

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 188th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day and the valiant Greek struggle to cast aside the shackles of imperial oppression. For those who believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, March 25, 1821, resonates through the annals of history as a seminal moment in the epoch of democracy.

From ancient Greece the world came to speak of the founders of democratic thought—Cleisthenes, Themistocles, Pericles, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and countless others. When our founding fathers contemplated the establishment of the United States of America they looked across time and geography to the shores of ancient Greece. Thomas Jefferson and others who studied the Democratic philosophies of the ancient Greeks knew that in their teachings lay the formula for a just and free society.

In 1776 the sacred flame of liberty illuminated the shores of America, and when in 1821 the mother of democracy awoke and sought to liberate herself from the dark conquest that had befallen her, America cheered her on. During the Greek struggle for independence, many Americans felt a kindred spirit with the Greeks, and gave the name of a Greek Independence War hero to the town of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

It is only natural that the fraternal bonds of liberty between America and Greece have been present from the first day of the establishment of each country. History shows that Greece is one of America's greatest allies, from the passing of the ancients' democratic philosophy to the modern Hellenic Republic's fighting alongside the USA in every major struggle since its inception.

Long before the United States took on the Nazis in WWII, the only countries standing in the way of the Nazi onslaught were Greece and the United Kingdom. Greece paid a dear price for its steadfastness, losing 10 percent of her entire population, and nearly all of the ancient Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. The heroic acts of the Greeks were evident everywhere, from the daring removal of the Nazi flag that floated above the Acropolis, to the unparalleled resistance movement that resulted in the first defeat of an Axis Army when the Greeks pushed Mussolini's troops across the Albanian frontier.

Greece has come a long way in 188 years. In 2004 Greece did an outstanding job hosting the Olympics. She has been an important ally in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and is the beacon of democracy in the Balkans, serving as one of the largest investors, business and job creators throughout all of Southeastern Europe.

Greece is a proven democracy and proven ally of the United States. Greece is a country that can be counted on to support the high ideals of freedom and liberty, and is and always has been a staunch American ally.

NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 178—expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and support for the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

It is appropriate that we debate this bill today, since March is widely recognized as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Now, more than ever, we need to heighten the public's awareness to a growing issue—Traumatic Brain Injury.

Traumatic Brain Injury has been called the signature wound of the War on Terror, as thousands of American servicemen and women have been diagnosed with TBI and untold more have yet to be diagnosed.

An estimated 360,000 soldiers have sustained Traumatic Brain Injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan. Furthermore, Military health screening programs have shown that as many as 20% of returning troops have suffered at least a mild concussion.

The use of Improvised Explosive devices are the primary cause of this silent wound. Often, symptoms don't manifest themselves for some time. Many of the symptoms of Traumatic Brain Injury are similar to Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, further hindering a proper diagnosis.

The dramatic increase in Traumatic Brain Injuries among military veterans has created huge stresses on the VA system's capability to handle. While there was no way that the VA could have predicted the demand for Traumatic Brain Injuries treatment and rehabilitation before our troops were deployed in response to the attacks on our country, the fact remains that we need to provide better services to our veterans, and we need to be able to provide those services in their own communities rather than requiring them to travel for treatment.

The Veterans Administration is already working with some private and nonprofit providers of Traumatic Brain Injury treatment and rehabilitation, but it can and should identify more opportunities to allow veterans to receive appropriate, high-quality care from providers in their own communities.

And that is why I have joined with my colleagues here in Congress and joined the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.

Our goal is to further educate and raise awareness of brain injury and support funding

for basic and applied research on brain injury rehabilitation. It is important that we give brain injury the attention it is due to help us move beyond the "silent epidemic" and towards real treatments, supports, and eventually cures.

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force has worked to ensure that individuals have access to reliable information, effective prevention strategies, and, if injured, comprehensive and appropriate treatments.

We owe our nation's veterans a debt we cannot fully repay, but we must make sure that every soldier, sailor, airman or Marine exposed to an Improvised Explosive Device is properly screened and treated for Traumatic Brain Injury—we owe them no less.

I support the recognition of March as National Brain Injury Awareness Month and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following Information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1109, The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Police Department Photography Lab Upgrades for the City of Miami

Amount Funded: \$400,000

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Contact: Pedro G. Hernandez, City Manager, City of Miami

Address: 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33143

Description: The City of Miami Police Department Photo Lab Upgrades Project will upgrade and digitize the City's police department photo lab. Funds will be used to incorporate digital cameras, memory card readers and a digital photographic laboratory system which will replace the antiquated film technology that is currently in use. Funding for photo lab upgrades will facilitate the investigative and prosecutorial efforts of the law enforcement community in the City of Miami, with national crime fighting implications that extend beyond Southern Florida in circumstances when fugitives flee the City to avoid prosecution.

