

focused on the same goal. We also believe that there needs to be a concerted national effort to raise awareness about the importance of financial literacy. Every level of government, our schools, our private sector companies, our non-profit organizations, and, perhaps most importantly, our parents all have an important role to play. We need to continue to work together to find creative solutions and encourage a national discussion of the basics of financial education. Efforts like designating April as "Financial Literacy Month" and the April 24th Financial Literacy Day on Capitol Hill are important parts of this effort, and we are very pleased to support both.

Thank you very much for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

CARRIE SCHWAB POMERANTZ,
President, Charles Schwab Foundation.

□ 1445

Ms. WATSON. I have no further speakers, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time also.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 273.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to acknowledge that today our country has been struck by a terrible, terrible tragedy. The death toll at Virginia Tech now is reported to be over 30. This is the worst campus shooting in the history of our country.

As the Virginia Tech community struggles with the mourning and questioning that is certain to follow, the continued prayers of this Congress are with the students, their families, the faculty and the staff at Virginia Tech.

Leader BOEHNER joins me in extending our condolences to all concerned. And we ask for a moment of silence to be observed in this body. Would we all please rise to observe the moment of silence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE OBSERVED IN MEMORY OF THOSE SLAIN AT VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members will rise and observe a moment of silence.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) commemorating the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), a leading association for the Nation's 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 71

Whereas the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) was founded July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by eight visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation faced by people of all ethnic, race, and religious backgrounds perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;

Whereas the mission of AHEPA is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas since its inception, AHEPA has instilled in its members an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout its history to foster American patriotism;

Whereas members of AHEPA served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect American freedom and to preserve those democratic ideals that are part of the Hellenic legacy, and specifically in World War II, were parachuted behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Greece to help liberate it;

Whereas AHEPA raised more than \$253 million for United States War Bonds during World War II, for which AHEPA was named an official Issuing Agent for United States War Bonds by the Department of Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization was able to achieve at the time;

Whereas the members of AHEPA donated \$612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas the AHEPA National Housing Program was awarded \$500 million by the Department of Housing and Urban Development for its Section 202 Program that has yielded 4,370 units in 80 properties across 21 states and 49 cities which has provided dignified, affordable housing to senior citizens;

Whereas AHEPA was recognized by the Department of State as an organization that has engaged in "Track Two Diplomacy" to foster reconciliation and rapprochement in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States;

Whereas members of AHEPA raised \$110,000 for the creation of the George C. Marshall Statue erected on the grounds of the United States Embassy in Athens, Greece in celebration of the historic relationship between the United States and Greece, and in tribute to an outstanding Statesman and Philhellene, General Marshall;

Whereas AHEPA financially supports scholarships, educational chairs, medical research, and countless other charitable and philanthropic causes by contributing more than \$2,000,000 annually from its national, district, and local levels collectively;

Whereas in the spirit of their Hellenic heritage and in commemoration of the Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia, members of AHEPA raised \$775,000 for the "Tribute" to Olympism Sculpture, the "fan-like" structure of which helped to save lives during the Olympic Bombing at Centennial Olympic Park;

Whereas members of AHEPA have been Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, United States Senators and Representatives, and United States Ambassadors, and have served honorably as elected officials at the local and State levels throughout the United States; and

Whereas President George H.W. Bush cited AHEPA as one of America's "thousand points of light": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Hellenic heritage to the United States,

(2) commemorates the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to communities around the world, and

(3) requests the President of the United States to issue a proclamation acknowledging the 85th Anniversary of AHEPA and its many accomplishments.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 71, to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, a leading association for 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry, and Philhellenes. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and I thank Mrs. MALONEY for her leadership as the author of the resolution and as one of the Chairs of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, known as AHEPA, was born out of the cruelty and subjugation imposed upon many minorities by hate groups during the early 20th century. The organization was founded in Atlanta in 1922 to respond to growing attacks on Greek Americans and Greek American businesses by the Ku Klux Klan. It has since grown to become the largest and oldest American-based, Greek-heritage grass-roots membership organization.

AHEPA's initial interests were to cultivate Greek-owned businesses and help its members assimilate into American culture. Today, AHEPA's mission is to carry the legacy of Greek culture throughout generations. The organization continues to do this through diversification, language immersion and educational enrichment. AHEPA is known for its philanthropic resources which fund equal opportunity housing, hospitals, specialty schools and academic scholarships.

While AHEPA primarily is a membership organization for Greek Americans or Americans of Greek descent, membership is open to all Americans who support the organization's mission. This is the finest tradition of Philhellenism, and reminds us that the modern relationship between the people of America and of Greece was forged by their parallel struggles for freedom from foreign tyranny, and by the inspiration we both take from the democracy first developed centuries ago in Greece.

For 85 years the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association has remained an organization that embodies the true meaning of America. I commend AHEPA, and ask that my colleagues support this commendation. I urge all my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 71.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, is the largest and oldest American-based, Greek-heritage, grass-roots membership organization. It was created on July 26, 1922, in response to the alarming number of local and national groups whose missions were based on racism.

