

IN TRIBUTE TO GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 185th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day and in doing so, join millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating the rebellion of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire and celebrate their declaration of independence on March 25, 1821.

The strong and invaluable friendship between the United States and Greece leads me to recognize Greek Independence Day, a day in which we celebrate the Hellenic people's long, but heroic revolt against 400 years of oppressive rule by the Ottomans. Their struggle for independence demonstrates the strong commitment of the Greek people to achieving freedom from tyranny and oppression. We can see this through Greece's steadfast support of the United States in every major struggle for freedom and democracy, including our global fight against terror. The strength of our great friendship with and the contributions to our nation made by the Hellenic community make me proud to honor such an important day in Greek history.

Our two nations are committed to the shared values of democracy, justice and freedom. Greek ideals of democracy and freedom inspired our nation's founders and helped shape the very fabric of our democratic government. Greek immigrants have been welcomed to the shores of America for generations, and we are grateful for how they have enhanced our collective culture and contributed to our country. I stand proudly with the many Hellenic-Americans in the 9th District of New Jersey and salute them and their ancestors' struggle for freedom on the anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the 185th Greek Independence Day with the Hellenic community. On this day let us remember more than just Greece's independence, but also celebrate Greece as an invaluable ally and longstanding friend of all freedom-loving peoples.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET TUBMAN
AND THE 2006 HARRIET TUBMAN
SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of the Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards, created to honor women of New York State who have perpetuated Tubman's legacy and her humanitarian accomplishments and to praise the 15 women chosen to be recipients of such a prestigious honor. Harriet Ross Tubman was a great liberator who was a monument to courage and determination in the fight for freedom and human rights for slaves in bondage.

Harriet Tubman was called the "Moses" of her people. She was born on a plantation in

Maryland, in or around 1820, and escaped from slavery in 1849. Upon gaining her freedom, Harriet Tubman settled in Philadelphia where she met William Still, the Philadelphia "Stationmaster" of the "Underground Railroad." In 1850, Harriet Tubman became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and eventually became the most influential of all the "conductors" by returning to the South 19 times through the Underground Railroad, freeing 300 slaves.

In the mid-1850's, Harriet Tubman made the acquaintance of United States Senator, Secretary of State and former New York State Governor William H. Seward and his wife, Frances, in Auburn, New York. In 1857, the Swards provided a home for Harriet Tubman in Auburn, which she later purchased and used as new headquarters for the Underground Railroad. Since 1995, New York State has assisted with efforts to recognize Harriet Tubman's legacy. In 1999, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) helped to document and list Tubman's historic brick home, her church and her gravesite in the Fort Hill Cemetery to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In February 2001, Governor Pataki announced the creation of a \$1.4 million Underground Railroad Heritage Trail Grant Program to enhance heritage tourism and support site improvements at historic sites and interpretive centers commemorating the Underground Railroad across New York State. In addition, the Governor committed more than \$280,000 in Bond Act funds to restore Harriet Tubman's home in Auburn. An additional \$100,000 was provided in 2002 to help restore the Harriet Tubman Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, also in Auburn, New York.

In 2003, Governor George E. Pataki proclaimed March 10th as "Harriet Tubman Day". He then officially signed into law a bill designating the day as a day of commemoration in New York State for the life and heroic contributions of Harriet Ross Tubman. Governor Pataki chose March 10th because it is the day Harriet Tubman died in 1913 at the age of 93. As part of the State's tribute, the second annual New York State Governor's Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards were presented to 15 women, whose accomplishments strongly embraced the spirit of Harriet Tubman.

The 15 honorees have shown through their tireless efforts significant contributions to the culture and well being of New York and have paved the way for future leaders in the ongoing fight for human rights. All of these women, like Harriet Tubman, possess a pioneering spirit of excellence.