Project Name: Miami Beach After School Gang and Drug Prevention Program

Amount Funded: \$200,000

Account: OJP—Bryne Discretionary Grants
Contact: Kevin Crowder, City of Miami Beach

Address: 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Description: Continued After-School and summer programs ensure youth "growing-up" within the system. These youth are less likely to entertain outside and detrimental participation in other unsupervised activities, such as

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

involvement in gangs and/or drugs. Participation in the recently created Teen Intervention Program in North Beach has increased dramatically during the past year, as have the various programmatic offerings by the City. City of Miami Beach local funding is \$642,167, or 23% of the program cost. Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars.

Project Name: Life-Management Skill Intervention Program for At-Risk Youth

Amount Funded: \$300,000

Account: OJP—Juvenile Justice

Contact: Susan Benson, ARISE Foundation

Address: 824 U.S. Highway 1, Suite 420, North Palm Beach, Florida 33408

Description: During 2006–07 Florida committed 7,187 juvenile offenders to residential delinquent treatment facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice wants to increase their life chances according to the Models of Change (Systems Reform in Juvenile Justice). ARISE provides juvenile, justice facilities with specialized staff training and its unique curricula designed specifically for populations reading at approximately a third grade level. With over 260 easy-to-administer ARISE life-management lessons, ARISE materials contain vital information necessary for reducing recidivism. The ARISE program provides both staff training and educational materials for teaching life lessons to incarcerated youth through interactive methods and help develop critical thinking skills needed to break the cycle of violence and crime that would otherwise doom many of these juvenile offenders to tragic lives of gang involvement, crime, drugs, disease and poverty.

Due to inherent problems staff have in dealing with incarcerated high risk youth, ARISE will expand its training program for Juvenile Care and Detention Officers in Florida's Juvenile Justice facilities, by introducing additional training topics such as anger management, non-judgmental listening and conflict resolution. This training will be directed at reducing staff on youth conflict, and severe turnover of staff.

Project Name: City of Coral Gables Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements

Amount Funded: \$500,000

Account: EPA—STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Contact: Alberto Delgado, Department of Public Works, City of Coral Gables

Address: 405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33144

Description: The project meets the STAG match requirement. Funding would be used to make state-mandated upgrades to the City's wastewater infrastructure.

Project Name: Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements

Amount Funded: \$2,392,000

Account: Corps of Engineers, Construction

Contact: Clyde Burnett, City Manager, City of Marathon

Address: 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida 33050

Description: The Florida Keys are required to meet rigid wastewater and stormwater management restrictions as well as near shore water quality and environmental protection standards.

Project Name: Miami Museum of Science Renewable Energy Research Project

Amount Funded: \$713,625

Account: Department of Energy, EERE

Contact: Gillian Thomas, President and CEO, Miami Museum of Science

Address: 3280 S. Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33122

Description: Funding is requested for a research and development program aimed at enhancing understanding by Miami-Dade residents of programs related to alternative energy and energy efficiency technologies, with a special emphasis on Hispanic and Haitian communities.

Project Name: Miami Harbor Channel Dredging

Amount Funded: \$478,000

Account: Corps of Engineers, O&M

Contact: Eric Olafson, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade County

Address: 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Description: This funding request is for the first phase of implementation, which includes the design, preparation of plans and specifications for bidding. Miami-Dade County is also seeking an additional source of PED funds through utilizing the funds that will be restored to the project, once the Port of Miami reimburses the Army Corps for its share of the costs of the General Reevaluation Report (GRR). The Chief of Engineers has recommended the deepening project to 50–52 feet and Congress has authorized the project (Title I, Water Resources Development Act of 2007).

Project: Intracoastal Waterway, Jacksonville to Miami, Florida

Amount Funded: \$4,019,000

Account: Corps of Engineers, O&M

Contact: David Roach, Executive Director, Florida Inland Navigation District

Address: 1314 Marcinski Road, Jupiter, Florida 33477

Description: Funds would be used to dredge the IWW in two locations: (1) Matanzas Inlet (St. Johns County) and in the vicinity of St. Augustine. In addition, funds would be used to (1) restore a Dredged Material Management Area in St. Johns County and (2) construct a Dredged Material Management Area in Indian River County. The organization does not have a local match requirement with the Corps of Engineers.

