

We all hope and believe that Thailand can move beyond the differences which led to the coup and return to its position as a democratic leader in Southeast Asia.

Key to resilience of the Thai political system is the strength and pride of the Thai people.

No one epitomizes the spirit of Thai people more than their beloved king, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

On December 5, 2006, the king turned 80 years old. We in Congress join the Thai people in celebrating this landmark birthday and wishing the king a continued long life.

This resolution commemorates the 175th anniversary of the special relationship between the United States and Thailand and congratulates Thailand on maintaining its commitment to democracy by holding national elections and returning to a civilian-led government.

I strongly support this resolution and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

And with that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to recognize the 175th anniversary of the strong and enduring relationship between the people of the United States and the people of Thailand. The United States has no older ally in the Asia-Pacific region than the Kingdom of Thailand.

It was in the early days of our Republic, during the administration of Andrew Jackson, that the Treaty of Amity and Commerce was signed with King Rama III. Thailand has been a staunch friend of the United States ever since.

Remarkably, during the dark days of our Civil War, the King of Thailand offered to send President Lincoln a herd of elephants to help lead the Union to victory. While Lincoln did not take up the offer, the gesture was greatly appreciated.

More recently, Thailand provided support for our military forces during the Vietnam War. It has also served for more than a quarter century as the host for our Pacific Command's annual multinational military training exercise known as "Cobra Gold."

Our two nations have worked closely together on humanitarian issues as well. Thailand was of great assistance as the host nation for many of the refugees who came out of Indochina after the war there. More recently, Thailand has provided a safe haven for Burmese and North Korean refugees. Thailand also came together with the United States in launching joint relief operations following the tragic tsunami which caused its devastation in 2004.

Thailand is America's 20th largest trading partner. A half million Americans are of Thai descent, including the remarkable Tiger Woods. These are indeed the ties that bind.

It is my strong hope that the Government of Thailand will build on last

year's successful parliamentary elections by ensuring that all parties in Thailand are brought into the political process.

Thailand's rebirth of diplomacy is something which all Americans welcome. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this resolution which recognizes our oldest and one of our most loyal Asian allies.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the gentleman, Madam Speaker. I rise also to support this resolution commemorating the 175th anniversary of the special relationship that we have with the Kingdom of Thailand. I am an original cosponsor of this resolution, but I think this resolution rightly points out the improving security relationship between our two countries.

What I would like to share with my colleagues here today is the growing cooperation in law enforcement that we are having with Thailand.

Madam Speaker, last week, Viktor Bout, the most notorious of international arms dealers, was brought into custody by Thai authorities. A criminal complaint was unsealed in New York detailing Viktor Bout's efforts to sell mass amounts of weapons to the FARC, a foreign terrorist organization that operates in Colombia.

He was arrested in the final stages of arranging a sale of millions of dollars of high-powered weapons, including 100 advanced shoulder-fired missiles capable of taking out airliners. With the cooperation of Thai authorities, the "Merchant of Death," as Viktor Bout is known, is out of the game. He is being retired from the role he has played in the killings and maimings around the world. And this is good news to anyone who cares about checking strife in Africa, anyone who cares about stopping those who armed child soldiers, anyone who cares about checking support for transnational terrorists.

Because while many were attempting to stop conflicts across Africa, this is the individual who was pouring fuel on the fire. In U.N. report after U.N. report, Viktor Bout was cited as the chief sanctions buster, supplying arms to anyone who could pay. And I saw this up close when I chaired the Africa subcommittee and when I traveled across the continent. It is a bloody trail from Liberia and then across sub-Saharan Africa that he left.

Bout simultaneously, by the way, also managed to arm the Taliban while he was arming the Northern Alliance. As I said, he has had dealings with the FARC in Colombia, and he has been connected with Hezbollah. He is an international menace who needs to face justice, and we look forward to his expeditious extradition to the United

States. And thank you to the Thai authorities, because they are the ones who took him into custody.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. I yield back my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 290, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE 187TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1024) recognizing the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating Greek and American democracy, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1024

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that "it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you";

Whereas Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete, which provided the Axis land war with its first major setback, setting off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II;

Whereas the price for Greece in holding onto our common values in their region was high, as hundreds of thousands of civilians were killed in Greece during World War II;

