

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 120, commanding the outstanding efforts of our military and civilian personnel who responded to the humanitarian crisis engendered by the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004. I commend my colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LEACH, for submitting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Southeast Asia in January to help assess the damage caused by the tsunami. I saw firsthand the overwhelming scale of the human tragedy that killed over 250,000 people. Without the heroic efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and the civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, the death toll would have been far worse.

These men and women worked tirelessly to help provide necessities, like drinking water, food, and medical supplies, to survivors of the tragedy. In addition, many worked to coordinate the relief efforts of donors, relief organizations, aid agencies, and governments. The civilian employees worked to identify and assist U.S. citizens who were affected by the tsunami.

Because of the courageous efforts of these Americans, I have no doubt that many lives were saved. This selfless giving in a time of crisis was beyond the call of duty. Their efforts deserve great recognition and I am proud to support this resolution commanding the

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 184th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against impossible odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history and gained their independence.

In March 1821, after 400 years of Ottoman rule, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States. Indeed, when the Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire, they drew inspira-

tion from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their War of Independence, the Greeks also received encouragement from many Americans, including Presidents James Madison and James Monroe and Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, each of whom gave memorable speeches in Congress in support of the Greek revolutionaries. Just as our defeat of the British army was remarkable, so too was the Greek triumph over the Ottoman Army, a momentous achievement in world history.

As many of my colleagues know, New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with a great many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our nation's history and culture.

On April 10, the President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamantidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis, Co-Chairmen Tasos Manesis and Philip Christopher and Co-Chairwoman Georgia Kaloidis in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece, the joy of the Olympics and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The Grand Marshals of this year's parade are my distinguished colleague, Senator PAUL SARBANES, his wife, Christine, Anthony Diamataris, the Editor and Publisher of the National Herald and his wife, Litsa. Adding to the day's ethnic pride will be parade emcees Nick Gregory, Anthoula Katsimatides and Petros Fourniotis.

In 2004, the Athens Olympics united the world. Today, while New Yorkers pay tribute to Greece's accomplishments, we also seek to add our hometown to the list of great Olympic host cities. It is my hope that one of Greece's most enduring contributions to world history will finally come to New York City in 2012.

As the founder and co-Chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress, I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence. Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

IN CELEBRATION OF GROUP A BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Surry County, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Surry High School Cougars boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I

believe the Cougars deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, the Cougars won their first Group A Boys' Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. Surry completed its 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 26-4.

The Cougars have dedicated this year's championship run to their Head Coach, Joe Ellis. Mr. Ellis was diagnosed with colon and stomach cancer twenty months ago. Despite his diagnosis and subsequent chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Ellis has continued to coach the Cougars, missing only one game during their championship season. His dedication and commitment to the team have given his players a model of how to face adversity both on the basketball court and in life.

Along with the State Championship, the Cougars won this year's Tri-Rivers District Tournament and the Region A Tournament. Coach Ellis was awarded Coach of the Year by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. Junior center Edward Barham was also honored as Player of the Year.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to Coach Ellis and the Surry High School Cougars—the 2005 Group A Virginia High School League Boys' Basketball State Champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll-call No. 90, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING DR. CONSTANTINE P. KIAMOS AND STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of Chicago's great educators, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, former Principal of the Steinmetz Academic Centre.

Steinmetz Academic Centre stands in the heart of Chicago's Belmont-Cragin neighborhood, and has served the people of this community for over ninety years. Dr. Kiamos retired from Steinmetz last year after two decades of distinguished leadership, and was recently honored at a school event.

During his tenure, Steinmetz underwent many changes, including a major increase in enrollment. Through all of the changes, Steinmetz maintained its commitment to providing students with a high caliber education.

Dr. Kiamos has always believed in the importance of public education. Before he was the principal of Steinmetz Academic Centre, he served as Principal of Lovett School; Assistant Principal at Carpenter School and was a teacher at Medill Elementary.

Steinmetz's mission is to provide equal access to education for all students in an environment that is intellectually, physically and

emotionally stimulating, and to develop productive citizens competent in academic and life skills, accepting of themselves and others, and capable of lifelong learning. Dr. Kiamos' leadership and teaching style was an important factor in carrying out this mission.

