santa Cruz community. I have personally enjoyed working with Mark, and I wish to thank him for his dedicated service to our community. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Tracy on his upcoming retirement as Sheriff, and wish him the best of luck in all of his future endeavors.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

SPEECH OF

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 110, legislation that commemorates the upcoming 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

As we all know, our Allied forces fought against great odds, outnumbered and outgunned, to hold back German forces from December, 1944 to January, 1945. Victory over Germany was secured 4 months later.

This year has given us many opportunities to thank the members of the World War II generation for all that they have achieved. The 60th anniversary of D-Day, the opening of the long-awaited National World War II Memorial on the Mall here in Washington, and the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge are reminders that these men and women fought to save the world from tyranny. The passage of time should not diminish their sacrifices.

I would like to thank the Speaker of the House, my friend and colleague from Illinois, for sponsoring this resolution. It honors the 600,000 U.S. troops who fought in this battle 60 years ago. One of those troops is another friend and former colleague, Bob Michel. The former Minority Leader of the House, Bob Michel was wounded by machine gun fire at the Battle of the Bulge, for which he earned two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart. I know he has never forgotten that more than 81,000 of his fellow American soldiers were also injured in Belgium 60 years ago, and, through this resolution, we show these veterans that we do not forget, either.

I am proud to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of H.J. Res. 110, and urge its swift passage.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN ELECTIONS ACT OF 2004

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4324, the Thrift Savings Plan Open Elections Act of 2004. This simple, but important legislation will allow eligible individuals the opportunity to elect or modify contributions to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) at any time, without penalty.

The TSP is a voluntary, tax-deferred defined contribution plan for Federal employees and members of the uniformed services, through which Federal agencies provide matching funds to an individual's own retirement contributions. However, under current law, an eligible employee has only two opportunities a year to join the TSP fund and receive matching contributions, or to adjust their individual contribution amount. The changes implemented by H.R. 4324 will allow for greater participant access to the TSP, and will simplify administration. Given the hard work that our Federal employees and uniformed servicemen and women perform day in and day out, it is commonsense that they should have this increased control over their retirement contributions.

RECOGNIZING DEREK E. WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Derek E. Williams of Kearney, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 397, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Derek has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the 3 years Derek has been involved with scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Chaplain Aide, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and Senior Patrol Leader. Derek is a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, Order of the Arrow, and Brotherhood.

For his Eagle Scout project, Derek built a bridge at the Lions Club Park. With the addition of Derek's bridge, the park is now handicapped accessible. The project took approximately 120 hours to complete.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Derek E. Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS IN MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED AREAS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make it possible for foreign doctors to provide medical services in geographic areas which have been designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals. S. 2302 is almost identical to H.R. 4453, which I cosponsored with my colleague, Mr. HOSTETTLER. H.R. 4453 passed the House on October 6 on the suspension calendar. The Senate bill has an additional

provision which ensures that specialists sponsored by Federal and State agencies are placed in areas that have a shortage in that specialty. The additional provision requires the sponsoring agency to determine criteria for demonstrating a specialist shortage and to meet that criteria in order to sponsor the specialist.

Aliens who attend medical school in the United States on J exchange program visas are required to leave the country afterwards and reside abroad for two years before they can receive a visa to work here as physicians. In 1994, Congress created a new temporary waiver of this 2-year foreign residence requirement which allowed states as well as federal agencies to sponsor the doctors. It applied to foreign doctors who would commit to practicing medicine for no less than 3 years in a geographic area designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as 2 having a shortage of health care professionals. This program has been successful for 10 years in bringing highly qualified physicians to medically underserved areas. It sunsetted on June 1 of this year.

The first physician recommended for a waiver in Texas was Dr. Maria Camacho, a Pediatric Intensivist. Her services to the residents of Harlingen in Cameron County provide a level of health care to children that was previously unavailable in that county.

Dr. K. M. Moorthi is a Nephrologist who was recommended for a waiver to serve at a facility in Pecos, TX, in Reeves County. He works at a dialysis center. Patients requiring dialysis 3 times per week in that part of Texas used to have to travel more than 70 miles each way for the treatments. Now it is available in Pecos.

The bill will provide a 2-year extension for this waiver program. When it was marked up by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, the extension was only for one year. Although I had sought a 5-year extension at that 3 markup, I subsequently accepted a compromise of 2 years. I also negotiated a flexibility provision which will allow a State agency to place a doctor at a location that has not been designated as underserved if the doctor will nevertheless serve patients from an underserved area. The exception is limited to five doctors in each state. It targets rural underserved areas that typically get specialty medical care from a major medical facility that is not itself located within an underserved area. The bill also provides that the doctors who receive a waiver to come here with H-1B visas will not count towards the annual H-1B cap.

I urge you to vote for S. 2302.

BE PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN AN ESSAY BY HELEN LU

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an essay composed by Helen Lu, a 16-year-old junior at Washington High School in Fremont, CA. Miss Lu delivered her essay at the Alameda County Veterans Affairs Commission's Veterans Day commemoration on November 11, 2004.