

It is time for this suppression of religious freedom to come to an end and for Turkey to move in the direction of freedom and democracy.

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 contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

A TRIBUTE TO TRACYE RAWLS-MARTIN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tracye Rawls-Martin.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, proud daughter of Henry Sr. and Shirley M. Rawls, wife of Arnold V "Woody" Martin, stepmother to Britt'ney D. Clarence and "Nana T" to Woody's oldest daughters' son, Charles Lovell 3rd.

Tracye Rawls-Martin, MS ATC is a Certified Athletic Trainer and one of 5 African American Athletic Training Education Program Directors in the United States. She is "mother," advisor and professor to more than 16 Athletic Training Students within the BS/MS Degree Program in Athletic Training & Sports Sciences at Long Island University Brooklyn Campus. She began her academic career as a Dance Education major and progressed to a Pre-Physical Therapy major and finally fell in love with an Athletic Training major. After completing two semesters in the Pre-Physical Therapy program at Kingsborough Community College, she decided it was time to move on to a more exciting and productive field—the field of Athletic Training and Sports Sciences. The field of Athletic Trainers was made for her because it is designed for Health Care Professionals who specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and illnesses that occur to athletes and the physically active. All Certified Athletic Trainers must have at least a bachelor's degree in athletic training, which is an allied health profession, must pass a comprehensive exam before earning the ATC credential, must keep knowledge and skills current by participating in continuing education and must adhere to standards of professional practice set by a national certifying agency.

The combination of dance education & athletic performance was a winning combination for her personality because she loves helping people, teaching, watching and participating in sports. In addition to nurturing her students through academic requirements for the program, she has had the honor and privilege of working with over 1000 athletes worldwide; high school, junior college, division one collegiate athletes, semiprofessional and professional. Her current responsibilities as Director of Athletic Training Education Programs at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus include teaching (18 credit hours teaching a variety of sports medicine topics which include risk management, injury prevention, orthopedic examination & diagnosis, medical conditions and disabilities, acute care of injuries and illnesses, therapeutic modalities, conditioning,

rehabilitation exercise and pharmacology, psychosocial intervention and referral, nutritional aspect of injuries and illnesses and health care administration), administrative (direct and administer BS/MS Degree Program and Advanced Master's Degree program in Athletic Training and Sports Sciences, maintain guidelines and standards set forth by the accrediting agency, work with the Clinical Coordinator to establish and maintain affiliations, conduct and publish research/ scholarly activities in areas of expertise, advise students, develop and implement internal/external marketing strategies for the Athletic Training Education Programs, assist in the recruitment of faculty, continue to encourage good citizenship and professional conduct among all students and faculty so as to promote the best interest of athletic trainers, maintain continuing education credits, participate/coordinate and conduct committees within the Division, School of health Professions, the University and the Brooklyn Committee), service (active member with the local, regional and national athletic training organizations, Athletic Training Students Club/Members and Faculty noted on national website, Instructor for American Heart Association, Book Reviewer for Lippincott Williams and Wilkin publishing company, participant in several health events for children, i.e. TEAM L.I.U.-Teenagers Educated About Asthma Management).

In addition, Tracye Rawls-Martin is an entrepreneur and a top executive for one of the world's largest direct selling telecommunications providers. On a part time basis she has reached the first earned executive position in the company. She is well on her way to helping hundreds and thousands of individuals achieve financial freedom and continue to live out their life long dreams whether it is to have more time with their families or to explore the beaches of the world.

Tracye will continue to pursue her passions and would like to contribute her success to the Lord, her family and her students. She will not rest until she has fulfilled her life's long mission—to take care of children of all ages, to feed them, clothe them, teach them and love them; in the end to develop a place they can call home and a place they can always return to a "University for Children."

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JITEN SHAH

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jiten Shah for his service to western Kentucky. He has effectively served as the Executive Director of the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) since 1987, where he has worked to create economic opportunity for this mostly rural region.

Recently, Federal Computer Week recognized Mr. Shah as one of the magazine's Federal 100 of 2009. This award recognizes the top executives from government, industry, and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community in 2008.

Mr. Shah was the driving force for the creation of ConnectGRADD, Inc., a regional broadband internet network. This extraordinary

enterprise brought affordable, high-speed wireless Internet to a rural seven county region, which is larger than the state of Delaware. Mr. Shah developed the plan and built the coalition of support to make this project a reality.

By providing a united vision and strong advocacy, Mr. Shah helped level the playing field for the 212,000 residents of these seven counties. Now, this region is in a better position to spur economic development and entrepreneurship among its residents.

Mr. Shah's outstanding effort is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Mr. Shah for his commitment to the people of western Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO LEROY BROOKS

**HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Supervisor Leroy Brooks from my home state of Mississippi. Supervisor Brooks will be celebrating 25 exceptional years of committed public service.

Mr. Brooks has served as a Supervisor in Lowndes County, Mississippi for the past 25 years. During that time he has dedicated his efforts to improve the quality of life for the people of Lowndes County. He is the longest serving Supervisor in Lowndes County history, and I wish to thank him for his career and dedication to our great state of Mississippi and the Lowndes County community. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Brooks for this accomplishment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SULLIVAN COUNTY, NEW YORK

**HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the County of Sullivan in New York State on the occasion of its Bicentennial. I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing this milestone, and I am proud to join the residents of Sullivan County in commemorating this significant anniversary.

