

(Bouleuterion) located in Patara. Medium-sized towns sent two, whereas smaller towns could unite together to send one representative to the capital on their behalf. The number of representatives from each city-state determined taxes and other financial obligations. The general assembly was responsible for electing federal officers controlling communal land and determining trade and civil rights, as well.

The "Lyciarch," was the Parliament's president, which at various times served as the League's religious, military, and political leader. Many historians believe that women have served in Patara as the Lyciarch.

One of the thinkers who impacted the debate over our own constitution was Montesquieu. In Book IX of his *Spirit of the Laws*, he argues the utility of confederacy, stating: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Alexander Hamilton and James Madison picked up on this concept, and cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

Both Alexander Hamilton and James Madison used the Lycian form of government in the *Federalist Papers*. The semicircular rows of the Lycian parliament building was a model to the seating arrangements in the U.S. Congress today.

In the *Federalist Papers* No. 16, Alexander Hamilton wrote, "I shall content myself with barely observing here, that of all the confederacies of antiquity, which history has handed down to us, the Lycian and Achaean leagues, as far as there remain vestiges of them, appear to have been most free from the fetters of that mistaken principle, and were accordingly those which have best deserved, and have most liberally received, the applauding suffrages of political writers."

This is how an ancient civilization thousands of miles away and over two thousand years ago made a major impact on our system as a representative democracy, preventing the possibility of tyranny, as feared by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
GUNNERY SERGEANT ADAM F.
BENJAMIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant Adam F. Benjamin, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call of duty, and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin grew up in Garfield Heights and graduated from Garfield Heights High School in 1993. Shortly after graduating, he followed his dream to serve our country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He quickly rose up the ranks and by 2006, at the age of 31, was promoted to the position of Gunnery Sergeant. He was a loyal, courageous and dedicated Marine, who loved every aspect of serving our nation in the

military. Throughout his youth and career in the military, Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin was known for his positive outlook on life, caring nature and great sense of humor. He touched countless lives with his kind heart, generosity and sense of concern for others.

Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin was a brave and honorable United States Marine and an exceptional human being. The sacrifice, service and courage he has displayed will be forever honored and remembered by the entire Cleveland community, and by the nation. Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin's warm smile, generous heart, easy laugh, and joy for life will live on within the hearts and memories of those who loved and knew him best—his family, friends and fellow Marines. He will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant Adam F. Benjamin. His life, gone far too soon, was framed by his great love of family, friends and country. I extend my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Judy Watters and Frank Benjamin; to his step-father, Robert Watters; to his brothers and sisters: Aaron, Amanda, Asa, Abram, Abigail, Amos, Amayah, Aric, Anyah, Alexis and Allen; to his grandmothers, Yolanda and Mary; and to his extended family and many close friends.

CONGRATULATING THE SMOKY
MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME
FOR 2009 ANGELS IN ADOPTION
PROGRAM

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Smoky Mountain Children's Home for their long heritage as residential care center and an adoption placement agency.

I was honored to nominate the Smoky Mountain Children's Home for the 2009 Angels in Adoption™ program. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, which orchestrates the Angels in Adoption™ program, presented an award to The Smoky Mountain Children's Home along with more than 190 Angels from across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, the Smoky Mountain Children's Home's philosophy comes from a basic faith based belief that every child deserves a family.

I am thankful for the important work that is being done at the Smoky Mountain Children's Home. They are working each day toward one of the most noble causes imaginable—to improve the life of a child by bringing him or her together with a loving family.

I am grateful for programs such as Angels in Adoption™ who recognize the good work done by great organizations like the Smoky Mountain Children's Home.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 7th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 28–October 3, 2009, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700's, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to possibly a million or more. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. Killing these animals for their fur brought down their numbers until they were thought to be extinct off California by the early 1900s.

But they were not driven completely to extinction. In the 1930's a small population, of less than 100 animals that had escaped the hunt, was discovered in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur, on the Central Coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, and Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the state's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities.

The three year population average, counted by the U.S. Geological Survey this year, totals only 2,813 animals, a decrease of half a percent and the first such decline in over a decade. These numbers are significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population decline in recent years is highly concerning. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to reverse. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

The decline of Southern Sea Otters off of the California Coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem because Sea Otters are what scientists refer to as a keystone species. This means that they are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. The demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked leading to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the oceans nursery grounds for many marine animals. Research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Further, the Sea Otter is also what scientists refer to as a sentinel or an indicator species. In this way, the

Sea Otters are the canaries in the coal mine for our coastal health. The Sea Otters are all too effective at monitoring toxins and diseases in the marine environment, which can affect the health of humans and other wildlife.

California took the first step toward addressing these emerging concerns by signing into law California Assembly Bill 2485, establishing a state fund for sea otter conservation: again this year Californians had the option of donating a portion of their tax returns to sea otter conservation. I want to emphasize that this means that Californians voluntarily pay a little more on their tax return to help protect these animals. Even during these trouble economic times, more than \$220,000 has already been raised this year.

However, this is a federally protected species and California cannot go it alone. In addition to continuing to work with my colleagues to secure Federal funds to support a continued and complete recovery of the population, I am proud that H.R. 556, The Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act was passed by the House of Representatives this past July. This tremendous success was buoyed by the support and devotion of many people. We are one step closer to making the act into law and bringing needed resources to this threatened species.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the many accomplishments of Defenders of Wildlife, who carry out the important mission to preserve our nation's wildlife and habitat. I also applaud the other nonprofit environmental organizations, working with the Monterey Bay Aquarium, researchers, fishermen, state and federal agencies, schools, and many other institutions and individuals, who devote tremendous effort to protect and recover the southern/California sea otter. Sea Otter Awareness Week is just one of their many activities geared towards honoring and saving this species, and I am proud to be associated with this vital work.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE CSARDAS DANCE COMPANY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the founders, members and performers of the Csardas Dance Company of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate fifteen of years of promoting the history and heritage of Hungary, through the ageless and colorful expressions of the songs and dances of Hungary.