The 2006 Harriet Tubman Spirit Award recipients were: Zenaida Chape', NYC Humanitarian and Community Advocate; Sarah Curry-Cobb, Pioneer and Civil Rights Advocate from Albany; Dr. Joan O. Dawson, NYC Educator and Youth Advocate; Patricia A. Devine, Youth Advocate from Albany; Maria Ginter, Diversity and Community Advocate from Albany; Mona Golub, Pioneer and Cultural Arts Advocate from Schenectady; Alvania Hill, Educator from Albany; Sharon Jordan Holley, Educator and Historian from Buffalo; Reverend Carolyn Peterson-Vaccaro, Women and Family Advocate from Albany; Frances Ethel Powell Pratt, Civil Rights Advocate from Nyack; Ruth Russell, Health and Community Advocate from Rensselaer; Dr. Cecilia Sanz, Children and Family Advocate from Albany; Rose Stuart,

Pioneer and Family Advocate from Albany; Meilin Tan, NYC Humanitarian and Entrepreneur and Benita Zahn, Health and Media Advocate from Albany.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this stellar award and the very deserving recipients during the 2nd anniversary month of the New York State Governor's Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on rollcall vote No. 69, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I inadvertently voted "nay." I would like the RECORD to reflect that I intended to vote "yea."

TOM MCDANIEL: A HARD-WORKING
PUBLIC SERVANT WHO WILL BE
MISSED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2006, Williamson County lost a hard working friend of the community with the untimely passing of Williamson County Commissioner S. Thomas McDaniel. Tom was an effective, grassroots politician. A close friend and advisor, I had the honor of swearing Tom into office as Williamson County Commissioner for Precinct 3 on November 2, 2004.

Well-respected by his colleagues, Tom brought a new perspective to Williamson County politics. In some areas he probably stepped on a few toes and in other areas he was a breath of fresh air. Commissioner McDaniel was a steward of the communities in Williamson County's Third Precinct, continually working to improve the region's infrastructure. He continually encouraged efficient, effective operations at the county level. During his service as Commissioner, construction began on the City of Georgetown Public Library and the Williamson County Courthouse Restoration began, among other successes.

Born in Terrell, Texas, on April 1, 1944, Tom is a third generation Texan. Tom is survived by his lovely wife of 32 years, Linda, and his son, Ryan.

Tom was a really fine man, and I am going to miss him terribly. He will be missed by me, my family, and all of Williamson County.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER
CHARLES L. STUPPARD

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Commander Charles L. Stuppard, United States Navy, for his outstanding and brilliant performance as Commanding Officer of the United States Ship

Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) from March 5, 2004 to April 3, 2006. USS *Arleigh Burke* was commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia on July 4, 1991. She is the first of the most powerful and survivable class of destroyers ever put to sea. She possesses the AEGIS weapons systems with multifunction radar, capable of detecting and tracking hundreds of targets simultaneously while conducting multiple engagements.

On March 5, 2004, in Norfolk, Virginia, Commander Stuppard's took command of this powerful Navy vessel. Commander Stuppard graduated from Cornell University in 1982 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering. He worked for 3 years as a design and test engineer in the A-10A, T-46 and SF-340 aircraft programs for Fairchild Republic Corporation in Long Island, New York. In 1985 he joined the Navy as an aviation officer candidate. After commissioning and flight training Commander Stuppard switched to Surface Warfare. In 1998 Commander Stuppard obtained his master's degree in national security and strategic studies at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

During Commander Stuppard's flawless and noteworthy tour of duty as "Captain," he masterfully led his ship, the *Arleigh Burke* with 300 sailors, through an extensive and demanding training phase followed by a major fleet inspection. He then took the ship through a rigorous intermediate and advanced training cycle, which included two Joint Maritime Course exercises off the coast of the United Kingdom, particularly in Scotland and a Submarine Commander's Course off the islands of the Bahamas. With his crew fully prepared and ready, he deployed to the Mediterranean Sea as the sole United States member of the Standing NATO Maritime Group Two from November 2005 to May 2006 in support of Operation ACTIVE ENDEAVOR and NATO operations with a primary mission to prevent terrorists from using the high seas for their misdeeds.

Under his sterling leadership USS *Arleigh Burke* maintained an impeccable record of outstanding achievements. His attention to detail, keen foresight and dedication to duty resulted in 100 percent operational and combat readiness and a very successful 6 months deployment in southern Europe. On April 3, 2006, Commander Stuppard will have his change of command ceremony while on his European deployment in Valletta, Malta. His tour of command was nothing short of magnificent. His next duty station will be at the Command Leadership School in Newport, Rhode Island where he will be an instructor to all naval prospective commanding officers over the next 3 years. His experience and leadership will positively affect a whole generation of future naval commanding officers. I am looking forward to pay him a visit there.

