

IN RECOGNITION OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greek Independence Day as people of Greek heritage around the world gather to remember and celebrate those who partook in the heroic struggle for freedom.

On March 25th people around the world will celebrate Greek Independence Day which commemorates the beginning of the Greek War of Independence. For four hundred years the Ottoman Empire had controlled Greece and attempted to suppress Greek language, culture, and religion. In 1821, behind the leadership of Bishop Germanos of Patras, the citizens of Greece began their long and difficult fight for liberty. After nine long years, the Greeks eventually won the freedom they had previously been denied. The Bishop also chose March 25th as the annual celebration of The Annunciation of the Mother Christ.

This year marks the 12th Annual Greek Independence Day Parade for the Northeast Ohio Greek American Celebration. The parade will be led by Father Dean Dimon of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church and other area clergy members. The celebration will include local Greek dance groups and a church service.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues please join me in recognizing the anniversary of Greek Independence, and wish the Greek Americans in Northeast Ohio a joyous celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RACIAL  
PROFILING PREVENTION ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as we await a surface transportation bill, I rise to introduce a bill to reestablish a federal grant program for states that desire to develop racial profiling laws, collect and maintain data on traffic stops, design programs to reduce racial profiling, and train law enforcement officers, which I worked to get included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) in 2005. Despite the fact that the grant program was just a small piece of the very large SAFETEA-LU bill, nearly half of the states participated in the program for multiple fiscal years. Racial profiling is a form of racial discrimination that is now back in the forefront of national concern because of the tragic killing of Trayvon Martin.

Racial profiling on roads built with federal funds is a violation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, because it amounts to a government subsidy of discrimination. However, while it remains a widespread problem in our country, there is little experience in developing legislation in this sensitive area to address racial profiling while allowing for appropriate law enforcement. My bill would help states to better develop their racial profiling laws and to help law enforcement understand what role racial profiling plays in traffic stops.

My bill imposes no mandates on states. Instead, it simply authorizes a grant program, but does not require states to participate. However, it provides resources that many states and localities clearly need if they are to curb racial profiling.

HONORING EULESS FIREFIGHTER  
BATTALION CHIEF GARY THOMPSON

**HON. KENNY MARCHANT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize Battalion Chief Gary Thompson for his 34 years of public service with the City of Euless. He served 32 years of his tenure with the Euless Fire Department.

Thompson began his service in 1976 in the Euless Public Works Department. In 1977, Thompson left public service and attended Tarrant County College where in 1979 he earned more than 50 hours toward an Associate's Degree in Fire Technology. After studying in college, Thompson rejoined the Euless Public Works Department in 1979 and then left that department to join the Euless Fire Department in 1980.

After only a month as a firefighter in 1980, Thompson was promoted to Second Driver. Thompson's talents were often recognized by his superiors, and from 1980 to 1996, he was continuously promoted up the ranks. During his tenure, Thompson was promoted to Driver Engineer (1981), Lieutenant (1983), Captain (1986), Captain-Paramedic (1989), Battalion Chief (1995), and finally Battalion Chief-Paramedic (1996).

Throughout his career, Thompson has received numerous awards from the City of Euless for his outstanding service. The awards include Firefighter of the Year (1981), Supervisor of the Year (1986), Supervisor of the Year (1988), Paramedic of the Year (1992), Distinguished Service Award (1993), Supervisor of the Year (1995), EFD Employee of the Year (1998), Lifesaving Award (1999), Distinguished Unit Award (2004), Distinguished Unit Award (2006), and Distinguished Unit Award (2009).

Thompson grew up in Euless where he attended Oakwood Terrace Elementary, Euless Junior High, and Trinity High School. His father, Bill Thompson, also served the Euless community as a police officer for 25 years where he retired in 1989 as an Assistant Police Chief. Thompson is married to Delia, and their family includes three daughters and three grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in thanking Gary Thompson for his 34 years of public service.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE B.  
SOBIERAJ

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. George B. Sobieraj, a gentleman whose dedication to the Polish-American community of Cleveland has led the Cleveland Society of Poles Foundation to name him the 2012 recipient of the "Good Joe" Award.