Whereas throughout the 20th century, Greece was one of a few countries that allied with the United States in every major international conflict;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in recognizing Greek Independence Day, said, "Greece and America have been firm allies in the great struggles for liberty. Americans will always remember Greek heroism and Greek sacrifice for the sake of freedom . . . [and] as the 21st Century dawns, Greece and America once again stand united; this time in the fight against terrorism. The United States deeply appreciates the role Greece is playing in the war against terror. . . . America and Greece are strong allies, and we're strategic partners.";

Whereas President Bush stated that Greece's successful "law enforcement operations against a terrorist organization [November 17] responsible for three decades of terrorist attacks underscore the important contributions Greece is making to the global war on terrorism";

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the volatile Balkan region, having invested over \$20 billion in the countries of the region, thereby creating over 200,000 new jobs, and having contributed over \$750 million in development aid for the region;

Whereas Greece was extraordinarily responsive to requests by the United States during the war in Iraq, as Greece immediately granted unlimited access to its airspace and the base in Souda Bay, and many ships of the United States that delivered troops, cargo, and supplies to Iraq were refueled in Greece;

Whereas Greece is a top contributor to the defense efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), spending an estimated 3 percent of its gross domestic product on defense, and is also an active participant in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, NATO, the European Union (EU), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas in August 2004, the Olympic games came home to Athens, Greece, the land of their ancient birthplace 2,500 years ago and the city of their modern revival in 1896;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympics of over 14,000 athletes from 202 countries and over 2 million spectators and journalists, which it did efficiently, securely, and with its famous Greek hospitality;

Whereas the unprecedented security effort in Greece for the first summer Olympics after the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, included a record-setting expenditure of over \$1,390,000,000 and assignment of over 70,000 security personnel, as well as the utilization of an eight-country Olympic Security Advisory Group that included the United States;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim nations and Israel;

Whereas the Government of Greece has had extraordinary success in recent years in furthering cross-cultural understanding and reducing tensions between Greece and Turkey, as seen most recently with the January 2008 visit to Turkey by Greece's Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis, the first official visit by a Greek Prime Minister in 49 years;

Whereas Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights; Whereas those and similar ideals have forged a close bond between Greece and the United States and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 2008, Greek Independence Day, marks the 187th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate this anniversary with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which these two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 187 years ago.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

□ 1430

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself such time as may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to support this resolution marking the 187th anniversary of Greek independence, and I would like to thank my good friend and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN, for her leadership in ensuring that the House mark this important date. The world owes the Greeks a debt of gratitude for having developed the concept of democracy, which has enabled so much of the world to live in peaceful prosperity.

The story of Greek independence remains a remarkable tale about the revival of an ancient and great people through deep commitment, personal sacrifice, and an abiding love of freedom. Indeed, Western Civilization is deeply indebted to the Greek nation for its immense contributions in the fields of science, medicine, philosophy and art, just to name a few.

In 2004, the world celebrated this rich history and heritage as the Summer Olympics came home to Greece. This beautiful Mediterranean country showcased the best of its culture and hospitality.

In modern times, Greece has remained one of the United States' most important and enduring allies. Greece is one of the relatively few nations that stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States in every major war of the 20th century. The close links between our countries increased after World War II as the Truman Doctrine helped save Greece from communism, while the Marshall Plan aided its economic regeneration.

When Greece joined NATO in 1952, it formalized the deep mutual commitment that it shared with the Western world to safeguard freedom. After becoming a member of the European Union in 1981, Greece further deepened

its relations with its European neighbors. It also underwent a notable economic transformation with the exchange of the drachma for the euro in 2002, highlighting its economic prosperity.

Greece has remained a strategic partner in the post-Cold War world, notably helping to promote peace and stability in the Balkans. The January 2008 visit by Greece Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis to Turkey, the first such official visit in 49 years, was a welcome development in these countries' efforts to resolve their differences.

Since the tragic attacks on the United States on 9/11, Greece has remained a steadfast ally in the fight against violent extremism. Plagued for many years by domestic acts of terror, Greece knows only too well the financial, mental, and physical toll that terrorism can wreak on a nation.

