

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 2008

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, March 25, 2008, has been designated "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing the unique contributions to our civilization from those of Greece and of Greek American descent.

Democracy was first born in Greece over 2,000 years ago, based on the fundamental principle of consensual government self-determined by free citizens. The ideas forged in ancient Greece by brilliant minds of the day have such clarity and force that 2,000 years later they still hold more power than a host of armed weapons.

The priceless ideas of democracy and equality born in ancient Greece have strongly shaped the American national identity, which became a beacon of freedom and dignity to individuals. They continue to give hope and inspiration to the millions around the world who yearn to live in a free society like ours. Greece set the example for us and we, in turn have set the example for countless others.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that the Congress has set aside this national day of celebration again in 2008. Each year, it seems, we have a greater appreciation for the tremendous contribution of Greece to our American values and our priceless democracy.

HONORING EVELYN PIZARRO FOR YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BUFFALO SCHOOL SYSTEM AND COMMUNITY

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Evelyn Pizarro on over 30 years as a devoted educator and community organizer in Buffalo, NY. A well known advocate for the Hispanic community, Evelyn's commitment to education and her community should be an inspiration to us all.

Evelyn was the oldest of six children born to Angel and Illuminada Munoz, immigrants who came to Buffalo in the late forties to work on the farms. She graduated cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1974 with a B.S. in elementary education and received masters in both early childhood education and education administration from Buffalo State College.

Evelyn was in the educational system for over 26 years when she was appointed principal of Early Childhood Center #12 on August 22, 1990. She was the first Hispanic female principal in the City of Buffalo.

In 1991 she was appointed principal of Community School #77, where she remained for nine years before becoming principal of D'Youville Porter Campus School #3. She retired on January 15, 2008.

Evelyn has always been involved with her community in such organizations as Hispanics United of Buffalo, the Bilingual Advisory Board, WNY Hispanic & Friends Civic Association, Hispanics Women's League, Pueblo Buffalo T.V., and served with Galloping Gourmet of the Hispanic Community for seven years. She has also been served on the Board of Directors of the Health Systems Agency of Buffalo and has been involved with Buffalo Prep Program and Calle 7 Puppet Company. She founded "Tainas 74" Hispanic Women's Softball team and served on the Buffalo Erie County Library Board, the Board of Belmont Housing and Project Flight.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Evelyn's commitment to her community and congratulate her on her recent retirement. I know that you join with me in wishing Evelyn, her husband of 32 years, Jose, and their entire family the very best of luck and Godspeed in the years to come.

HONORING LOREN MAXEY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker. I rise today to honor Loren Maxey, who was born into a farm family in Illinois in 1932. His knack for inventing led to a college scholarship, but he interrupted college to enter the Navy, serving 4 years in the early 1950s. He sailed on a vessel taking part in the nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, seeing up close the results of those tests, and finishing his service as a petty officer first class.

Loren then finished a degree in agricultural engineering at the University of Illinois, but chance led to meeting his future wife Kathy at her family farm in Greeley, Colorado. They moved to Greeley to take over the farm in 1958.

Loren's interest in practical engineering led to further studies in that field, then employment with Forney Industries in aircraft manufacturing, which tied in with another lifelong interest in being a pilot himself. He gained more experience in the agricultural engineering field, and in 1969 started his own company to design, custom build, and service agricultural equipment and later machinery for snow sports. Maxey Companies continues to flourish, now with Loren's son at the helm, employ-

ing some 45 people. Their customers are local, national, and international. Over the years Loren has obtained three patents himself on practical improvements to increase farm productivity, and, being in Colorado, to groom snowmobile trails.

Along the way, Loren made time to serve on the Ft. Collins City Council, and Chamber of Commerce, as president of the East Larimer County Water District Board and as a director of the North Poudre Irrigation District. He kept his hand in farming and has spent, so far, 14 years on the county fair board.

His love of flying included 40 years as a director and officer of the local airpark. Loren provided a lesson in courage when he survived a plane crash in his late forties that severely burned him and was supposed to leave him unable to walk. Loren forced himself to overcome the pain and injuries, and learned to walk again.

He has long been active in local and statewide politics. Rounding out his active volunteer life, he has served as church elder and couples group leader.

Loren and Kathy have three children and eight grandchildren who are all nearby in northern Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Loren Maxey, a practical inventor, engineer, pilot, husband, father, and active contributor of time and talent to his country and community.

HONORING THE GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH OF KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today in honor of the Galilee Baptist Church of Kalamazoo, Michigan, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Established in 1958, Galilee Baptist Church has become a center of faith, hope, and community for several generations of Kalamazoo residents. Over the past five decades, the church and its congregation have undergone many periods of expansion, but have never lost their enthusiasm for the Lord and His powerful word.

I am proud and fortunate to represent the citizens of southwest Michigan because we believe in continually striving to improve our way of life. Because of the good works of the people of Galilee Baptist Church, Michigan is truly a better place to live, work, and worship.

Again, it is my honor to stand today in recognition of the Galilee Baptist Church for its 50 years of service and spiritual outreach to the residents of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

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