

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING 56 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE DODECANESE ISLANDS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Federation of Dodecanese Societies of America and Canada, which is celebrating 56 years of independence for the Dodecanese Islands, which are located in the southeastern part of the Aegean Sea. After five centuries of foreign rule, the Hellenic people of the islands not only survived occupation, but retained their heritage, ethnicity and religion, as well.

The Federation is a link between the many Dodecanese societies in North America and current residents of the Dodecanese Islands of Greece. More than 40,000 people of Dodecanesian descent live in the New York City area and contribute significantly to our community and economy.

The Dodecanese Federation was formed in New York in the 1920s and played a major role in the struggle for the liberation of the Islands. They joined in the celebration when, on February 10, 1947, the Paris Peace Treaty was signed, reuniting the Dodecanese Islands with the Greek mainland. The text of the Treaty states in part, "Italy hereby cedes to Greece in full sovereignty the Dodecanese Islands indicated thereafter, namely Stampalia, Rhodes, Calki, Scarpanto, Casos, Piscopis, Misiros, Calimnos, Leros, Patmos, Lipsos, Simi, Cos, and Castelorizo, as well as the adjacent islets." Greece ratified the Paris Treaty on October 22, 1947; formal reunification occurred on March 7, 1948.

Today, the Federation is devoted to supporting Hellenic-American relations and culture with a broad range of programs. Additionally, many of the Federation's member organizations have educational, cultural, and festival activities that promote and enrich the Hellenic community in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chairperson of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to the heroes of the long struggle for Dodecanesian independence. The Federation of Dodecanese Societies of America and Canada deserve our continuing respect, admiration and support.

Zeto E Eleftheria! (Long Live Freedom!)

IN RECOGNITION OF JAMES AND
VELMA CLEMENTS

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special oc-

casional: the 75th wedding anniversary of James and Velma Clements. This event will take place on March 30, 2004, but the Clements family is celebrating the event on March 20, 2004.

James Allen Clements was born in 1906 in Oneota, Alabama. He served in the Navy during World War II and worked at Fort McClellan, Alabama, as a carpenter. Velma Harris Clements was born on March 27, 1910, in Cleburne County, Alabama, and worked at the Linen Thread Company in Blue Mountain, Alabama. Mr. and Mrs. Clements were married on March 30, 1929. They have three daughters and sons-in-law, 11 grandchildren, 23 great grandchildren, and three great great grandchildren.

James and Velma Clements joined Edgewood C.M. Church of Anniston, Alabama, on July 10, 1934. On March 20, 2004, a reception will be held there in honor of their 75th wedding anniversary. I salute this lovely couple on the 75th year of their life together and join their family in honoring them on this special occasion.

RULES COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT BY CHAIRMAN DAVID DREIER ON THE AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1375—FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY RELIEF ACT OF 2003

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute for the purpose of making an announcement.

The Rules Committee may meet the week of March 15 to grant a rule which could limit the amendment process for floor consideration of H.R. 1375, the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2003. The Committee on Financial Services filed its report with the House on June 12, 2003, and the Committee on the Judiciary filed its report with the House on July 14, 2003.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation of the amendment to the Rules Committee in room H-312 of the Capitol by 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17. Members should draft their amendments to the text of the bill as reported on July 14, 2003.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are drafted in the most appropriate format. Members are also advised to check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

CONGRATULATING EAST BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL'S WE THE PEOPLE TEAM

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, starting on May 1st, 2004, students from across the United States will arrive in Washington, D.C. in order to participate in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, which is an extraordinary civic education program developed to educate American youth about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. By act of Congress, We the People is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, and administered by the Center for Civic Education.

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the class from East Brunswick High School will represent the State of New Jersey in this prestigious national event. These bright and dedicated students, through their extensive knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and superb reasoning and speaking skills, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level. I congratulate them, and I am confident that the students of East Brunswick High School will do a fine job of showing the Nation the very best that New Jersey has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, over a 3-day period, the We the People national Final Competition will test the abilities of the students in hearings, which are modeled after those actually held in the U.S. Congress. Through the We the People program, students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of constitutional scholars, judges, lawyers, and journalists, while they evaluate, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Testimony will be followed by questions designed to examine the students' knowledge and implementation of constitutional concepts, as well as their ability to apply that knowledge. This is an opportunity of a lifetime for these students to receive proper recognition for their hard work.

We the People has been shown to be a very effective measure in combating the important problems of apathy and cynicism in our Nation's youth. I can think of no better way of stimulating interest in government than total immersion in it. Nowhere else can these students learn more about their government than here in our Nation's capital. Many independent evaluations have validated the effectiveness of the program's ability to impress a positive attitude upon students about civic matters.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending best wishes to all the participants at the We the People national finals, as well as in all their future endeavors, and applaud their achievement. Programs like We the People keep the thirst for knowledge alive in our youth. Our democracy is only as effective as

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

those who choose to take part in it, and We the People will ensure that generations to come will make that choice. Our Nation should be proud that they are dedicated to learning and advocating the fundamental ideals and principles that define us as Americans and bind us together as a Nation.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S
NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mr. TAUZIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce legislation to protect America's national security. My bill prohibits foreign governments from controlling or owning U.S. communications networks. This is not a new concept. It has been the law for more than fifty years, but the Federal Communications Commission has failed to enforce it in recent years.

