

played in this country throughout the course of history. Almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, as were Governors in nine of the original 13 states.

Scottish Americans have made invaluable contributions to America in the fields of science, medicine, government, literature, media, and architecture. Today in America more than 200 organizations honor Scottish heritage in the United States.

On this day, let us remember the contributions Scottish-Americans have made to our country and the loyalty and commitment they have shown to the United States throughout the history of our nation.

IN MEMORY OF JOHNNIE COCHRAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise with much sadness, to mourn the passing of a great American, and one of my dear friends, Johnnie Cochran. At a time like this, I find myself very conflicted. On one hand I am deeply saddened by the loss of my dear friend and confidant, a man who I admired and respected before I came to know him well, and over the most recent years of our friendship as we worked together on the redevelopment of Harlem through the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, which Johnnie chaired, he is a man I would come to love.

On the other hand, I feel great pride and gratefulness in the fact that I had the opportunity to experience his friendship. Johnnie was one of the greatest legal crusaders of our generation, and hands down, one of the best lawyers I have ever known. Johnnie had a personality that could light up a room. Even his opponents had to acknowledge his charm.

He argued a case with a style and flare that many had never seen in a courtroom. Indeed, most may never see a persona quite like his again. However, Johnnie always remained true to himself. In the legal profession, lawyers often wear a mask. They adopt a sort of legal alter ego. Johnnie won cases being himself, and that is why he was able to connect with jurors, and the public at large, time and time again.

As we all know, Johnnie became recognized the world over through his participation in the OJ Simpson case. But anyone who knows the work of Johnnie Cochran knows that the case was simply a feather in his cap, just one more achievement in a remarkable career.

Anyone who looks beyond the surface would see that Johnnie was not about celebrity clients, he was about seeking justice for those who had been denied it. In his portfolio of clients, one does find the OJ's and P. Diddy's of the world, but much more than them you find the little guy: the accused person with no money, no voice, and no hope, and then you find Johnnie right there fighting for them. That was the Johnnie that I knew, and that is the Johnnie that everyone should know.

Johnnie Cochran was born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1937, the grandson of a sharecropper. His family would move west to California in the late 1940's, where his determined father would work his way up from a shipyard

pipe fitter, to an insurance broker for California's leading Black-owned insurance company. The family would eventually settle in Los Angeles where Johnnie would spend the rest of his adolescence.

Although his family's migration to California removed him from the Jim Crow South, the repressive form of segregation and discrimination that Johnnie witnessed as a young child in Louisiana never left him. Instead it instilled in him a deep seated commitment to seek justice for all people.

Johnnie grew up wanting to be a lawyer, and he would see his dream through to fulfillment. After graduating from UCLA, he earned a degree from Loyola Law School in 1962. In the fall of 1961, during his last year in law school, he became the first Black law clerk in the Office of the City Attorney. In early 1963, he became a Deputy City Attorney.

Though he enjoyed his work, he came to realize that most of the people he was prosecuting were Black men who had been severely beaten by police authorities during their arrests. He soon came to believe that something was gravely wrong with the way the justice system related to African American citizens, and he set out to do something about it.

He would leave the City Attorney's office in the late 60's to set up his own practice. He would there begin his crusade of defending those who had been the victims of police brutality and misconduct, who in most cases happened to be minorities.

Along the way he obtained justice for dozens of every day people, who had nowhere else to turn. He would also be the first attorney to get the city of Los Angeles to financially compensate victims of police misconduct. Without question, Johnnie's personal crusade against police violence brought about changes in the law enforcement systems of both Los Angeles and the entire United States.

Johnnie's preoccupation with justice was not confined to situations where the victimization was based on race; he wanted to see justice done in every case. In 1992 he represented Reginald O. Denny, the white truck driver who was brutally beaten by a mob during the Los Angeles Riots. Johnnie argued that the LAPD's reluctance to enter the riot zone cost many people their lives, and put citizens like Denny in harm's way. Indeed, many argued that the riots would never have escalated to the level they did if police had responded sooner.

Though everyone speaks of OJ, as far as Johnnie was concerned, it was the case of Geronimo Pratt that was most meaningful and important to him. He defended Pratt in 1972, but lost the case due to police and prosecutorial misconduct. However, he never gave up on Pratt.

