

After nearly four centuries of occupation by the Ottoman Empire, Greece declared her independence on March 25, 1821. This was not only a victory for the people of Greece but it was a victory for democracy.

Ancient Greece was the cradle of democracy, free thought, and free will. Our Founding Fathers modeled our nation's first laws after the teachings of such influential Greek scholars as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle. Greece's liberation in 1821 ensured that these democratic ideals would survive for perpetuity.

Today, we honor the ancient Greek influence on our country and we celebrate the mutual respect and beneficial relationship between our two nations. In every war in the 20th century, our countries fought side by side because we both understood the importance of spreading freedom throughout the world.

Because of our common history, shared values and commitment to democratic principles, the friendship between the U.S. and Greece will continue to grow.

I am proud to be able to honor Greece today as she celebrates 186 years of renewed freedom and I look forward to working with this spirited nation in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 178 on H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007. Had I voted, I would have voted "yea."

NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 545 because it corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his work in expediting this legislation, the "Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement Act of 2007."

Mr. Speaker, last year Congress enacted the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as Title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005. Included in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs within the Department of Justice: (1) The COPS Hot Spots Program; (2) the Drug-Endangered Children program; and (3) the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program. Although Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible grant recipients under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program, they were unintentionally left

out as possible grant recipients under the COPS Hot Spots Program and the Drug-Endangered Children Program. H.R. 545 allows Indian tribes and territories to combat the methamphetamine epidemic by applying for and receiving funding under all three of these grant programs.

Mr. Speaker, as great a threat as it is to the Nation at large, the methamphetamine threat is even greater in Native American communities. Studies of past year methamphetamine use have shown that Native American communities have more than double the methamphetamine use rate of other ethnicities. According to surveys performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Law Enforcement Services, over 70 percent of Indian tribes identified methamphetamine as the drug that posed the greatest threat to their reservation and also estimated that at least 40 percent of violent crime cases investigated in Indian Country involve methamphetamine in some capacity. That is why we must act to ensure that Native American tribes are eligible to apply for and receive funding to protect their communities from methamphetamines.

The COPS Hot Spots Program authorized \$99 million in funding to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use, and to reimburse the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for properly removing and disposing of hazardous materials from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. This funding may also be used to clean up methamphetamine laboratories, support health and environmental agencies, and to purchase equipment and support systems.

The Drug-Endangered Children Program authorized \$20 million in funding to provide comprehensive services and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, child protective services, and health care services to assist children who live in a home in which methamphetamine has been used, manufactured, or sold. The specific dangers faced by children who live at or visit drug-production sites or are present during drug production include:

Inhalation, absorption or ingestion of toxic chemicals, drugs or contaminated foods or drink that may result in respiratory difficulties, nausea, chest pain, eye and tissue irritation, chemical burns and death;

Fires and explosions resulting from dangerous methamphetamine production processes;

Abuse and neglect by parents who often binge on methamphetamine and traumatic consequences that result; and

Hazardous living conditions (firearms, code violations, poor ventilation and sanitation).

The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program authorized as much funding as may be allocated to facilitate collaboration between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependent children. While Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible applicants, clarifying language is needed to ensure that there is adequate coordination with Tribal service providers.

Mr. Speaker, surveys conducted by the BIA also revealed that too often Tribal police forces that are underfunded and understaffed. According to the same survey, 90 percent of

Tribal police forces indicated that they needed additional drug investigation training, while 69 percent of Tribal respondents indicated that they had no access to, or funding for, methamphetamine treatment resources or facilities.

The Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007 seeks to ensure that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, Indian tribes and territories can apply for the COPS Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children grant programs, just as states can, and also ensures adequate coordination with tribal service providers for tribes receiving funds under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 545 corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MARK KEESECKER

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend of the First District of Tennessee, Mark Keesecker, who passed away Saturday, March 17.

Mark Keesecker lived a life that was filled with entrepreneurship, enthusiasm, and compassion.

Mark was a member of First Baptist Church in Erwin and attended Christ Fellowship in Kingsport.

After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Mark made remarkable achievements in real estate sales, and was an example of professionalism for all of his colleagues. Mark attained some of the highest awards in the Nation for his work in real estate, which included the Century 21 Corporate Centurion Award that is earned by only 5 percent of agents in the Century 21 system.

Throughout all of his success, he was a humble and gracious gentleman. Mark was known for giving supplies to local schools and giving money to various charities.

He left a positive impression on those that he encountered. Mark was a very close personal friend of mine and his unexpected passing is a great loss to the First District.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Mark Keesecker. He was an illustration of determination, purpose, and kindness.

His friendship and dedication is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. JAMES DOBSON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. and Mrs. James

Dobson, the founders of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs. For 30 years Dr. and Mrs. Dobson have nurtured and defended not only families in Colorado, but families worldwide.

Focus on the Family has been a tireless champion in the fight to protect and preserve the sanctity of human life in all stages. In addition, Focus on the Family strives to preserve the institution of marriage while simultaneously battling the rising scourge of judicial activism. This invaluable organization informs and inspires those who care deeply about the family, rallying them to become involved in the moral, cultural, and political issues that threaten the core principles of our great Nation. I applaud their work around the world.

It is selfless individuals like the Dobsons upon whom this great Nation has been built. It gives me great comfort to know that such people are still working to defend and expound American values.