In closing, it is also important to highlight the rich contributions that Greek immigrants and their descendants have made to the United States; I know this firsthand, representing a great number in the County of Queens, New York. For over a century, they have traveled across the ocean, bringing their success to our shores, and in doing so serving as a bridge between our two nations. Today, some 5 million Americans claim Greek ancestry. We are grateful for the wisdom, energy, and talent they continue to bestow upon our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Greek people on the 187th anniversary of their independence from Ottoman rule. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them on their tremendous contributions to world civilization and in celebrating the enduring Greek-American friendship.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Resolution 1024. The Republic of Greece is an important friend and ally of the United States. The links between Greece and the United States involve political philosophy, values, a concrete alliance, and important actions. Greece is the birthplace of Western Civilization and modern democracy, and it is from Greece that our Founding Fathers drew so many important principles of government, law, and freedom. Today, our two nations continue to share the values that we hold dear: liberty, freedom, and democracy.

Greece and the United States have also stood together resolutely throughout difficult times during the last century, particularly during the Second World War. Greece, in fact, is one of the few nations that has supported America in every major conflict over the past century.

After the end of World War II, Greece joined in a formal alliance with the United States, through NATO, and went on to broaden its commitment to

democracy, freedom, and human rights through its notable contributions to international peacekeeping and stability missions.

Today, as America faces a complex array of threats posed by extremism around the world, Greece indeed remains a valuable strategic partner. Most notably, Greece provided access to its airspace for American military aircraft en route to Iraq and allowed our U.S. Navy ships to refuel in its ports.

Through its substantial economic investment and aid to the Balkans, Greece has also sought to play an important role as an agent of stability in that important region, supplementing the efforts by the United States and the European Union to end the conflicts in that region. Recent efforts on the part of the Government of Greece to deal constructively with its neighbor Turkey on outstanding issues where they have differences show hope for ensuring future stability throughout the Aegean Sea region, an outcome the United States seeks as well.

Madam Speaker, this resolution notes that this year marks the 187th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that led to the independence of Greece. There are approximately 1.3 million Americans of Greek descent living in the United States. A large number of Greek Americans live in northern Illinois, particularly the Chicago area. Greek Americans contribute significantly as community leaders, entrepreneurs, and mentors for young children. The Greek Orthodox Church in the United States and important Greek community organizations are positive forces and should be recognized also.

So I welcome the opportunity afforded by our consideration of this resolution to point out the friendship and shared interests of our two countries. I congratulate the country and people of Greece for the progress they have made over the past 187 years, and I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) control the remaining portion of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

I thank the gentleman for yielding and for giving me the opportunity to control the time on this issue. I rise today not only as a friend of Greece, but also as a daughter of Greece. My mother's family immigrated from Salonika, Greece, and I am very proud of my Greek-Jewish heritage.

Greece has been a strong ally of the United States, standing by us in our struggles against Nazism, and now in the struggle against Islamic extre-

mism. Greece paid an extraordinarily high price for their opposition to the Nazis, and we are forever grateful to them.

Before World War II, half of the population of Salonika, Greece, around 80,000 people, were Jewish. After the Nazis finished with Greece, there were only 1,000 Jews left in Salonika. The reason 1,000 Jews survived is because their Greek neighbors protected them, saved them, hid them; and for that I am grateful as well.

Greece continues to be a top contributor to NATO and a leader in the Balkan region. The resolution before the House today extends our best wishes and congratulations to the people of Greece, whom we look to as our forebearers in democracy. I am proud to cosponsor this resolution, but I hope it is our first word on our friendship with Greece, and certainly not our last.

I urge this House and this administration to strengthen our relationship with Greece by including them in the Visa Waiver Program. By designating Greece as such, we will send not only a message of friendship, but a message of thanks to the Greek community, which is so deserving of our friendship and our gratitude. They have met the criteria to become a visa waiver country and only await our approval on their application.

On this anniversary, let us take concrete action to strengthen our bond with them and send a message of thanks to our friends in Greece.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MANZULLO. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and thank you, Representative BERKLEY, for those kind words on my grandparents' country. I am so proud of my Greek heritage.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with great pride and in strong support of House Resolution 1024, recognizing the 187th anniversary of Greek independence and celebrating Greek and American democracy.

Like the American revolutionaries who fought for independence and established this great Republic we call the land of the free and the home of the brave, Greek freedom fighters began an arduous struggle to win independence for Greece and its people 187 years ago. When the Greeks began this glorious revolution after four centuries of Ottoman oppression, they faced what appeared to be insurmountable odds. It was David versus Goliath.