Though he had been elevated to celebrity status, representing rich and famous clients, he never wavered in his quest to get Pratt's conviction overturned. He would ultimately prevail. Pratt's murder conviction was overturned in May 1997. Johnnie also got the state to compensate Pratt \$4.5 million, for the 27 years he wrongly spent behind bars.

Many people were opposed to the legal arguments that Johnnie used in the OJ case, regarding police corruption and misconduct. However, Johnnie was ultimately proven right in the late 1990's when the LAPD was rocked by a department wide corruption scandal.

So systemic were the problems in the LA Police Department that the U.S. Department of

Justice would have to take over the department for some time. This exemplifies why Johnnie was so important. In his quest for justice, he revealed to society serious problems that they were unable or unwilling to address on their own. This is why we will miss him so. We in the Harlem community will especially miss the leadership and contributor he gave to us in his final years.

In this time of loss however, I am heartened by two things. First is the fact that Johnnie's family is still here with us. His wife Dale has been Johnnie's loving and dedicated partner through all the highs and lows. Indeed, her love may have been the only thing that could render Johnnie defenseless, which was no easy task. He loved his children Jonathan, Tiffany, and Melodie dearly, and seeing them grow and become successful adults made him prouder than any victory he ever achieved in court.

The other thing that heartens me at this time is the knowledge that Johnnie's legacy grows every day. In Los Angeles and in cities around the country, Johnnie has become something of a mythic hero, a sort of legal Robin Hood, and a real role model. Kids across America now not only dream of being like Michael Jordan, or Puff Daddy, they dream of becoming successful lawyers, and being like Johnnie.

There are several young people working in my office right now. One is a lawyer already, and many others aspire to become one. There is no question in my mind that Johnnie in some way has something to do with that. In the end, the unseen influence Johnnie has had on the next generation of passionate advocates may be his greatest legacy.

Johnnie, we will never forget you, and I know we will all meet again. In the meantime, we will continue the fight, for as long as justice reigns, so too, will your spirit live.

HONORING THE LIFE AND
CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yogi Bhanjan, a leader, and friend to me, the State of New Mexico and many others ranging from America to his native country of India. Yogi died peacefully in his sleep at age 75 surrounded by his family in Espanola, New Mexico.

Upon his arrival to America in the 1960's, Yogi immigrated to northern New Mexico and founded the Sikh Dharma in Espanola.

By 1971 Sikh Dharma was officially recognized as a religion in America due to Yogi's determined efforts. Through Yogi Bhanjan's non-profit 3H, Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization, he touched the lives of millions throughout the world.

Yogi's name has been a staple throughout New Mexico for decades through his many business endeavors throughout the State. Among his many businesses, Akal Security, founded in 1980 by the Sikh Dharma, now thrives in multiple States and throughout the country by providing security to numerous military installations as well as private corporations throughout the world.

Over 200 books have been written based on his teachings, as well as CD's, videos, paintings, and sculptures. Yogi wrote over 30 books including *The Teachings of Yogi Bhaiyan*, *Furmaan Khalsa*, *Masters Touch*, and *Mind and Its 81 Facets*.

Yogi Bhajan believed "It is a birthright to be healthy, happy, and holy" and lived his life accordingly. He will be missed but Yogi Bhajan left a legacy in New Mexico, America, and the world that will not be forgotten.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greek people and their successful struggle for independence from Ottoman occupation that began nearly 184 years ago.

The Greek intellectual exploration into the meaning of civics and citizenship sparked questions about government that are still being asked throughout the world. Greek curiosity nurtured great thinkers such as Plato and Socrates who spent their lives examining the role between the individual and the state. They posed questions like "what is the meaning of justice?" and "what is the ideal republic?" These timeless questions are still being asked in nations that are searching for a more just government and are being tested in democracies around the world.

When establishing our democratic nation, our founding fathers drew a great deal from the ancient Greeks. Our Democratic system, that is founded on the principals of popular representation, was introduced by the ancient Athenians who were the first to create a civilization based on the rule of the people. Our founding fathers continued the Greek tradition of debating how best to govern and pursued a government that would provide liberty and justice for all. Our dual experiments in democratic government will forever link the United States and Greece.

While our founding fathers relied heavily on the teachings of ancient Greeks, the Greeks based their independence movement beginning in 1821 on our fight for freedom from the British. The Greeks used our struggle for independence as inspiration during their fight from Ottoman rule. Through perseverance and determination the Greeks were able to break from tyranny and bring democracy back to its origins.