Mr. Sobieraj was born and raised in the St. Hyacinth area of Cleveland. He graduated from the University of Dayton with a degree in Business Management. He has since been a successful entrepreneur and venture capitalist. In 1980, George founded Rubber City Machinery Corporation in Akron, Ohio and is the only certified appraiser of rubber machinery in the U.S.

Many organizations within the Polish-American community in the Greater Cleveland area have benefitted from Mr. Sobieraj's leadership. He serves as Vice President of the Polish American Cultural Center and Union of Poles in America Group 33. He is a member of the Kosciuszko Foundation, a finance committee member for St. John Cantius Church and a member of the boards of trustees of the Polonia Foundation and the Cleveland Society of Poles, of which he is also a past president. Mr. Sobieraj is responsible for Polish Night at the annual "Polish Open" golf tournament at Progressive Field.

Mr. Sobieraj has also been honored many times throughout his life for his service to the Polish community. Among his many awards, George is the recipient of the Polish Heritage Award and was the Honoree of the Ohio Chapter of the Kosciuszko Foundation in 2011.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. George B. Sobieraj, whose tireless devotion to the Polish-American community has been an inspiration to many.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,661,574,232,598.82. We've added \$5,034,697,483,685.74 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONDEMNING THE NORTH KOREA  
ROCKET LAUNCH

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week, the despotic regime in North Korea

launched a rocket under the guise of sending a "weather satellite" into outer space. Fortunately, the three-stage missile failed within two minutes and crashed into the sea, a setback for the North Korean military but a moment of relief for that country's peace-loving neighbors.

While this missile test was a failure—so spectacular a failure that even the propaganda arm of North Korea's government admitted it—that does not mean that any next such test will also fail. This launch was another slap in the face to the United States by a regime that has repeatedly violated agreements we have made in good faith. The Obama Administration has yet again attempted to negotiate with a terrorist regime that uses every negotiation opportunity to buy time to develop its nuclear program. Meanwhile, thousands of North Koreans are starving.

In the most recent "Leap Day Agreement" entered into with the United States, Pyongyang agreed to suspend major elements of its nuclear program and refrain from any long-range missile launches. We, in turn, would provide another 240,000 tons of nutritional assistance. Now we have once again provided the regime with food which they reportedly sell for hard currency in order to continue to prop up their military programs. North Korea yet again chooses to violate violates its part of the deal.

I have read reports that estimated the cost of the failed rocket launch at \$850 million. The same report said that the cost of the launch cost would have been enough money to buy 2.5 million tons of corn and 1.4 million tons of rice—or enough for the North Korean Government to feed millions of its starving people. This to me is criminal behavior. This launch was a gesture of contempt for the efforts of the United States, the Republic of Korea, and our other partners in Northeast Asia who have been working to prevent nuclear proliferation on the Korean peninsula and to dampen North Korea's belligerence.

We must remain vigilant not only in preventing missile tests but also in preventing North Korea's further attempts to develop nuclear weapons.

For more than six decades, it has been the policy of the U.S. government to promote peace, stability, and security in Northeast Asia and in the Korean Peninsula.

South of the Demilitarized Zone, these efforts have seen tremendous and unparalleled success. Since the armistice ended the Korean War in 1953, our ally South Korea has grown economically and matured politically. Korea is now a model democracy, one of the most successful in East Asia, and it shares with the United States the values of liberal governance, free enterprise, and regional security.

By contrast, North Korea is ruled by a family dynasty that disdains those values and seeks to undermine them.

South Korea now has the 11th-largest economy in the world. It is the seventh-largest trading partner with the United States. Over the past six decades, Americans have fought side-by-side with our allies from the Republic of Korea not only in the Korean War, but also in Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

Over two million Americans of Korean descent live in our country, raising families, building businesses, and contributing to their communities. Thousands of South Korean students are enrolled in American colleges and

universities. Many Korean tourists and business travelers visit the United States each year.

The bonds between the United States and Korea are strong and long-lasting, dating back to the 1882 Treaty of Amity and Commerce—130 years ago.

