

As with the American Revolution, the Greek revolution is filled with stories of heroism and sacrifice. News of such heroism and sacrifice met with strong feelings of support by the American public and by their politicians, including President James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, who expressed their support for the Greek revolution through their annual messages to congress. Henry Clay, our secretary of state in 1825, was very vocal in his support of Greece's fight for independence. Daniel Webster, more often than not, influenced his colleagues in looking into the Greek struggle with sympathetic interests.

It is, of course, no surprise that our Founding Fathers and other prominent Americans were supportive of the Greek struggle for independence. As mentioned, they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson, of all the Founding Fathers, had a particular affinity for Greece, not only because of its classical republican philosophy but also because of his studies of the origins of languages. He expressed that affinity many times, as in a letter to John Brazier on August 24, 1819. In that letter, Thomas Jefferson address "Mr. Pickering's Memoir of the Modern Greek," and the Memoirs review by Brazier. He tells Brazier, "I had been much pleased with the memoir, and was much also with your review of it. I have little hope indeed of recovery of the ancient pronunciation of the finest of human languages, but still I rejoice to the attention the subject seems to excite with you, because it is evidence that our country begins to have a taste for something more than merely as much Greek as will pass a candidate for clerical ordination . . . Among the values of classical learning, I estimate the luxury of learning the Greek and Roman authors in all the beauties of their originals. And why should not this innocent and elegant luxury take its preeminent stand ahead of all those addressed merely to the senses? I think myself more indebted to my father for this that for all other luxuries his cares and affections have placed within my reach."

Jefferson expressed his empathies with Greece revolting against its Ottoman rulers. In an 1823 letter to Adamantios Coray, the Greek patriot and scholar that he had met in Paris years earlier, he stated:

. . . You have certainly began at the right end towards preparing them [the Greek people] for the great object they are now contending for, by improving their minds and qualifying them for self-government. For this they will owe you lasting honors. Nothing is more likely to forward this object than a study of the fine models of science left by their ancestors; to whom we also are all indebted for the lights which originally led ourselves out of Gothic darkness.

No people sympathize more feelingly than ours with the suffering of your countrymen; none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success. And nothing indeed but the fundamental principle of our government never to entangle us with the broils of Europe could restrain our generous youth from taking some part in this holy cause. Possessing ourselves the combined blessing of liberty and order, we wish the same to other countries, and to none more than yours, which she first of civilized nations presented examples of what man should be.

The ties that bind America and Greece go, of course, far beyond their parallel and noble struggles for freedom. The philosophical and

cultural connections, although little known to the public at large, could not be stronger or better assimilated. Such connections were born almost at the same time with the birth of our nation, if not before. In his excellent study of "Lincoln at Gettysburg," Gary Wills tells us:

America as a second Athens was an idea whose moment had come in the nineteenth century . . . In the early 19th century, an era that became known as America's Greek Revival was taking shape. Archaeological discoveries in Greece at the time brought the ancient democracy to mind just as modern Greece began its struggle for freedom from the Turks.

Edward Everett, President of Harvard, founder of Mount Auburn, congressman, Massachusetts's governor, minister to the Court of St. James's in London, senator, secretary of state and principal speaker at Gettysburg years later, was the leader of the Greek Revival. Harvard established its new chair of ancient Greek studies for him. While studying in Germany, Everett went to Greece, "to walk over the battlefields where the first democracy of the West won its freedom." He returned to America convinced that a new Athens was rising here. His appearances, "prompted rallies for Greek independence"—a favorite cause of Everett.

Everett's prestige influenced others, including historian George Bancroft, whose "main interest was Greek history." . . . Bancroft was ahead of the wave of histories that would glorify Periclean Athens in Victorian England. Direct democracy, a flawed system in republican theory, was rehabilitated, for its usefulness in the parliamentary reform movement, by British historians like George Grote. In America, a similar motion toward government by the people, not just for the republic, was signaled by an enthusiasm for Greek symbols. Bancroft became a Jacksonian Democrat when he began to apply historical skills formed on the Attic democracy to America's development. Walter Savage Landor recognized what was happening in America when he dedicated the second volume of his *Pericles and Aspasia* to President Andrew Jackson."

Greece and the United States, bound by their absolute commitment to freedom and justice, have always been the strongest of the allies. Greece stood by us and fought with us in every single war or conflict since we both gained our freedom. And we always stood by Greece, and although at times we appeared to have forgotten how loyal and valuable the Greeks had been to us, our ultimate commitment to their freedom and wellbeing never wavered.