FSA CLOSURE MORATORIUM LEGISLATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. HERSETH. Madam Speaker, recently, in my home state of South Dakota, the state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency announced a plan to eliminate at least six county FSA offices that currently serve South Dakota farmers and ranchers. I think this plan is ill-timed and unnecessary. It will require many producers to travel greater distances to receive necessary services including critical price support, conservation, and disaster programs. If carried out, this consolidation would force considerable hardship and expense on all affected farm and ranch families, especially considering the fact that some of the counties targeted are among South Dakota's most rural. Even by USDA's own admission, the plan will result in almost no savings of taxpayer dollars, but it will certainly result in increased inconvenience, travel time and cost to producers. Local FSA offices are a lifeline to farmers and ranchers in South Dakota and some at USDA apparently do not fully recognize their value to our state.

Moreover, because we are just beginning debate on a new farm bill, it makes no sense to implement major changes to our FSA county office system at this time. We don't yet know what the next farm bill will look like and, therefore, we don't know what the demands on local FSA offices are going to be. As a member of the House Agriculture Committee and its subcommittees for Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research and General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, this legislation is necessary to protect family producers that rely on their local offices for timely and personal access to USDA's farm programs.

This bill will simply require that USDA postpone any FSA county office closures until well after Congress has finished its work of reauthorizing the Farm Bill and we know what the personnel demands on local offices will be. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEBREW IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY AND THE COUNCIL MIGRATION SERVICE OF PHILADELPHIA ON THEIR 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Council Migration Service of Philadelphia on their 125th anniversary.

Since 1882, HIAS and Council have resettled and aided over 125,000 immigrants and refugees in their quest for safety and opportunity in our great Nation. Originally formed to serve the Jewish community, this charitable organization provides vital social and legal services to individuals representing 100 nationalities.

The work of HIAS and Council to ensure that refugees and immigrants assimilate, and become permanent residents and citizens, is truly commendable. As the largest provider of citizenship application assistance in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, HIAS and Council uphold our tradition as a Nation of immigrants.

In honor of this special anniversary, HIAS and Council are posthumously paying tribute to Daniel Aaron. The Aaron family is among those who have been served by HIAS and Council. In 1937, as a child, Daniel came to the United States from Germany, overcoming many obstacles to become one of the founders of Comcast, a Fortune 100 company.

My mother, Renee Perl, was one of many who had to flee their homeland during the Holocaust. Those who survived and came to America could not hide their deep gratitude and love for this country. My own love and respect for our country and belief in responsibility to each other stems from my mother's strong sense of patriotism.

I am proud to represent such an exemplary organization as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society and the Council Migration Service of Philadelphia, as well as so many Americans assisted by this organization.

BENTON CARDINALS GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievement of the Benton Cardinals Girls High School Basketball team on defeating Farmington Knights, by a score of 52-37, to win the school's first ever state championship in girls' basketball.

The Cardinals finished their incredible season by posting an unblemished record of 30-0 this season in Class 4A girls' basketball and an overall amazing record of 77-6 over the past three seasons.

The Cardinals consist of 14 tremendous young women, including Chelsie Strong, Holly Switzer, Jenni Musser, Blair Brown, Alicia Bell, Nicole Wilkinson, Melissa McIntosh, Nicole

Wilkenson, Charnelle Starling, Delissa Hall, Hannah Moore, Karli Sample, Meghan Curtis, and Claire Bowman.

Also, I want to recognize the great leadership of the team including Head Coach Brett Goodwin, who was assisted by Adam Willard. I also want to acknowledge the work of school administrators, Superintendent Melody Smith, Principals Jeanette Westfall and Jeff Modis, and Athletic Director Mike Ziesel, as additional keys to success.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating the achievement of the Benton Cardinals girls High School Basketball team on their perfect season and state championship. It is an honor to represent this team in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING PAGE AND JONES INC. IN MOBILE, ALA- BAMA ON RECEIVING THE 2007 GOVERNOR'S TRADE EXCEL- LENCE AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 23, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Page and Jones, Inc., located in Mobile, Alabama, for winning the Governor's Trade Excellence Award, as presented each year by Governor Bob Riley.

Two years ago, Governor Riley established the Governor's Trade Excellence Award to honor businesses of all sizes—and from all regions of the state of Alabama—for their excellence in exports. The goals of the award are to identify Alabama businesses making significant contributions to the export business and to promote Alabama exporters as role models and supporters to the Alabama business community, while encouraging even more businesses to become involved in the global marketplace. The award also aims to increase awareness of the impact of exports on Alabama's economy.

The eight winners of the award are chosen by a panel from the Export Alabama Trade Alliance that judges the businesses on a wide range of criteria. Criteria include the level of export sales as a proportion of total sales and innovations in exporting. I am proud to recognize that two out of the eight winners of the Governor's Trade Excellence award are located in Alabama's First Congressional District.

One of the eight recipients of this year's award, Page and Jones, Inc., is a customs broker specializing in international trade logistics for both small and large companies. Page and Jones was recognized for being an excellent role model for the Alabama business community, for its continuous strong support of the broader export community, for its active involvement at the international level, and for its continued growth as a small business.

Starting in the 1970s with only 15 employees, Page and Jones, Inc. now has over 60 employees with 12 locations in six states. They handle approximately \$75 million in transactions a year, and they encourage Alabama businesses to get involved globally by offering free services and advice to their fellow businessmen and women as well as cosponsoring various global events.