

are buried at the cemetery. Most of the time, the service includes grieving families mourning their loss. But each year, about 120 homeless veterans are also buried there, and rarely does a family member attend. Reverend Miller, the chaplain for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 17, conducts services, and an honor guard is provided by the appropriate service branch.

At the age of 57, Reverend Miller is not the only one to provide this greatly needed final farewell. But when he started handling the services 2 years ago, he was one of the most frequent unpaid volunteers conducting services. He drives 60 miles round trip from his home to the cemetery and often performs services for more than one veteran a day. On January 31st, he held services for six homeless veterans, only one of which had any family there to attend.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Rev. Robert Miller on the floor of the House, today. He stands as an example to all of us by helping those who cannot help themselves. I commend him for his selfless acts of service.

IN HONOR OF J. RANDALL WARD JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to J. Randall Ward Jr., for his years of service to the United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware (UCP) organization.

Randall has dedicated over 40 years of service to the United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware organization. Before Randall's efforts, the UCP's summer camp used an inaccessible swimming pool for more than 100 children and all camp activities were held in outdoor tents with portable bathrooms as the only restroom facility. Camp Manito now boasts a new campus, with a larger more handicapped accessible swimming pool. The tents have been replaced with a beautiful building equipped with many amenities, including air-conditioning and accommodations for 4 full-time staff members.

Randall has been recognized locally as a finalist for the Delaware Jefferson Award, an honor awarded annually by the American Institute of Public Service commending outstanding public service leaders within the community. He is one of 5 very admirable nominees, all making exceptional contributions to the State of Delaware. No matter who is chosen as the recipient of this award, they are each deserving candidates who demonstrate that one person can truly make a monumental difference.

I congratulate and thank Randall Ward for all he has contributed to the State of Delaware. Many children are grateful and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. He is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Thank you, Randall, for all you have done and continue to do for our State and our country.

TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 185th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to gain their independence.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 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. The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States and the strong commitment to democracy shared by both nations. The Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire while drawing inspiration from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their war of independence, the Greeks also received support 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.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside 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 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 2, the president of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamontidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis and Secretary Petros Galatoulas in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The grand marshals of this year's parade are Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Andrew Athens, Paul Stapholopoulos, and John Rangos.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe. I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and finding a mutually agreeable name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Greece continues to be the home of wonderful artistic achievements including the annual Eurovision song contest, which this year will be held in Athens. I also am pleased to note that Greece hopes to open its Acropolis Museum by the end of next year. This museum will give visitors the opportunity to experience and learn about the Acropolis in a new and exciting way. I hope that the Elgin Marbles, which have been on view in the British Museum, will soon be returned to their home.

As a founder and cochair 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.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV.
PATRICIA SPEARMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Patricia Spearman for an exemplary life dedicated to God and community.

Patricia was born in Indianapolis, and spent much of her childhood traveling throughout the Midwest and South with her evangelist mother. They spent a week or so at a time at different churches and between her eighth grade year and second semester of her junior year she attended over 200 schools. Traveling so much fostered in her a curiosity of people and the roads they travel and gave her a healthy respect for human diversity. After 16 years, Patricia was tired of traveling and decided to finish high school in Kansas City, MO. She supported herself with after-school jobs and later, took her first pastorate in a small Kansas City church.

After graduation, Patricia attended college in Dallas on a band scholarship for 1 year, and then transferred to Norfolk State University in Virginia on an academic scholarship. She majored in political science, planning on a career as a minister and attorney. Then, during her freshman year, Patricia enrolled in Reserve Officers Training Corps to fulfill a physical education requirement. She did so well, that during her sophomore year she committed to serving 2 years' active duty in the Army after college, followed by 4 more years in the Army Reserves. She served with the military police in South Korea, advancing through the ranks until leaving active duty in 1983 as a lieutenant colonel. Since then, as a reservist, Patricia has been recalled to active duty several times, and last fall completed a 30-month deployment working in counterterrorism at the Pentagon.

From the days of that first posting in South Korea, Patricia continued working in ministry, sometimes unofficially, often under the auspices of overworked but grateful chaplains. Now she brings to Las Vegas skills learned during a lifetime of serving churches, working in campus ministry at the University of Louisville in Kentucky and serving as school board president in Texas. Last November, Rev. Patricia Spearman was named pastor of the Las Vegas's Covenant United Methodist Fellowship. While she has traveled extensively in her

lifetime, she arrives in Las Vegas with the conviction that this is exactly where she's supposed to be. At the age of 50 she uses her experience to segue seamlessly from a story about everyday life into a Bible story. And in a time when many people segregate to worship Patricia holds firm to the idea that diversity is also one of God's creations and it must be celebrated. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend her sermons and the average crowd that gathers to hear her words attests to Patricia's love of diversity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rev. Patricia Spearman on the floor of the House today.

IN HONOR OF JOHN LAROCK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to John Larock, whose work has been invaluable in forming and maintaining Miracle Workerz, a nationally recognized science and engineering mentoring program focusing on an international robotics competition.

In 1993, John began a DuPont sponsored Explorer Post which grew in 2000, to become a team. This team is affiliated with the international robotics competition, FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). Each year, John recruits adult volunteers who reach out in the community and inspire young students to pursue the fields of science, technology and engineering. His success is a direct result of making learning fun.

John is also known for being a leader who encourages others to participate in community service. His positive outlook, tremendous vision, and unlimited energy create an environment where people want to contribute to the achievement of others.

John has been recognized locally as a finalist for the Delaware Jefferson Award, an honor awarded annually by the American Institute of Public Service commending outstanding public service leaders within the community. He is one of five very admirable nominees, all making exceptional contributions to the State of Delaware. No matter who is chosen as the recipient of this award, they are each deserving candidates who demonstrate that one person can truly make a monumental difference.