Let me be clear from the onset—this bill places ownership and control restrictions on foreign governments, not on companies, which simply happen to be foreign. This distinction is important, and we must recognize the realities of the world we live in. Foreign government interests are not always our own, just as our interests will, at times, vary from theirs. If we do not protect our interests, no one else will either—which leaves a massive security vulnerability when it comes to communications.

For example, most people are not aware that nearly half of the U.S. video distribution runs over a satellite network controlled by a foreign government, Luxembourg. That same government opposed the U.S. led coalition in Iraq and was one of the few nations which wanted to throw NATO out of Europe. So I ask, is it really a good idea to put those satellite links under foreign government control, especially when those very links are used to distribute our nation's news? Whether it is the recent blackout or 9-11, we all know the panic created when we are cut off—no information coming in, and no information going out. We are an information-based society, and when access to information is compromised, our security is compromised.

Another concern is the vast amount of U.S. military communications in the Gulf region, which rely upon satellite networks controlled by foreign government. The Wall Street Journal reported on September 9, 2003, that Eutelsat, and I quote, "snared much of the extra business to help U.S. forces conduct surveillance and battlefield operations in Iraq." The article went on to say "Some company officials say the deal is a big reason Eutelsat's financial results have been stronger than those of its competitors, accounting for nearly 10 percent of total revenues."

For those not familiar with Eutelsat, it is a conglomeration of multiple government-owned

phone companies, with its headquarters in Paris. Some of Eutelsat's government owners have been some of our closest allies for decades, yet when it came to Iraq, we parted ways. It seems to me that it is not prudent policy to allow our lines of communications to be controlled by even our closest friends, because even the closest friends may, at times, have differing opinions and interests. Furthermore, the satellite market is in tough shape right now. I find it difficult to understand why we support a corporation that is controlled by a foreign government to the detriment of U.S. providers.

For several years, I have expressed serious reservations about the Federal Communications Commission's enforcement of foreign government ownership restrictions under Section 310 of the Communications Act. I repeatedly pointed out that companies controlled by foreign governments are too often controlled by considerations other than those of the competitive marketplace. Notwithstanding my concerns, the Commission has repeatedly approved foreign government acquisitions of U.S. licenses.

In view of the clear differences between the Congress and members of the Commission about the meaning and application of Section 310, I requested that the Commission conduct a "vigorous review" of the proposed acquisition of GE Americom by SES-Astra. In the end, the acquisition was treated as such a routine matter that it was approved at the staff level. We have laws on our books which restrict such acquisitions, yet a merger involving a foreign government is more easily approved, and with fewer conditions, than most U.S. mergers. After approving the application, the Commission staff subsequently "found" SES-Astra had not divulged the full extent of foreign control in the company. Even then, the Commission still allowed the staff approval to stand.

Accordingly, I am introducing this legislation to make clear, in no uncertain terms, that foreign governments, directly or indirectly, are specifically prohibited from owning or controlling U.S. communications networks. This legislation does not break new ground. It simply preserves and clarifies current law, stating that we will never place our lines of communications in a position where they can be compromised by foreign governments.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ALAN J.
FRIEDMAN'S TWENTY YEARS OF
SERVICE TO THE NEW YORK
HALL OF SCIENCE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the New York Hall of Science and its

distinguished leader, Dr. Alan Friedman. On March 18, 2004, the Hall will celebrate Dr. Friedman's twenty years of outstanding service to the New York community. Dr. Friedman is largely responsible for the development of the New York Hall of Science as a destination for visitors and a world class center for the training of science teachers.

Dr. Friedman turned—quite literally—an empty shell of a building into one of the world's most enjoyable centers for science education. Under Dr. Friedman's leadership, the Hall has received national recognition for its efforts to encourage new technologies, to evaluate the effectiveness of informal science teaching and to develop new strategies for training science teachers. This fall, the Hall of Science will open an expansion of its facilities, which will double its exhibition space and allow for increased enrollment in its educational programs.

Dr. Friedman's efforts to make science education fun and interactive have been highly influential in the academic community, and have enriched the lives of a great many young people. At a time when many feel that America's commitment to science education has faltered, Dr. Friedman has been a pioneer in furthering our children's understanding of both the history of science and recent breakthroughs in scientific research.

Indeed, the New York Times editorial page celebrated Dr. Friedman's contributions, saying:

New Yorkers of a certain age will recall the Museum of Science and Industry in the Daily News Building and later in Rockefeller Center. It folded. Boomers will recall the New York Hall of Science at the 1964 World's Fair. That one was shuttered in 1979. Its building languished until 1984, when the city hired the physicist Alan Friedman and pumped in funds to bring it back to life. That he has done, with innovative educational programs and strong links both to city schoolchildren and their teachers.

Dr. Friedman is the recipient of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's AAAS Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology. He is a Fellow of the AAAS, the New York Academy of Sciences and the Association of Science-Technology Centers.

Alan Friedman truly exemplifies the tradition of civic involvement that makes America the greatest nation in the world. Dr. Friedman and the New York Hall of Science deserve our respect, admiration and support.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to this wonderful organization and its director, Dr. Alan Friedman.