Not only can we trace our democratic government to Greece, but also the foundation of science. As some of the first philosophers, the Greeks explored the fields of mathematics, logic, astronomy, physics and biology. The Greeks focused on thinking and understanding, rather than the practical use of their findings in science. Through Aristotle's concept of a posteriori we base the foundations for the modern scientific method. The Greeks taught us that only through experimentation can one truly understand the surrounding world. Our basic understanding of the Earth came from the studies of Ancient Greeks as they questioned the sun, the moons and the stars.

Without the early studies of the Greeks, our current world would be much different. On this

184th anniversary of Greek independence and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise to honor the Greeks on their everlasting input in our society.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 184th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

On March 25, 1821, the people of Greece launched a long, but successful revolt against 400 years of oppressive rule by the Ottoman Turks. Greece's eight year struggle for independence is a testament to the strength of the human spirit in its pursuit of freedom.

As Americans, we share with the Greeks their longstanding commitment to democracy and the rule of law. Our Nation's founding principles of freedom and democracy were influenced by ancient Greek philosophers just as the Greek revolution of 1821 was inspired by the American fight for freedom in 1776.

Our common struggles against totalitarianism and fascism have forged a bond between our nations. Greece has stood by the United States throughout modern history's major world conflicts, including World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War, and now, the war on terror.

Last summer, the Olympic Games returned to their ancient birthplace. Greece accommodated more than 10,000 athletes from 202 countries. Greece proudly displayed its culture and civilization, and hosted people of all nationalities to participate in noble athletic competition.

I am proud to represent a large and active Greek-American community in my congressional district. I have worked with my constituents to support the return of the Elgin marbles, U.S. participation in negotiations over Cyprus, the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew.

I congratulate the people of Greece on their Nation's 184th anniversary of independence and freedom.

HONORING DELEGATE JAMES H. DILLARD

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Delegate James H. Dillard for over 21 years of dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Delegate Dillard has served as Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from 1972-1977 and then again from 1980-2005. Delegate Dillard represents the 41st District in central Fairfax County. He served in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1957 and received a B.A. from The College of William and Mary and a M.A. in Political Science from The American University.

Delegate Dillard previously served as a Fairfax County teacher and principal and began his political career as a member of the Fairfax Education Association by working to establish a living wage for teachers in the 1960's. His strong interest in education led him to be one of the original architects of the Virginia Standards of Learning. Additionally, he was chief sponsor of legislation placing a guidance counselor in every elementary school, and has been recognized as National Legislator of the Year by the Guidance Counselors Association.

As Chairman of the Natural Resources subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, Delegate Dillard initiated the largest growth in parks and conservation activities in Virginia's history. Delegate Dillard was the author and chief sponsor of the Virginia Soil and Siltation Act which protects streams and waterways from pollutants. He has also worked behind the scenes to ensure the development of the Leesylvania State Park sailing marina, one of the finest facilities of its kind on the Potomac River and has been recognized as Legislator of the Year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my best wishes to Delegate Dillard on his retirement from the General Assembly. Through his long and distinguished career Delegate Dillard has touched the lives of countless Virginians. While I know that he will be greatly missed, his retirement is well deserved. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring Delegate Dillard and his wife Joyce. I wish them the best of luck in all future endeavors.

HONORING MR. MAX FISHER

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I join the people of my Congressional District, as well as thousands around the country and the world, in honoring the passing of a truly great individual Mr. Max Fisher. On March 3, 2005, Max Fisher passed away at the age of 96.

Max Fisher, a resident of Franklin, Michigan, was an internationally known philanthropist, businessman, advisor, and diplomat, and universally recognized as a driving force for positive change in the United States and the world.

The son of Jewish Russian immigrants Velvil and Malka Fisch, Max was born in Pittsburgh in 1908. He attended Ohio State University on a football scholarship and graduated in 1930 with a degree in business administration. After graduating from college Max Fisher moved to the Detroit area where he became an extremely successful businessman and real estate land developer.

Max Fisher played a unique role in U.S.-Israel relations. This role has been described by many, including in the 1992 biography, *Quiet Diplomat*, by Peter Golden. Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote in his memoirs that Max Fisher provided an important service as an informal liaison between the White House and the American Jewish leadership under Presidents Nixon and Ford.

Max Fisher also served as the head of a variety of nonprofit and charitable Jewish organizations including United Jewish Appeal, the