I congratulate and thank John Larock for all he has contributed to the State of Delaware. Hundreds of young people are grateful and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. He is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Thank you, John, for all you have done and continue to do for the children of our State.

IRAN: THREATS, CHALLENGES
AND PROSPECTS FOR CHANGE

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday February 15, 2006, a briefing was conducted

in the Canon Caucus room of the U.S. House of Representatives. Entitled: Iran: Threats, Challenges and Prospects For Change, the briefing was sponsored by bipartisan group of Members of Congress. During this event speakers assessed the current situation in Iran, the Iranian nuclear threat and the status of the Iranian opposition group, the MEK. I would like to take this opportunity to share with all of my colleagues my opening statement and some of the highlights from the remarks of the panelists:

I would like to begin by thanking all of the Iranian Americans who have traveled to Capitol Hill today to hear the views of our expert panelists. I also want to thank my fellow members of Congress who are here with us in support of this event. Let me start by recognizing TOM TANCREDO of Colorado, thank you for being here, and also Congressman BOOZMAN of Arkansas. Can we give them both a hand for their participation [applause]. I also want to thank our distinguished panelists for taking the time to share their insights and understanding of current events in Iran. It is critically important that all Americans understand the true nature of the grave threat posed by the radical extremists, anti American regime in Tehran. We're facing a very dangerous crisis with Iran today. The Iranian government is sponsoring terrorism, developing nuclear weapons, meddling in the future of Iraq and violating the fundamental human rights of their own people. The world community cannot afford to allow the Iranian mullahs to continue to be a regional threat or to grow into a nuclear threat. For too many years we have done nothing to help the Iranian people—inside and outside of Iran—in their struggle for democracy. For too many years we have tolerated terrorism and violence from Iranian extremists. It is time to take action. If we fail to take action against the mullahs meddling in Iraq we risk the future of the Iraqi people and we may find that the Iranian regime and not the Iraqi people were the real winners of the Iraq war.

U.S. policies toward Iran have failed to achieve our goals. While many advocate more dialogue with Tehran our time is running short. We must seize the opportunity to aid the people of Iran and it is time to give support to the Iranian people who have longed for democracy for more than a quarter of a century. I am troubled by the strategy of our government and the insistence that the Iranian government and the Iranian opposition, the MEK are equal threats to peace and freedom. There is no logic in this reasoning and it is undermining our foreign policies. The U.S. must exercise a genuine commitment to helping the Iranian people overcome the oppressive regime that despises democratic principles and denies fundamental human rights.

I commend all who are working today for the sake of human rights, peace and democracy in the Middle East. I share your vision of a free and peaceful Iranian nation.

The first panelist to address the briefing was Professor Raymond Tanter the former member of the National Security Agency and the President of Iran Policy Committee. His statement began:

Please allow me to cut to the chase and begin with my conclusions: Coercive diplomacy, military action, and regime change for Iran are three options for the international community. Rather than sliding into military action as coercive diplomacy also fails, it is time to consider regime change for Iran. Because the only possibility to carry out regime change is via the groups feared by the regime in Tehran, the United

States should remove their terrorist designation. Coercive diplomacy combines threat of force with promise of diplomacy. For several years, the European Union pursued a policy of promise without threat, ostensibly in order to bolster the fortunes of moderates like former President Mohammad Khatami relative to the likes of the Supreme Leader and President of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Rather than reinforcing the moderates, however, there has been a consolidation of power under the Supreme Leader and his selected President Ahmadinejad. Professor Tanter went on to say: President Bush should issue a Finding or Presidential Directive authorizing all appropriate measures to effect regime change in Iran

The next panelist to address the conference was Ms. Lynn Derbyshire who is a representative of victims of terrorism in Beirut She recently testified in the U.S. Congress against the Mullah's regime support of terrorism. She started her remarks with the story of her brother who was killed in Beirut by the Iranian regime. Ms. Derbyshire then explained that placing the Iranian Resistance in the terrorist list was a present to the clerical regime in Iran. She said: "Ahmadinejad, not Iranian Resistance, is a terrorist." She continued on saying that "Iranian and American people basically want the same thing. They all want to put a stop on terrorism."

Lt. General Tom McInerney (USAF, ret.), former Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, and an IPC Co-Chair, also addressed the briefing. He examined the military option toward Iran: and said:

The United States has the ability to target the known nuclear sites of Iran and delay its nuclear weapons program. With such capability in hand and in the context of failing diplomacy, we should leave the military option on the table. General McInerney added: However, military alternatives have risks, which suggest that choosing the military option should be a last resort. Prior to taking military action, it is important to begin a regime change clock. McInerney concluded: Regime change begins when the Great Powers remove Iranian opposition groups from so-called terrorist lists. I favor removing of the Mujahedeen-e Khalq from such lists; empowering the Iranian people by recognizing their main opposition groups; building an Arab political coalition to support these opposition groups; and eroding the legitimacy of Tehran regime to point where it collapses in face of determined efforts of the Iranian people working through dissidents and exiles.

The next speaker to address the briefing was Mr. Bruce McCollm, President, Institute for Democratic Strategies, a non-profit organization committed to strengthening democratic processes abroad. In his remarks he asked:

Can we imagine one day saying that Iran is an island of democratic stability in a turbulent region? We can if we help the Iranian people stand up and demand a greater say in their government and in their own lives.

He continued:

Since the days of the Iranian Revolution, we in the West have viewed the Iranian people as victims of a repressive regime. Some thought the period of the Khatami Presidency could usher in much-needed reforms, a little more respect for basic human rights, and possibly the day when a democracy could be established and the Iranian people could take their rightful place in the world community. The election—I mean, selection—of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as President should dispel this illusion once and for all.