Commander Stuppard's excellent reputation and commitment to duty will become an indelible mark on the crew of this legendary Navy vessel, the USS *Arleigh Burke*. Commander Stuppard consistently projects the Navy core values of "Honor, Courage and Commitment" and will always be remembered by every *Arleigh Burke* officer, chief and sailor known as "team 51" who served under his command. Commander Stuppard immensely and effectively touched the life of so many of our men and women in uniform. The following five

words are the motto by which Commander Stuppard led his brave and valiant crew: "Be Good—Do Good Work".

Commander Stuppard's accomplishments and achievements are truly outstanding and serve as an example to all citizens throughout our country, the United States of America. Commander Stuppard is a true gentleman and an outstanding American. I congratulate Commander Charles L. Stuppard and the crew of the *Arleigh Burke* for a job well done.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE
CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 2006

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. RENZI. This afternoon I am introducing legislation, by request of the Bush Administration, designed to combat homelessness nationwide.

The Homeless Assistance Consolidation Act of 2006 would consolidate three competitive homeless assistance programs within the Department of Housing and Urban Development—Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Single Room Occupancy—into a single program aimed at alleviating homelessness in this country.

Consolidation of these programs would provide more flexibility to localities, fund prevention of homelessness, and dramatically reduce the time required to distribute grant funds to groups combating homelessness.

The legislation would streamline the three programs into one competitive program with a single set of eligibility requirements and would provide incentives for communities to carry out permanent housing activities with supportive services for the homeless.

I believe that this legislation is a good starting point for the House of Representatives in crafting a bill that would help achieve the goal of alleviating homelessness in my home state of Arizona, and the country.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House, the Senate, the Administration, and most importantly, individuals and groups throughout the country who have dedicated themselves to fight homelessness, to craft legislation in the coming months which will authorize the funding and provide the tools needed by advocates of the homeless.

In the past, Congress has provided HUD significant funding over the years to distribute to groups to fight homelessness. Millions of individuals and families are, or have in the past, faced homelessness. They deserve our help, and I am committed to fighting on behalf of the homeless, and I am hopeful that this legislation will further this most important effort.

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ISRAELI
ELECTIONS

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the State of Israel for once again serving as a model to the Middle East

region of what a successful democracy should be. With the threat of severe violence from their neighbors, Israelis proudly went to the polls to take part in the single most important part of any government—expressing one's voice through the vote.

I offer my congratulations to all who were successful in yesterday's elections. You have the will of the people, and more importantly, the responsibility to protect and defend both the land and the people of Israel.

In the coming months and years, you will have many important decisions relating to security and defense that you will need to make. I urge you to resist external political pressures and do what needs to be done to maintain the physical integrity of Israel and uphold the security of your people.

As a Congressman, I vow to continue to do what I can to work with the State of Israel and help one of America's closest allies and I look forward to working with the new Israeli government.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FOR
CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ STUDY
ACT

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Cesar Estrada Chavez Study Act. This legislation authorizes the Department of Interior to conduct a special resources study to examine the areas that Cesar Estrada Chavez lived for potential incorporation into the National Park Service.

Cesar Estrada Chavez was a humble man who knew the importance of hard work and sacrifice. Raised during the Great Depression, Chavez's family lost everything and he was forced to wander the southwestern United States with thousands of other farmworker families. As a migrant farmworker he learned the value of community and family. Farmworkers were united as they fought to survive in the often harsh working and living conditions of the migrant life.

Chavez eventually left the fields in 1952 and began to campaign peacefully against racial and economic discrimination. In 1962, Chavez returned to help farmworker families and started the National Farmworkers Association. Today we know this organization as the United Farm Workers of America. Through non-violent action, the United Farm Workers have fought for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, housing improvements, pesticide and health regulations and countless other protections for the health and wellbeing of the farmworker and their family.

Despite the work of Chavez as a civil rights and labor leader, religious and spiritual figure, community servant and social entrepreneur, there are no historical, geographical or cultural designations in the National Park Service to honor him or his spirit which lives on today. I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation, so the stories of Chavez's struggles and triumphs need to be communicated and preserved for all Americans.