The founders of AHEPA were Greek immigrants who strove to find ways to adapt to their new country and honor their heritage and cultural ideals. Their mission is to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility and family and individual excellence. These efforts are made through community service and volunteerism. It is an organization with over 1.3 million participants, making it the largest association for American citizens of Greek ancestry.

AHEPA's commitment to education is one of its strongest components. Over \$4 million is endowed at the local, district and national levels toward the use of scholarships, and a half million dollars is awarded annually to thousands of students. By providing these scholarships, it affords students the opportunities to educate and be educated on the rich, cultural history of relations between Greece and the United States.

Other AHEPA achievements include securing funding for the "Tribute to Olympism" sculpture in Atlanta, Georgia, the creation of the George C. Marshall statue at the United States Embassy located in Athens, Greece, and

the Federal grant of \$500 million providing affordable housing to senior citizens. A few of AHEPA's philanthropic successes include the restoration of the Statue of Liberty at Ellis Island, and they continue to send care packages to our troops through the USO.

In their 85th year, the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association continues to promote its ideals of ancient Greece through community service and volunteerism. The association has grown tremendously over the years, and it is to be congratulated for its charitable contributions to society both in the U.S. and throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great Greek American pride that I rise today to offer my congratulations on the occasion of the 85th anniversary of the American Hellenic Education Progressive Association. Founded in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 26, 1922, as a reaction to racism and bigotry, AHEPA is the oldest and largest American Hellenic organization in the United States today. Its mission, to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family and individual excellence, set the standard for ethnic organizations, and has helped Greek Americans become one of the most successful ethnic groups in the United States.

AHEPA's list of accomplishments is amazing. It has endowed millions of dollars in academic scholarships, and the AHEPA family has contributed over \$1 billion in national projects for such deserving entities as Saint Basil's Academy, Cooley's Anemia Foundation, the Special Olympics, and Muscular Dystrophy research.

Additionally, the AHEPA National Housing Corporation has secured over \$4 million to develop and complete over 70 housing projects for low-income seniors.

AHEPA's patriotic endeavors have included helping thousands of Greek immigrants assimilate into American life, and four of those immigrants were my grandparents, Mr. Speaker, raising \$253 million for the U.S. bond drive during World War II, helping to restore the Statue of Liberty, providing tens of thousands of dollars to the 9/11 relief effort, and sending countless care packages to our troops overseas.

Its good works are endless, Mr. Speaker. That is why I am so proud to tell you that I am a member of AHEPA. And I will tell you that I am a member on the local level of the Tarpon Springs Chapter in Florida, the George Washington Chapter, Number 16, which was founded in the 1920s.

As cochair of the Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, I will continue to work closely with my cochair, CAROLYN MALONEY, my fellow Greek American Congressmen and women, Philhellenes in Congress, as well as AHEPA president, Gus James, to encourage the wonderful educational and philanthropic endeavors that have characterized AHEPA for 85 years.

Also, I promise to work in conjunction with AHEPA to continue to strengthen U.S./Greece relations, secure religious freedom and protection for the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and that is our number one issue, Mr. Speaker, and promote solutions to the Cypress and the FYROM issues.

I wish Mr. Gus James and the whole AHEPA family continued success and a long life as it continues to serve as a beacon of hope, true and good things. That is what Hellenic Americans want. Bravo AHEPA, and at least 85 more.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today we rise to celebrate the 85th anniversary of the founding of an organization truly worthy of the praise of this body and of our Nation.

The American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, was founded to embrace ideals which are prized by the United States and Greece both individually and jointly. The Greek American community seeks to embody the principles of AHEPA's mission, most notably: freedom from bigotry and discrimination, philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that the Greek-American community is represented by an organization of the caliber and effectiveness of AHEPA.

AHEPA has done much over the years to strengthen and support our Nation domestically and to further our interests internationally—from providing dignified affordable senior housing at home, to encouraging a more stable Eastern Mediterranean and a stronger EU.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in strong support of this resolution commemorating the 85th anniversary of the founding of AHEPA and recognizing the significant contributions of Greek-Americans to the United States.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are able to bring before the House today H. Con. Res. 71, commemorating the 85th anniversary of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA.

I am a proud original cosponsor of this resolution that honors an organization that spreads the universal truths of Hellenism—humanity, freedom, and democracy—across the United States and around the world.

AHEPA was founded to stand against the forces of bigotry and hate and to help Greek immigrants to become part of our Nation. The organization also helps young people achieve their dreams of education and supporting philanthropy and public service that helps the neediest in our society.

As a Member of Congress, I am proud to participate in the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs. In this capacity, I work with fellow Members to enhance and strengthen the United States' relationship with Greece and the Republic of Cyprus. The friendship

between our nations has a long and rich history, and by continuing to further this important bond, we can stand together to advance the causes of liberty and democracy.

At this 85th anniversary we can reflect on AHEPA's past successes and upon the many ways in which Greek-Americans have enriched the fabric of our country. It is also a time to look forward with hope and anticipation to a future of continuing to build the vision that is AHEPA.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71, which pays tribute to the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA, on the occasion of its 85th anniversary. I commend my colleague, the chair of the Hellenic Caucus for her leadership on this and other issues of importance to Hellenism.