And as we commemorate and fight to free all people, let us remember that some other friends of ours are still agonizing and asking for our help in fighting forces of evil still occupying their land and their homes. The people of the Republic of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks and all others, should be given more active support by our great nation in their efforts to reunite the island and get rid of the occupying forces. U.S. leadership is essential, and now it is the time that we should remember that the Cypriot people are where we had been, and they are striving for what we have earned long time ago, that is, their right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is essential that American leadership urges Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders towards peace. These are the two sides that hold in their hands, to the largest extent, the peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution that undoubtedly will benefit all the peo-

ple of Cyprus, but it will also benefit the nations of Greece and Turkey, will stabilize the region, and will strengthen the bonds and relationships between the United States and the countries involved in the conflict.

As we commemorate Greek Independence Day, we are celebrating the strength and the resolve of the human spirit as well as man's unbending will in the pursuit of freedom. The people of ancient Greece gave us values and ethics and showed us how to fight for freedom and democracy. Our country, more than any other country, shares those values and ethics, and in days such as this we reaffirm our common democratic heritage with the Greek people. The commemoration and celebration remind us also that we should stay forever vigilant in fighting for and protecting our freedom and our democracy, least we loose the right to determine our lives and our future.

Dionisios Solomos was the great poet who transformed in his poetry the unparalleled struggle and the sacrifices of Hellenism in the pursuit of Freedom. The Revolution so much influenced his poetry that he is considered the national poet of Greece. One of his most inspired poems, *Hymn to Liberty*, has almost become synonymous to that Revolution and it became Greece's National Anthem. The poem was published in 1825, along with translations in Italian, French and English.

The Revolution would have never been the same without Solomos. The enthusiasm of the fighters, as well as the international sympathy among the Philhellenes would have definitely been smaller without the *Hymn to Liberty*.

Probably nowhere has Solomos's vision of Liberty depicted better than here, in the United States. Here, in the Rotunda of our own Capitol Hill, we see a most wonderful painting of Liberty, with the sword in hand chasing her enemies, exactly the way Solomos envisioned her in his *Hymn to Liberty*. This figure was painted by another son of Greece, one who really grasped Solomos's vision of Liberty, Constantino Brumidi.

And as a tribute to the United States, Solomos envisions our country rejoicing in seeing Greece fighting for Freedom. He describes the American feelings this way:

Most heartily was gladdened
George Washington's brave land:
For the iron bonds remembered,
Her old slavery's cruel brand.

We live today in a great, free country. Our country became great, and will always be so, because the spirit and the morals that we share with Greece, as so eloquently expressed by Solomos, will always be with us.

TRIBUTE TO MARY NELL PORTER

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a Missourian who has devoted countless hours promoting the arts in my hometown of Columbia, Missouri. She is in every sense a true Renaissance woman. Mr. Speaker, I am referring to Mary Nell Porter.

After graduating from Chillicothe Business College, Mary Nell moved to Washington, D.C. to support her country in the effort that yielded victory in World War II. It was during this time

that Mary Nell began what would become a lifetime commitment to volunteerism. Her unwavering support for fellow Americans is reflected in her activities that included volunteering her time at recruiting stations and at Cardinal Spellman's Foundling Home in New York.

At the end of World War II, she moved to New York City, where she defied the limits that hindered the progress of women in the workforce. By rising to positions of authority and respect in prominent companies such as American Cynamid and Alexander's Department Store, Mary Nell served as an inspiration to countless women who made the decision to pursue a professional career.

Upon her return to Missouri, Mary Nell continued her pursuit of knowledge and graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in Business Administration. Since that time, she has focused her efforts on a passion for music and joined the Women's Symphony League, Friends of Music of the University of Missouri, the University of Missouri's Arts & Sciences Alum Association Board and later served on the Missouri Symphony Society Board of Directors.

Mary Nell's time, energy and generous spirit have been invaluable to the Missouri Symphony Society as well as the Missouri Theatre. She has been critical in the creation of a thriving arts community in my hometown of Columbia. I am eternally grateful for her devotion to our community, and it is my pleasure to share Mary Nell Porter's accomplishment and valuable contributions with my colleagues.

THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION
ON AN OPEN SOCIETY WITH SECURITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I reintroduce the United States Commission on an Open Society and Security Act, expressing an idea I began working on when the first signs of the closing of parts of our open society appeared after the Oklahoma City bombing tragedy, well before 9/11. This bill has grown more urgent as increasing varieties of security throughout the country have proliferated without any thought about their effect on common freedoms and ordinary access. The bill I introduce today would begin a systematic investigation that takes full account of the importance of maintaining our democratic traditions while responding adequately to the real and substantial threats terrorism poses.