Over the years, Steinmetz has provided many opportunities for students to excel, through programs such as the Illinois State Scholars, Advanced Placement classes, the Academic Decathlon team, the Chicago Debate League and competitive sports teams. Many of Steinmetz's students who took advantage of these opportunities have excelled and achieved tremendous progress in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a lifetime of service and dedication to our community by a great Chicagoan, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, and Steinmetz Academic Centre that he so proudly served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005, I did not cast my Floor vote on roll call number 90 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a private bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

My personal beliefs on religious morality belong to me, in my home and in my church, with my family and with my God. The Schiavos deserved this same level of privacy and respect. The good people of the 31st Congressional District did not elect me to impose my religious mores upon them or the American people through legislative acts in Congress.

Members of Congress should never have legislated on this very personal family matter—the Schiavos told us this and so even did the courts.

The mere fact that we took up this legislation sets a dangerous precedent where if the Congress dislikes a court's decision we pursue a law to overturn our own constitutional system of checks and balances. In passing S. 686, this Congress complicated what has already been a long and difficult journey for the Schiavos these past 15 years. May Theresa Schiavo now rest in peace.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN AUGUSTINE MUÑOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Augustine Muñoz for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Augustine Muñoz is no stranger to serving his country. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served as an artillery trainer. It was this same patriotism and dedication that later led him into the service of his local community.

Augustine Muñoz has lived in Charlotte for over 72 years. His experience spans across many trades, including work in construction and the oil fields. He currently works on numerous committees and has spent time working with the Democratic Party.

As a longstanding community participant, he has dedicated much of his life to improving the City of Charlotte. While times may have changed, Augustine Muñoz remains a steadfast community leader and organizer.

Augustine Muñoz has been married for over fifty years. He is a devoted family man who loves to spend time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Augustine Muñoz of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HECTOR J. LIENDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Born July 10, 1950, Judge Liendo attended Leyendecker Elementary School, L.J. Christen Jr. High and Martin High School. He later attended Laredo Junior College and received his Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Judge Hector J. Liendo enlisted in the military and chose the U.S. Navy right after high school. Through the navy he traveled to south East Asia, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Borneo, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Okinawa, Japan, a brief tour to the ship's maiden name, "The Anchorage Alaska" and crossed the equator twice with a big celebration.

While in the navy, he made five tours to Vietnam during his four-year enlistment. He was awarded the Vietnam service medal, the Vietnam campaign medal, the combat action ribbon and the Philipino Presidential Citation. He received an honorable discharge in February 1973.

Shortly after arriving in Laredo, Judge Liendo left for Michigan where he worked as a crane operator for the Pontiac Motor Company. Later in 1973, he worked at the Laredo City Drug Store in downtown Laredo. He got married in June 17, 1974 and started attending Laredo Junior College, full time.

In 1978, Judge Liendo went to Houston, to work in the Seismic Processing Department. He was employed as a computer operator and his duties entailed payroll, accounts payable & receivables, and accounting general ledger.

He then worked for Entex as a marketing representative and served as a City Councilman for District VII from 1988–1992.

In 1993 he was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, Place One and ran unopposed for a second term in 1997. As Justice of the Peace Judge Liendo deals with civil cases, criminal cases, traffic citations, fines and court hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo.

IN HONOR OF DEANNE FITZMAURICE ON WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle for winning the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. This award, the most prestigious in American journalism, is presented to only one photographer every year for a distinguished example of feature photography.

Deanne Fitzmaurice earned this award for her moving photo essay on an Oakland hospital's effort to mend an Iraqi boy nearly killed by an explosion. Her powerful photographic narrative captures the story of this young child as doctors strive to give him a chance at a new life. With the accompanying articles written by Meredith May, these poignant photographs tell an overlooked but significant side of the Iraq war.

Deanne has worked at the San Francisco Chronicle for the past 16 years. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including TIME, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report. She was named the Bay Area Press Photographers Association's Photographer of the Year in 2002.

Deanne's collection is indicative of the high quality of work at the San Francisco Chronicle. The Chronicle is committed to excellence in journalism, as evidenced by Deanne's photography and its fine reporting. Congratulations to Deanne Fitzmaurice and the San Francisco Chronicle on this magnificent honor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, throughout the year, Members often express support for certain policies and programs or advocate for fiscal discipline. However, during the consideration of the Budget Resolution our true commitment to those priorities comes to light.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more concerned with advancing a narrow ideological agenda. Carefully making sure to allow for a total of \$106 billion in tax cuts over five years for high-end earners, this GOP Budget Resolution carelessly exacts severe cuts to critical services that benefit students of all ages, veterans, first responders, poor and working families, and communities interested in economic development.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more interested in