On March 25, 1821, Archbishop Germanos of Patras raised the flag of freedom and was the first to declare Greece free. This day of rebellion was not chosen by chance. This holy day was dedicated to the Mother of God. To the Greeks of 1821, Theotokos was their champion, their savior, their protector. The revolution of 1821 brought independence to Greece and emboldened those who still sought freedom across

the world. It was proved to the world that a united people through sheer will and perseverance can prevail against tyranny.

The lessons the Greeks taught us then continue to provide strength to victims of persecution around the world today. By honoring the Greek struggle for independence, we reaffirm the values and ideas that make our Nation great. We also remember why freedom is so important.

In the history of the Greek war for independence, there were many acts of heroism. From Theodoros Kolokotronis, the leader of the Klephts, who refused to submit to Ottoman domination, to the fiercely patriotic women of Suli, who, left alone, learned that Turkish troops were fast approaching their village, they began to dance the Syrtos, a patriotic Greek dance. One by one, they committed suicide by throwing themselves and their children off a mountain top. They chose to die rather than surrender and face slavery.

There was also Athanasios Diakos, a legendary hero, a priest, a patriot, and a soldier. In full knowledge of their fatal fate, he led 500 of his men in a notable stand against 8,000 Ottoman soldiers. Diakos' men were wiped out and he fell into the enemy's hands, where he was tortured before his death. He is the image of a Greek that gave all for love of faith and homeland. Long live his memory.

Although many Greeks died, they were undeterred from their ultimate goal. "Eleftheria I Thanatos," liberty or death, became their battle cry.

These legends underscore Greece's absolute commitment to independence. As we all know, the price of liberty can be very high, hundreds of thousands of lives. Socrates, Plato, Pericles and many other great minds throughout history warned that we maintain democracy only at a great cost.

Our Greek brothers earned their liberty with blood, as did our American forefathers. The freedom we enjoy today is due to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past. I take great pride in both, as I said, my Greek and American heritage. Each time I perform my constitutional duties, I am doing so in the legacy of the ancient Greeks and our American forefathers.

As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves, American colonists, out of gothic darkness."

We celebrate Greek independence to reaffirm the common democratic heritage we share. And as Americans, we must continue to pursue this spirit of freedom and liberty that characterizes both of these great nations.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield 3 minutes to my friend and neighbor, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank my colleague and friend for yielding and for her leadership.

As an original cosponsor of this legislation and co-Chair and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic issues, I rise to celebrate the 187th 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 win their independence. Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise up against the Ottoman army. Bishop Germanos' 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 of Greece.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of 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.

□ 1445

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade down Fifth Avenue, along with many cultural events.

These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the strong Hellenic American community's many strong contributions to our Nation's history and culture. Relations between the U.S. 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.

We have over 110 cosponsors of my legislation, and with the upcoming NATO summit, the time is more important than ever to find a solution to the name dispute.

Additionally, I strongly support the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Program, and I have legislation before this body on this issue. Greece is the only member of the original 15 European nations not to belong to the Visa Waiver Program, and I was pleased that the administration formally nominated Greece for the Visa Waiver Program this September, and we will continue to monitor Greece's progress.

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, many contributions to our city and our Nation. "Zeto E Eleftheria," long live freedom.

May we join in celebrating Greece's independence and its many contributions to our democracy through its form of government and its history.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SIRES).

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 1024, honoring the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece. March 25 marks the day the Greek people were freed from the Ottoman Empire and asserted their rights to govern themselves.

The citizens of Greece and the United States share a long history of Democratic ideals. The philosophical and political ideas of the ancient Greeks were an inspiration to the Founders of our democracy. Showing our support for Greek independence reminds us how important it is to continue defending freedom around the world. We must also remember those individuals that have fought on behalf of the freedom we share.

Greece is a friend and ally, and when it comes to helping promote freedom and stability in their region and the global community, I am pleased to honor Greece today on its 187th anniversary, and I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 187th anniversary of their independence. In January, I joined a congressional delegation trip to Greece, Turkey, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

I had not been in Greece in over 25 years, and it was wonderful to see how far this most beautiful country has come in the last quarter century, as hosting the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, made a tremendous investment in their infrastructure and cultivated new developments which have greatly enhanced their prosperity.

My husband Paul's family emigrated from Greece to Lowell, Massachusetts, when Paul's father was 3 years old. His father is emblematic of a vibrant Greek American community in Massachusetts and across the country whose contributions have helped our Nation survive and thrive.