Project: Miami River Maintenance Dredging Project

Amount Funded: \$10,043,000

Account: Corps of Engineers, O&M

Contact: Eric Olafson, Assistant Director, Miami-Dade County

Address: 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Description: This request is for the final phase of the Miami River Dredging Project to restore authorized depth and width to the navigation channel. This project, funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers with a coalition of local sponsors led by Miami-Dade County, removes contaminated sediments from the Miami River, Florida's 4th largest port with an economic value of \$4 billion. The local sponsor has exceeded all match requirements.

Project: Lower Keys Shuttle Bus Facilities

Amount Funded: \$950,000

Account: Transportation, Bus and Bus Facilities

Contact: Jim Scholl, City Manager, City of Key West

Address: 525 Angela Street, Key West, Florida 33140

Description: Federal funds will assist the City in its efforts to improve the City's bus facilities. Specifically, funding will provide a

modern maintenance facility to assist in improved bus facilities as well as passenger amenities such as waiting areas, bus transfer areas and ticketing areas

Project: Atlantic Greenway Corridor Network

Amount Funded: \$570,000

Account: Transportation, TCSP

Contact: Kevin Crowder, City of Miami Beach

Address: 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Description: Through the development of the Atlantic Corridor Greenway Network, the City of Miami Beach is creating a regional alternative transportation network which will interconnect key intermodal centers, area business districts, cultural/tourism centers, residential neighborhoods, parking facilities, parks, schools and the beaches. The Network will be comprised of a citywide system of bicycle/pedestrian accessways, enhanced public transit facilities, expanded bus service and innovative regional parking improvement programs.

Project: Little Venice Road Improvement Project, Phase II

Amount Funded: \$95,000

Account: Transportation, TCSP

Contact: Clyde Burnett, City Manager, City of Marathon

Address: 9805 Overseas Highway, Marathon, Florida 33050

Description: The proposed project includes the installation of drainage and retention structures to minimize the destructive impacts from serious weather events. Additionally, the project proposes the installation of an asphaltic overlay for all road surfaces in the immediate area. This area constitutes 95th Streets to 117th Street south of the highway and connecting cross streets.

Project: Pedestrian Bridges in Coral Gables, Florida

Amount Funded: \$142,500

Account: HUD, EDI

Contact: Maria Jimenez, Interim City Manager, City of Coral Gables

Address: 405 Biltmore Way, Coral Gables, Florida 33144

Description: The requested federal funding will be used to build pedestrian bridges next to the Hardee, Granada and Maynada bridges where vehicular traffic has created safety concerns for crossing pedestrians and cyclists. These new bridges will allow for more efficient and safer traffic flow throughout the City. Improved pedestrian safety along busy roadways in the City of Coral Gables will be the benefit of this project.

Project: Barry University Community Health and Minority Medicine Project

Amount Funded: \$95,000

Account: DOE-Higher Education

Contact: Ann Paton, VP for Institutional Advancement

Address: 11300 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, Florida 33161

Description: Funding will be utilized to expand current lab facilities at Barry University's center for community health.

Project: Jackson Health System Facilities and Equipment

Amount Funded: \$190,000

Account: HHS—HRSA

Contact: Jeanette Nunez, VP

Address: 1611 NW 12th Avenue, Miami, Florida 33136

Description: Funding will be used to upgrade Jackson Health System's information

technology infrastructure. Jackson is a fully integrated health care system with 3 major hospitals, 12 primary care centers, 16 school-based clinics, a mental health facility, 2 mobile health vans and a major health plan. Jackson is also the primary safety net provider in Miami-Dade County.

Project: Mercy Hospital Equipment Upgrades

Amount Funded: \$95,000

Account: HHS-HRSA

Contact: Lois Blume, Grants Coordinator, Mercy Foundation

Address: 3663 South Miami Avenue, Miami, Florida 33133

Description: Mercy Hospital in Miami is seeking funding to upgrade equipment in three key healthcare areas: advanced cardiac video imaging technology, cardiac mapping technology, anesthesia machines, and a sterilization machine for surgical equipment.

Project: Miami-Dade College Medical Center Nursing Program Equipment

Amount Funded: \$95,000

Account: HHS-HRSA

Contact: Joe Pena, Director of Federal Relations

Address: 300 NW 2nd Avenue, Suite 1402, Miami, Florida 33132

Description: To address a growing demand for healthcare professionals, Miami Dade College (MDC) School of Nursing requires additional programs and advanced training equipment in order to expand their successful nursing program.

HONORING KIRKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kirksville High School wrestling team for winning the Class 2 A Missouri State Championship in February.

Not only did the Kirksville High Tigers cap off an impressive season with a state championship, but they dominated in winning their conference and district titles.

The city of Kirksville should take pride in their high school wrestling team, who won the school's third state sports championship.

I ask that you join me in recognizing the Kirksville High Tigers for an outstanding season and a job well done!

