After nearly four centuries of occupation by the Ottoman Empire, Greece declared her independence on March 25, 1821. This was not only a victory for the people of Greece but it was a victory for democracy.

Ancient Greece was the cradle of democracy, free thought, and free will. Our Founding Fathers modeled our nation's first laws after the teachings of such influential Greek scholars as Plato, Socrates and Aristotle. Greece's liberation in 1821 ensured that these democratic ideals would survive for perpetuity.

Today, we honor the ancient Greek influence on our country and we celebrate the mutual respect and beneficial relationship between our two nations. In every war in the 20th century, our countries fought side by side because we both understood the importance of spreading freedom throughout the world.

Because of our common history, shared values and commitment to democratic principles, the friendship between the U.S. and Greece will continue to grow.

I am proud to be able to honor Greece today as she celebrates 186 years of renewed freedom and I look forward to working with this spirited nation in the years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I missed rollcall vote 178 on H.R. 740, the Preventing Harassment through Outbound Number Enforcement (PHONE) Act of 2007. Had I voted, I would have voted ''yea.''

NATIVE AMERICAN METHAMPHETAMINE ENFORCEMENT AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 545 because it corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his work in expediting this legislation, the ''Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement Act of 2007.''

Mr. Speaker, last year Congress enacted the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 as Title VII of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005. Included in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act were provisions that authorized funding for three important grant programs within the Department of Justice: (1) The COPS Hot Spots Program; (2) the Drug-Endangered Children program; and (3) the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program. Although Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible grant recipients under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders program, they were unintentionally left out as possible grant recipients under the COPS Hot Spots Program and the Drug-Endangered Children Program. H.R. 545 allows Indian tribes and territories to combat the methamphetamine epidemic by applying for and receiving funding under all three of these grant programs.

Mr. Speaker, as great a threat as it is to the Nation at large, the methamphetamine threat is even greater in Native American communities. Studies of past year methamphetamine use have shown that Native American communities have more than double the methamphetamine use rate of other ethnicities. According to surveys performed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Law Enforcement Services, over 70 percent of Indian tribes identified methamphetamine as the drug that posed the greatest threat to their reservation and also estimated that at least 40 percent of violent crime cases investigated in Indian Country involve methamphetamine in some capacity. That is why we must act to ensure that Native American tribes are eligible to apply for and receive funding to protect their communities from methamphetamines.

The COPS Hot Spots Program authorized $99 million in funding to the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use, and to reimburse the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) for properly removing and disposing of hazardous materials from clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. This funding may also be used to clean up methamphetamine laboratories, support health and environmental agencies, and to purchase equipment and support systems.

The Drug-Endangered Children Program authorized $20 million in funding to provide comprehensive services and training to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, child protective services, and health care services to assist children who live in a home in which methamphetamine has been used, manufactured, or sold. The specific dangers faced by children who live at or visit drug-production sites or are present during drug production include:

Inhalation, absorption or ingestion of toxic chemicals, drugs or contaminated foods or drink that may result in respiratory difficulties, nausea, chest pain, eye and tissue irritation, chemical burns and death;

Fires and explosions resulting from dangerous methamphetamine production processes;

Abuse and neglect by parents who often binge on methamphetamine and traumatic consequences that result; and

Hazardous living conditions (firearms, code violations, poor ventilation and sanitation).

The Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program authorized as much funding as may be allocated to facilitate collaboration between the criminal justice, child welfare, and substance abuse systems in order to reduce the use of drugs by pregnant women and those with dependent children. While Indian tribes and territories were included as eligible applicants, clarifying language is needed to ensure that there is adequate coordination with Tribal service providers.

Mr. Speaker, surveys conducted by the BIA also revealed that too often Tribal police forces that are underfunded and understaffed. According to the same survey, 90 percent of Tribal police forces indicated that they needed additional drug investigation training, while 69 percent of Tribal respondents indicated that they had no access to, or funding for, methamphetamine treatment resources or facilities.

The Native American Methamphetamine Enforcement and Treatment Act of 2007 seeks to ensure that, consistent with tribal sovereignty, Indian tribes and territories can apply for the COPS Hot Spots and Drug-Endangered Children grant programs, just as states can, and also ensures adequate coordination with tribal service providers for tribes receiving funds under the Pregnant and Parenting Women Offenders Program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 545 corrects an inadvertent oversight in the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 and strengthens the arsenal available to Native American tribes as they combat the scourge of methamphetamine. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MARK KEESECKER

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a true friend of the First District of Tennessee, Mark Keesecker, who passed away Saturday, March 17.

Mark Keesecker lived a life that was filled with entrepreneurship, enthusiasm, and compassion.

Mark was a member of First Baptist Church in Erwin and attended Christ Fellowship in Kingsport.

After graduating from East Tennessee State University, Mark made remarkable achievements in real estate sales, and was an example of professionalism for all of his colleagues. Mark attained some of the highest awards in the Nation for his work in real estate, which included the Century 21 Corporate Centurion Award that is earned by only 5 percent of agents in the Century 21 system.

Throughout all of his success, he was a humble and gracious gentleman. Mark was known for giving supplies to local schools and giving money to various charities.

He left a positive impression on those that he encountered. Mark was a very close personal friend of mine and his unexpected passing is a great loss to the First District.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me this evening in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of Mark Keesecker. He was an illustration of determination, purpose, and kindness.

His friendship and dedication is greatly appreciated, and he will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AND MRS. JAMES DOBSON

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. and Mrs. James