We have no ill wishes for the people of North Korea, whose government does not represent them. That 1882 friendship treaty was made with all of Korea and we look forward to the day when all Koreans and all Americans may participate fully in amity and commerce.

Sadly, the belligerent nature of the North Korean regime has postponed that bright day.

For that reason, in this time of tension in Northeast Asia, I urge my colleagues to condemn, unequivocally, North Korea's programs to develop both nuclear bombs and long-range missiles. We must insist that these projects be ended in the interest of peace and stability.

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IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
MR. EARL NOLAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mr. Earl Nolan, an active member of and asset to the Northeast Ohio community.

Born on December 15, 1931, Earl served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict and had been a member of the Disabled American Veterans. He was employed by the U.S. Postal Service for over 30 years as a General Mechanic performing repair work on the post office buildings and mailboxes in the Cleveland District. The U.S. Postal Service provided him training at the University of Oklahoma where he earned a technician certificate in heating, ventilating and air conditioning. Earl was a longtime member of the Cleveland Ward 19 Democratic Club. He also volunteered for over 20 years with the Cleveland Police Auxiliary to help keep his West Park neighborhood safe for all fellow residents.

I offer my condolences to his beloved wife, the late Joanne (Pease); loving children Janet (Ray) Sirbaugh, Kathy A., and the late Carolyn J. Nolan; grandchildren Courtney and Tim; siblings Clarence, the late Agnes Matei, Robert and Raymond; as well as his many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the life of Mr. Earl Nolan.

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LOANTAKA CHAPTER OF NA-  
TIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF  
THE REVOLUTION

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Loantaka Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the Revolution, organized in the Borough of Madison, Morris County, New Jersey and the Parsippany Chapters of the National Society Daughters of the Revolution, organized in the Township of

Parsippany-Troy Hills, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 85th and 100th anniversary respectively.

The Loantaka-Parsippany Chapter resulted from the merger of the Parsippany and Loantaka DAR chapters in 1992. The Parsippany Chapter was organized on October 14, 1912 with Ruth E. Tichenor Fairchild as Organizing Regent and the Loantaka Chapter was organized in 1927 with Jane Wilson Graham Ridley as Organizing Regent. Today, members continue to promote the awareness of our rich history.

Throughout their history, both the Loantaka and Parsippany Chapters have demonstrated a marked commitment to the Morris area. In the past, the Loantaka Chapter has supported efforts to make Jockey Hollow a national historical park and participated in the celebration of the National Parks bicentennial in 1972.

Similarly, the Parsippany Chapter has demonstrated its commitment by sponsoring Memorial Day Services at the Parsippany Presbyterian Church Cemetery where 84 Revolutionary War soldiers are buried.

The Loantaka-Parsippany Chapter prides itself on working to preserve buildings and landmarks that are of historical significance, and on supporting the National Society's scholarships, approved schools, and Native American endeavors.

The Daughters of the Revolution persistently furthers its mission of education as well as the preservation of history by sponsoring activities such as Good Citizens, a program which recognizes and awards scholarships to high school seniors exemplifying the ideals of good citizenship, and by joining with other patriotic, heritage, and historical organizations in providing educational opportunities to local citizens and schoolchildren.

The Loantaka and Parsippany chapters have also enriched the community by providing philanthropic services such as supporting schools for children with special needs, providing service to patients in Veterans' Hospitals, and offering financial aid for American Indian students. Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while preserving the culture and history of the Morris area, the Loantaka-Parsippany chapter has proved itself to be a pillar of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Loantaka and Parsippany Chapters of the National Society Daughters of the Revolution as they celebrate their 85th and 100th anniversaries.

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RECOGNITION OF COMMANDER  
BOB DOUGLAS OF THE NEWARK,  
CALIFORNIA POLICE DEPART-  
MENT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 18, 2012*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Commander Bob Douglas. Commander Douglas retired from the City of Newark, California's Police Department, on April 12, 2012, after serving over 30 years in law enforcement with over 28 years as a member of the Newark Police Department. He was a