Created from neighboring Ulster County on March 27, 1809, Sullivan County was named in honor of American Revolutionary War leader, Major General John Sullivan. Since that time, Sullivan County's natural beauty and abundance have greatly influenced its development. Early settlers focused their efforts on tapping the generous natural resources of the region and building vibrant timber, bluestone, and tanning industries. These early commercial activities were replaced by growing agriculture and tourism sectors starting in the mid-Nineteenth Century. Sullivan County also served as an important transportation corridor and link between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. Transportation projects such as the Newburgh-Cochection Turnpike, the Delaware & Hudson Canal, and the New York & Erie Railroad helped to develop the region and fuel the expansion of metropolitan New York seventy miles to the County's south.

The first of Sullivan County's grand hotels was constructed in 1846 and over the next century, hundreds of additional hotels, camps, bungalow colonies, and resorts were constructed. During the peak decades of Sullivan County's resort industry, the communities in the Catskills surged each summer with an influx of families looking to enjoy Sullivan County's tremendous beauty and many offerings. The County became increasingly popular as a vacation destination for Jewish families, who helped to build up the entertainment and hospitality industry that came to define the Catskill region. Sullivan County became widely known as part of the Borscht Belt, and its resorts and hotels helped to launch the careers of many of this country's most beloved comedians and entertainers in the decades following the Second World War.

Sullivan County is renowned for its profound beauty and tremendous natural assets, including the picturesque Catskill and Shawangunk Mountains and Delaware River Valley. The Delaware River Valley in Sullivan County is designated by the National Park Service as part of the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and recognized for its incredible recreational, historic and cultural resources. This River corridor, located in close proximity to the New York metropolitan area, continues to attract many thousands of visitors who are drawn by the area's fishing, hunting, boating, golfing, and other activities.

Tourism remains a vital part of the economy for Sullivan County today. As the birthplace of fly-fishing, the County continues to attract sportsmen from around the world to the area's famous trout streams. The Town of Bethel in Sullivan County, once the site of the legendary Woodstock Music Festival in August 1969, now hosts the stately Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, which attracts nationally renowned performers. Sullivan County has worked diligently to build upon its historic legacy and its impressive surroundings and revitalize its economy with new industries, including green technology and a new generation of hospitality businesses.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and best wishes to the residents and businesses of Sullivan County as they celebrate this Bicentennial and as they continue to build upon the region's rich history to ensure that Sullivan County remains an extraordinary place to live and to visit.

HONORING COLONEL MARY BETH  
BEDELL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize U.S. Army Colonel Mary Beth Bedell. Colonel Bedell is from Willow Springs, Missouri and has served our country with dedication and valor for 37 years. Colonel Bedell has served tours in Vietnam, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Her other postings include Fort Sam Houston, in San Antonio, Texas in 1972, Fort San Francisco, Leighton Barracks, Wuerzburg, Germany from 1991 to 1994, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri from 1994 to 1997, Fort Drum, New York from 1997 to 2000, Walter Reed, Washington D.C. from 2000 to 2004, and Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas from 2004 to 2009.

During this time, her husband, Dennis Bedell, and their children, Kergin, Carl, and Brian, supported her as she served the Army without hesitation. The people of Missouri and the United States thank Colonel Bedell and her family for their mutual service and sacrifices.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask all my colleagues to join me in commending the career of Colonel Mary Beth Bedell, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication, leadership, and service throughout her tenure with the US Military.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN  
DREAM ACT

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 26, 2009*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative HOWARD BERMAN in introducing the American Dream Act, a bill that would enable thousands of ambitious young people to attend college and fulfill their God-given potential.

The Act is the product of Congressman BERMAN's tireless efforts on behalf of undocumented students. Recognizing the senselessness of wasting their promise, we worked to-

gether to craft this crucial legislation, which stands as a testament to his commitment to fighting for the most vulnerable Americans. I commend him for his leadership on this important issue and thank him for his friendship.

The Act's premise is simple and just: Undocumented students deserve the same opportunities as the 2.8 million others who graduate from this country's high schools every year. We cannot afford to waste our investments in these talented, motivated young people who are products of our schools and our communities. Indeed, in this era of globalization, America will struggle to maintain its competitive advantage if we continue to deprive some of our most promising students the chance to earn a college education.

The American Dream Act offers a prudent, equitable solution to the challenges that undocumented students face in attempting to gain admission to our colleges and universities. First, it provides a path to legalization and citizenship to students who entered the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived here for 5 years, and have completed two years of higher education or military service. Second, because they often face severe economic hardships, the bill also eliminates a federal provision that discourages states from allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.

The fight to fix a policy that squanders the intellectual gifts of so many is part of a much wider struggle. Our immigration system is broken. It divides families, enables the persecution of workers and denies immigrants basic legal protections. The American Dream Act is a critical component of comprehensive immigration reform. As we work with President Obama's administration over the coming months to overhaul our immigration system, we should ensure that The American Dream Act is a critical component of our plans.

The millions of high school students who comprise the Class of 2009 are mere months away from graduation. Among them are thousands of kids who have the potential to become doctors, lawyers and even members of Congress but face insurmountable legal obstacles. We have a moral obligation to remove these impediments so that all of our young people can accomplish their goals. Moreover, this nation cannot afford to waste the investment we have already made in these young people and inhibit their potential by denying them the opportunity to earn a college degree. Please join me in supporting the American Dream Act.