The United States and Greece have longstanding ties based on our common heritage, shared values and a mutual commitment to freedom and democracy.

This measure rightly expresses the House of Representatives' support for the important role that Greece has played in the wider region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 187 years ago.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the outstanding

freshman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES).

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today in recognition of the 187th anniversary of Greek independence. The Greek people have proven to be the greatest of allies to the United States over many decades.

Today we have new opportunities to demonstrate our support of Greece on key issues. Most immediate is the dispute over the name of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. I urge the administration to help us celebrate Greek Independence Day by supporting Greece's position on this important issue. Greece's position makes sense for NATO, it makes sense for the United States, and it makes sense for peaceful international relations.

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1024, a resolution expressing support for the 187th anniversary of Greek independence.

Madam Speaker, it was one year to the day that I joined my colleagues on the House Floor in paying tribute to one of America's most important allies, Greece. It was my honor at that time as it is today to pay tribute once again to Greek Independence Day and to offer my unwavering support for US-Greece bilateral relations.

As someone who cares deeply about the issues of importance to the Greek American community, I believe this is an especially important day—one that is a reminder of America's long and historic partnership with Greece but also a day to celebrate the countless contributions of the Greek American community to this Nation.

From the Balkans to Afghanistan to the war on terrorism, Greece has been a staunch ally of the United States and a leading advocate for democracy and the rule of law globally. To that end, it is critical over the coming weeks that the United States works closely with our NATO ally Greece and with officials in Skopje to find a mutually-acceptable official name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

I also strongly encourage the Bush administration to work with our partners in Athens to resolve the longstanding division on Cyprus. It is in the interests of the United States, European Union, Greece, Turkey as well as Greek and Turkish Cypriots that we build on the recent election of President Christofias who boldly pledged to "extend a hand of friendship and cooperation to the Turkish Cypriots and their political leadership," and to "invite them to work together towards our common goal for the good of Cyprus and its people."

Madam Speaker, Greece is known as the cradle of democracy. As Americans watch one of the most exciting elections in modern history, it is a reminder of what Greece gave to America and those nations seeking to perfect their democracy and civic society. These ideals crafted by Greek philosophers and put into practice both in Washington, Athens and globally have changed all of humankind.

As a member of Congress who proudly represents a large Greek American community, I am deeply pleased that we have this opportunity on the House Floor to discuss the contributions of millions of Greek Americans and to pass a resolution that rightfully recognizes five million extraordinary citizens.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Greek people on the 187th anniversary of their independence and strongly support this resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1024, which celebrates the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece, one of our country's closest and oldest allies. A longstanding member of NATO, Greece has played a pivotal role in the stability and development of the Balkans and the eastern Mediterranean region. It has invested over \$20 billion in the countries of the region, contributing to the increasing economic vitality of the area. Greece has also contributed to peacekeeping operations that have been sponsored by the United Nations, the European Union, and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe. In addition, it has closely collaborated with the United States in opposing and fighting terrorists and terrorist networks.

Ancient Greece was the birthplace of democracy, and our country's Founding Fathers took much of their inspiration from reading the philosophers of that time and place as they created a fledgling new democracy here in the late 18th century. A century later, many Greek immigrants began to arrive at our shores, bringing with them a steadfast determination to succeed in realizing the American Dream. The Greek-American community, strengthened by new waves of immigration, has contributed to our society in numerous ways; many within the community have become leaders in the field of commerce, academia, the arts, and politics. They have also been instrumental in fostering close ties between the United States and Greece. As we celebrate the independence of Greece today, we also celebrate the accomplishments of the vibrant Greek-American community.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for H. Res. 1024.

This resolution recognizes the 187th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrates Greek and American democracy.

On March 25, 1821, Greece declared its independence from the Ottoman Empire, and the United States and Greece have had a longstanding relationship ever since.

The Greek community is particularly active in our own country.

Greece shares our democratic values and principles and has been an important ally to the United States, particularly since World War I.

As the most senior EU and NATO country in their region, they serve as a great role model for democracy, stability, and security for other countries in their region.

I look forward to continued bilateral relations and friendship with Greece as we work together to address the issues in Southeast Europe.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs, I am proud to congratulate the nation of Greece on the celebration of the 187th anniversary of independence. Ancient Greece is commonly thought of as the foundation for Western civilization. The Roman Empire borrowed much from Greek culture, including politics, philosophy, art, architecture, and language; and subsequently spread these ideas throughout Europe.