Richard Graber, who grew up in Cleveland as the son of Hungarian immigrants, founded Csardas Dance Company in 1994. He is now the Director of Programs and Services with the Houston, Texas Arts Alliance, and serves on the Board of the Hungarian American Cultural Association of Houston. Christopher L. Smith, former Artistic Director, set a precedent of historical authenticity and keen attention to detail, which still reflect in the brilliant colors and fabrics of the dancers' wardrobes, and also, in the artistic direction of Csardas. Stuart Meyer and Judith Horvath have both served as Csardas Youth Ensemble Rehearsal Instructors, drawing on their backgrounds as professional dancers and instructors. Toni

Gras, Managing Director, has been with the Company for the past ten years. As a child, she performed with Hungarian dance troupes, and her daughter danced for nine years in the Csardas Youth Ensemble.

Over the years, hundreds of young dancers have had the enriching opportunity to be part of the Csardas Dance Company, which continues to inspire and delight audiences throughout Ohio. Since its creation in 1994, the mission of the Csardas Dance Company has not wavered: To preserve and promote the dance, music and song of the people of Hungary. The Company also strives to bolster the public's support of, and appreciation for, the performing ethnic arts.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Csardas Dance Company, for enlightening, entertaining and engaging audiences with song and dance that reflect a certain vibrancy in movement and music—bringing to life the age-old stories of village life in Hungary. The Csardas Dance Company is an arts treasure in Cleveland, and its continued existence is vital to the performing ethnic arts foundation of our entire community—serving as an audiovisual record of our heritage and our history and connecting us all through the universal language of dance and song.

REMARKS OF THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AT THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I seek to call my colleagues' attention to the powerful and important speech that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered to the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2009. In it, he calls on all nations to stand with Israel in confronting the threats posed by Iran and by terrorists around the world. This is a conflict between civilization and barbarity, he says, and the record of the United Nations hangs in the balance.

PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU'S
SPEECH TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, nearly 62 years ago, the United Nations recognized the rights of the Jews, an ancient people 3,500 years old, to a state of their own in their ancestral homeland.

I stand here today as the Prime Minister of Israel, the Jewish state, and I speak to you on behalf of my country and my people.

The United Nations was founded after the carnage of World War II after the horrors of the Holocaust. It was charged with preventing the reoccurrence of such horrendous events.

Nothing has undermined that mission, nothing has impeded it more, than the systematic assault on the truth. Yesterday the President of Iran stood at this very podium, spewing his latest anti-Semitic rants. Just a few days earlier, he again claimed that the Holocaust is a lie.

Last month, I went to a villa in a suburb of Berlin called Wannsee. There, on January 20, 1942, after a hearty meal, senior Nazi officials met and decided to exterminate my People. They left detailed minutes of that meeting and these minutes have been preserved for posterity by successive German

governments. Here is a copy of the minutes of the meeting of senior Nazi officials instructing the Nazi government exactly how to carry out the extermination of the Jewish people. Is this protocol a lie? Is the German government, are all German governments lying?

A day before I was in Wannsee, I was given in Berlin the original construction plans for the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. These plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps I now hold in my hand. They contain a signature by Heinrich Himmler—Hitler's deputy himself. Are these plans of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp where one million Jews were murdered, are they a lie too?

This June, President Obama visited another concentration camp—one of many—the Buchenwald concentration camp. Did President Obama pay tribute to a lie?

And what of the Auschwitz survivors whose arms still bear the tattooed numbers branded on them by the Nazis? Are those tattoos a lie too?

One-third of all Jews perished in the great conflagration of the Holocaust. Nearly every Jewish family was affected, including my own. My wife's grandparents, her father's two sisters and his three brothers, and the aunts, and uncles and cousins—all murdered by the Nazis. Is this a lie?

Yesterday, the man who calls the Holocaust a lie spoke from this podium. To those who refused to come and to those who left in protest, I commend you. You stood up for moral clarity and you brought honor to your countries.

But to those who gave this Holocaust-denier a hearing, I say on behalf of my people, the Jewish people, and decent people everywhere: Have you no shame? Have you no decency?

A mere six decades after the Holocaust, you give legitimacy to a man who denies the murder of six million Jews while promising to wipe out the State of Israel, the State of the Jews. What a disgrace! What a mockery of the charter of the United Nations!

Now, perhaps some of you think that this man and his odious regime, perhaps they threaten only the Jews. Well, if you think that, you're wrong—dead wrong. History has shown us time and time again that what starts with attacks on the Jews eventually ends up engulfing many, many others.

For this Iranian regime is fueled by an extreme fundamentalism that burst onto the world scene three decades ago after lying dormant for centuries. In the past thirty years, this fanaticism has swept across the globe with a murderous violence that knows no bounds and with a cold-blooded impartiality in the choice of its victims. It has callously slaughtered Moslems and Christians, Jews and Hindus, and many others.

Though it is comprised of different offshoots, the adherents of this unforgiving creed seek to return humanity to medieval times. Wherever they can, they impose a backward regimented society where women, minorities, gays or anyone else deemed not to be a true believer is brutally subjugated.

The struggle against this fanaticism does not pit faith against faith nor civilization against civilization. It pits civilization against barbarism, the 21st century against the 9th century, those who sanctify life against those who glorify death.

Now the primitivism of the 9th century ought to be no match for the progress of the 21st century. The allure of freedom, the power of technology, the reach of communications should surely win the day. Ultimately, the past cannot triumph over the future.

And our future offers all nations magnificent bounties of hope because the pace of