AHEPA was formed in July of 1922 as part of an effort to combat the bigotry of the Ku Klux Klan and others who were espousing anti-immigrant sentiments toward immigrants, including those of Greek descent. It soon joined forces with the likes of the NAACP and B'nai B'rith to engage in the fight against discrimination and for a just and equal society.

Early on, AHEPA also sought to help newly arrived Greeks become United States citizens and to share in the civic life of our country by forming schools that taught English and the principles of American government. At the same time, AHEPA sought to educate all Americans about the significant heritage and contributions immigrants of Greek descent add to the American community.

As an organization, it fast grew to make enormous contributions to our society. To cite one early example, AHEPA raised more than \$253 million in the U.S. War Bond drive during World War II, which earned it distinctive recognition from the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Today the AHEPA mission has evolved, but it still seeks to bring the ideals of ancient Greece—including philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence—to the modern day community. AHEPA's Educational Foundation now has an endowment of over \$4 million which annually provides for more than a half a million dollars in scholarships at the local, district and national levels. Thousands of young men and women have benefited from AHEPA scholarships. From its Centennial Foundation and its Cooley's Anemia Foundation to its National Housing Corporation, the contributions AHEPA now makes, both here in the United States and around the globe are too vast to mention individually.

But Mr. Speaker, I take personal pride in each of these contributions and accomplishments because I myself am a member of AHEPA. So on this important occasion, I am especially honored to commend President Gus James and the rest of the AHEPA leadership not only for continuing AHEPA's phenomenal tradition of service and philanthropy, but also for their very thoughtful innovations which have helped AHEPA make distinct strides in the evolution of its mission for today.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 71 which commemorates the 85th anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, AHEPA. I am pleased to be a co-

sponsor of this resolution to pay tribute to AHEPA, which is a leading association for the 1.3 million American citizens of Greek ancestry.

AHEPA was founded on June 26, 1922. Since that day, AHEPA remained true to its mission to promote Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence.

AHEPA, has helped its members gain a richer understanding of Hellenic heritage and awareness of its contributions to democratic principles in the United States and across the globe.

AHEPA members have served in our Nation's Armed Forces, helped raise funds for United States War Bonds during World War II, helped in the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, and performed many other acts to help foster American patriotism.

As a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise to honor the AHEPA and all American citizens of Greek ancestry for their ongoing contributions to our country.

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.

Not only can we trace the origins of 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 concepts we built the foundations for the modern scientific method. Our basic understanding of the Earth and its place in the solar system came from the studies of Ancient Greeks.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H. Con. Res. 71, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 71.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1500

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST GALLO

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) honoring the life of Ernest Gallo.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 88

Whereas Ernest Gallo was born March 18, 1909, in Jackson, California, the son of Italian immigrants, graduated from Modesto High School in 1927, earned a degree from Modesto Junior College, and married Amelia Franzia, daughter of the founders of Franzia Winery in 1931;

Whereas Ernest Gallo, with his brother Julio Gallo, founded E. & J. Gallo Winery at the end of the Prohibition Era in 1933, beginning with only \$5,900 in savings and a winemaking pamphlet from the Modesto Public Library to make their first batch, growing their small family-owned winery into the world's second largest by volume, and selling an estimated 75,000,000 cases a year worldwide under approximately 100 different labels;

Whereas Ernest Gallo began his illustrious career at a young age, working in his parents' vineyard while attending Modesto High School and demonstrating his entrepreneurial spirit early in life by traveling at the age of 17 to complete his first business deal;

Whereas Ernest Gallo, demonstrating great vision, anticipated the growth of the wine industry and developed the first-of-its kind vertically integrated company, with vineyards stretching across California, an on-site bottling plant, and an art department to design bottles and labels, changing the face of California's wine industry;

Whereas the Gallo Winery employs 4,600 people in the State of California, providing critical highly-skilled employment opportunities in the San Joaquin Valley and greatly contributing to the economic strength of the State;

Whereas Ernest Gallo and the Gallo Winery were bestowed countless awards for achievement in winemaking, including the American Society of Enologists Merit Award, the wine industry's highest honor, in 1964 for outstanding leadership in the wine industry, the Gold Vine Award from the Brotherhood of the Knights of the Vine wine fraternity, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award from The Wine Spectator, and the Winery of the Year Award in both 1996 and 1998 by the San Francisco International Wine Competition; and

Whereas Ernest Gallo was widely known for his generous philanthropic work in the City of Modesto and throughout the state of California, including an endowment for the Gallo Center for the Arts in Modesto, the establishment of the Ernest Gallo Clinic and Research Center at the University of California at San Francisco for research into genetic, biochemical, and neurobiological aspects of alcohol abuse, and countless other healthcare and educational endeavors: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the life of Ernest Gallo, a pioneer in the field of winemaking, dedicated philanthropist, and community leader.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.