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF ROGERS STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a milestone for a prestigious institution of higher learning in Oklahoma. Rogers State University, with campuses located in Claremore, Bartlesville, and Pryor is turning 100 years old this month.

Founded in 1909, Rogers State University has been a center of excellence and learning for thousands of Oklahomans.

In 1998, the Oklahoma Legislature solidified the role of Rogers State University as a world class regional university by granting them full accreditation. RSU is one of only two universities in the state of Oklahoma to offer both associate of arts and bachelors degrees in various disciplines.

Rogers State University is one of the fastest-growing universities in Oklahoma. Over the last eight years Rogers State University's enrollment has jumped 70 percent. At one time RSU's enrollment registered just over 400, but in recent years it has swelled to boast a diverse student body of 4,000.

RSU is a national leader and pioneer in online learning. They are the first public university in the state of Oklahoma to offer associate and bachelor degrees completely online.

In athletics, the future looks just as promising for Rogers State. A few years ago, the RSU Hillcats gained acceptance into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, NAIA. RSU currently fields a multitude of athletic teams and competes in the Sooner Athletic Conference.

During their university's Centennial this year, the Hillcats won the Sooner Athletic Conference championship in men's basketball, and represented their school this month as the No. 1 seed in the NAIA Championship Tournament. In 2008, just their first year of Sooner Athletic Conference play, the RSU women's soccer team earned a conference championship.

RSU is the only university in Oklahoma to operate a full-power public television station. It also operates a radio station, and boasts a 120-acre nature conservatory located on the main campus in Claremore.

The university has also added significantly to their university infrastructure and facilities. Recently, the school opened a \$13 million Student Services Center at its main campus and a \$1.3 million expansion that will double the size of the campus at the Pryor location.

In these times of limited educational dollars, it is important for the United States Congress to remember the local and regional universities that educate so many of our citizens and allow them to benefit both the future of their family and our entire society. Rogers State University is an enormous asset to eastern Oklahoma and I come to the floor today to honor all they do.

Happy Birthday Rogers State University!

TRIBUTE TO MRS. NANCY DAWKINS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mrs. Nancy Dawkins, who will be recognized by the Heritage Trail Advisory Committee in collaboration with the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, Liberty City Trust and the City of Miami for her invaluable service to the residents of Liberty City and the City of Miami. Mrs. Dawkins' generosity and community activism in the fields of education, counseling and leadership development serve as hallmarks to her unwavering dedication to the South Florida community and the 17th Congressional District.

Mrs. Dawkins, a teacher in the Miami-Dade County Public School System for 35 years, has been at the forefront of various community endeavors. She co-authored the program concept that became the COPE school program for pregnant teenagers, served as a career and occupational specialist at Booker T. Washington Middle School and was a former early childhood education instructor of Miami-Dade College North Campus. Among her many awards and accolades throughout the years, Mrs. Dawkins has received the Dade Heritage Trust Plaque for Outstanding Contribution in Promoting Commemorative Services, the Miami Police Department's Recognition Plaque for Community Service and the Metropolitan Dade County Appreciation Plaque from former Mayor Stephen P. Clark.

As a tireless activist devoted to the advancement of equality and human rights, Mrs. Dawkins received The Miami Herald's Spirit of Excellence Award. She currently serves on the board of the Children's Home Society and has been a driving force in the largest African-American chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons, AARP, in the northwestern Miami community where she actively participates by attending state and national conventions.

Throughout the years Mrs. Dawkins has served as a charter member, organizer and past president of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, South Florida chapter, which has spearheaded the establishment of several nationally recognized programs for children who provide countless hours of volunteer community service. Moreover, Mrs. Dawkins sought out summer jobs for her students in order to broaden their experiences in cultural affairs and in her continued activism, encouraged her students at Miami-Dade Community College to establish early childhood centers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing Mrs. Nancy Dawkins' tremendous humanitarian efforts and overwhelming dedication to our South Florida community. I wish her every happiness and continued success.

HAITIAN DEPORTATIONS—A HUMANITARIAN OPPORTUNITY GONE UNNOTICED

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to acknowledge the unjust and inhumane treatment of 30,000 Haitians living in the United States who have been threatened with deportation. These Haitian nationals have contributed to our society for several years as hard-working, law-abiding tax-payers and are now being asked to return to a country that is in no position to support them.

Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere and it has furthermore been ravaged by natural disasters during the last year. The impact of hurricanes and floods has been devastating to the Haitian economy and has resulted in an unprecedented level of suffering requiring emergency assistance for the people of Haiti. The idea of sending thousands of refugees into such a desperate situation is so inhumane as to be unthinkable.