However, the country often thought of as the "Cradle of Democracy" was conquered

and governed by various empires for centuries. On March 25, 1821, the Greek people rose up against Ottoman oppression and declared their independence. The Greeks later became the first ethnic group under the Ottoman Empire to gain independent sovereign power.

America's early Founding Fathers adopted the concept of federalism, an idea influenced by the ancient Greek "city-state," a small region ruled locally, but within the framework of a larger cultural area. The United States has been proud to stand with the people of Greece as they confronted oppression, solidified their democracy, and became part of the vibrant European economy.

Both of our nations understand that even after independence is gained, it must be carefully guarded. Brave citizens must be willing to sacrifice their lives in order to protect liberty. Just as the U.S. and Greece have struggled to survive after the initial moment of independence was earned, we must continue to foster the causes of freedom and democracy.

Again, I congratulate the Greek people on this historic celebration. This anniversary is a time to remember the sacrifices of the past, to take pride in your nation, and to look ahead to a future of promise.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1024, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT ON H.R. 5501, TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Affairs be authorized to file a supplemental report on the bill H.R. 5501.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to adjourn.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 5, nays 388, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 113]

YEAS—5

Baird
Cleaver

Gohmert
Johnson (IL)

Young (AK)

NAYS—388

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin

Culberson
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)

Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)

Alexander
Allen

Davis (KY)
Davis, David

Inslee
Israel

Altmire
Andrews

Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)

Issa
Jackson (IL)

Arcuri
Baca

DeFazio
DeGette

Jackson-Lee
(TX)

Bachmann
Bachus

DeLauro
Dent

Jefferson
Johnson (GA)

Baldwin
Barrett (SC)

Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.

Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam

Barrow
Bartlett (MD)

Dicks
Dingell

Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)

Barton (TX)
Becerra

Doggett
Donnelly

Jordan
Kagen

Berkley
Berman

Doyle
Doolittle

Kanjorski
Keller

Berry
Biggert

Drake
Dreier

Kennedy
Kildee

Bilbray
Bilirakis

Duncan
Edwards

King (IA)
King (NY)

Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)

Ehlers
Ellison

Kingston
Kirk

Bishop (UT)
Blumenauer

Ellsworth
Emanuel

Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)

Blunt
Boehner

Emerson
Engel

Nollenberg
Kucinich

Bonner
Bono Mack

English (PA)
Eshoo

Kuhl (NY)
LaHood

Boozman
Boren

Etheridge
Everett

Lamborn
Lampson

Boswell
Boucher

Fallin
Farr

Langevin
Larsen (WA)

Boustany
Boyd (FL)

Fattah
Feeney

Latham
LaTourette

Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)

Ferguson
Filner

Latta
Lee

Brady (TX)
Braley (IA)

Flake
Forbes

Levin
Lewis (CA)

Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)

Fortenberry
Fossella

Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)

Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,

Fox
Frank (MA)

Linder
Lipinski

Ginny
Buchanan

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen

LoBiondo
Loeb

Burgess
Burton (IN)

Gallegly
Gerlach

Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey

Butterfield
Buyer

Giffords
Gillibrand

Lucas
Lungren, Daniel

Calvert
Camp (MI)

Gonzalez
Goode

E.
Lynch

Campbell (CA)
Cannon

Goodlatte
Gordon

Mack
Mahoney (FL)

Cantor
Capps

Granger
Graves

Maloney (NY)
Manzullo

Capuano
Cardoza

Green, Al
Green, Gene

Marchant
Marshall

Carnahan
Carney

Grijalva
Gutierrez

Matheson
Matsui

Carter
Castle

Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)

McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)

Castor
Chabot

Hare
Harman

McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)

Chandler
Clarke

Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)

McCotter
McDermott

Clay
Clyburn

Hayes
Heller

McGovern
McHenry

Coble
Cohen

Hensarling
Herger

McHugh
McIntyre

Cole (OK)
Conaway

Hereth Sandlin
Higgins

McKeon
McMorris

Conyers
Costa

Hill
Hinojosa

Rodgers
McNulty

Costello
Courtney

Hirono
Hobson

Meek (FL)
Melancon

Cramer
Crenshaw

Hodes
Hoekstra

Mica
Michaud

Crowley
Cubin

Holt
Honda

Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)

Cuellar