To be useful in accomplishing its difficult mission, the commission would be composed not only of military and security experts, but for the first time, they would be at the same table with experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology, and psychology. To date, questions of security most often have been left almost exclusively to security and military experts. They are indispensable participants, but these experts cannot alone resolve all the new and unprecedented issues raised by terrorism in an open society. In order to strike the balance required by our democratic traditions, a cross

cutting group needs to be working together at the same table.

For years now before our eyes, parts of our open society have gradually been closed down because of terrorism and fear of terrorism—whether checkpoints at the Capital even when there are no alerts or applications of technology without regard to their effects on privacy. However, particularly following the unprecedented terrorist attack on our country, Americans have a right to expect additional and increased security adequate to protect citizens against this new frightening threat. People expect government to be committed and smart enough to undertake this awesome new responsibility without depriving them of their personal liberty. These years in our history will long be remembered by the rise of terrorism in the world and in this country. As a result, American society faces new and unprecedented challenges. We must provide ever-higher levels of security for our people and public spaces while maintaining a free and open democratic society. As yet, our country has no systematic process or strategy for meeting these challenges.

When we have been faced with unprecedented and perplexing issues in the past, we have had the good sense to investigate them deeply and to move to resolve them. Examples include the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riotous uprisings that swept American cities in the 1960's and 1970's.

The important difference in the Commission proposed by this bill is that it seeks to act before a crisis in basic freedoms gradually takes hold and becomes entrenched. Because global terrorism is likely to be long lasting, we can not afford to allow the proliferation of security that most often requires no advance civilian oversight or analysis of alternatives and repercussions on freedom and commerce.

With only existing tools and thinking, we have been left to muddle through, using blunt 19th century approaches, such as crude blockades and other denials of access, or risking the right to privacy using applications of the latest technology with little attention to privacy. The threat of terrorism to our democratic society is too serious to be left to ad hoc problem-solving. Such approaches are often as inadequate as they are menacing.

We can do better, but only if we recognize and then come to grips with the complexities associated with maintaining a society of free and open access in a world characterized by unprecedented terrorism. The place to begin is with a high-level presidential commission of wise men and women expert in a broad spectrum of disciplines who can help chart the new course that will be required to protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

THE SAFETY OF SILICONE BREAST
IMPLANTS

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, in addition to my remarks today, I am also submitting a letter written by Dr. Scott Spear to the Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee. In it, Dr. Spear, who is the President of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, brings to light an important health issue that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is currently debating: the safety of silicone gel-filled breast implants. The FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel has scheduled an upcoming hearing that will focus primarily on the safety of these products for the American consumer. The information that Dr. Spear shares in his letter is important for us to take note of as this panel continues its work to make an informed, science-based decision on the safety of these implants. In addition, I am submitting for the RECORD a pamphlet entitled Safety of Silicone Breast Implants that reviews the long term studies that have been performed on silicone gel-filled breast implants. Taken along with Dr. Spear's letter, this brochure makes a compelling argument that in determining the very real and unquestionably important issue of determining the safety of these implants, we must set preconceived notions aside, and ensure that science dictates our actions. I urge my colleagues to review these two documents and I encourage you to join me in supporting the unbiased and open-minded work of the FDA panel as it determines the safety of silicone gel-filled breast implants for American consumers.

MARCH 4, 2005.

U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, (Members and Health Legislative Assistants).

DEAR SENATORS: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting an ongoing regulatory process regarding breast implants, which the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) fully supports. As physicians and patient advocates, we support sound science and have confidence that the FDA will review valid scientific data and make its decisions based on the best interests of patients. Moreover, we believe a strong post-market surveillance process will serve the best interests of our patients.

As part of this process, the FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel will be conducting hearings on April 11-13 regarding the pre-market approval (PMA) applications of two manufacturers' silicone gel-filled breast implants. The FDA appointed panel represents areas of expertise and judgment relevant to the product under review including academicians in specific fields, such as from radiology, oncology, biostatistics, ethics, plastic surgery, general surgery and other disciplines. Each panelist is rigorously screened and cleared by the FDA in advance of their participation. Historically, panelists have been permitted to engage in educational activities promoting patient care. These activities have not been deemed conflicts of interest. Anti-breast implant advocates continue to raise this issue to discredit qualified and reputable clinicians.

As a matter of background, the FDA's General and Plastic Surgery Devices Panel conducted a similar hearing in October 2003. The