

The intangible synergy necessary to win the State Championship cannot easily be replicated. These young ladies have reached the pinnacle of their sport through outstanding athleticism and teamwork. Team members Kali Kuhl, Petra Whitcraft, Veronica Rood, Emily Fahrre, Tara Breske, Lexi Leonhard, Amy Zuccarelli, Kelsey Cousino, Stephanie Champine, Jamie Swick, Michelle Obert, Hanna O'Connor, Jackie Blaida and Courtney Riehle all deserve recognition for their phenomenal achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in commending the Bedford High School girls' volleyball team on its exceptional season and 2005 Class A State Championship.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
JOHN YATES

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the members of the greatest generation our nation has known. The Honorable John Yates, a member of the Georgia House of Representatives exemplifies a life of service to causes greater than himself, and his example should be known and followed across this nation.

During his youth in rural Spalding County, Georgia, Representative Yates grew up on a family farm, working in the cotton fields to help pay for his family's food.

Representative Yates served in the military during one of the greatest struggles for human freedom our nation has known—World War II. He flew his plane, providing air cover for vulnerable ground troops, and destroying German targets. He was involved in key aspects of the Battle of the Bulge, and participated as a military observer during the liberation of the Dachau death camp.

After his service to our country, Representative Yates went on to work for the Ford Motor Company for many years, while raising his family. In that same Spalding County where he grew up, Representative Yates continued his service to the community.

In 1958, the citizens of his home county recognized his past service and committed to him yet another great trust—a seat in the Georgia House of Representatives. When he took his position there, the Democratic Party was still the majority, and Republicans were very few. But Representative Yates did not give up. He stuck with it, and is today a member of the majority party, as Republicans took control of the House of Representatives in Georgia during the 2004 election cycle.

As a result of his commitment and dedication through the years, the new House leadership gave Representative Yates even more responsibility—the chairmanship of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee in the Georgia House. Representative Yates has continued his valiant service to his nation and state in that capacity during the course of this 2005 regular legislative session.

But there is more to Representative Yates, and this is revealed by his deep personal commitment to his wife, Annie. Although she has been afflicted with some health problems,

Representative Yates has continued his valiant service by serving and caring for his wife, demonstrating his deep affection and the character that is the foundation of every area of his life.

Representative Yates has spent his life in service to his nation, his state, and his family, and is an example to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I lay before you the life and work of Representative John Yates—a man that deserves the highest praise of our nation, a dear friend of mine, and a man that embodies the values that make America great. I am grateful to call Representative Yates my friend, and am grateful for this opportunity to bring the valiant service of John Yates to his country, his state, and his family to the attention of the American people.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and join the millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating Greek Independence Day which, on March 25th celebrated the 184th anniversary of the rebellion and the struggle of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire.

What makes Greek Independence Day so special here in America is that it reminds us of the strong principles and bonds that the U.S. and Greece share. In looking into the struggles of our two nations, we realize how much our struggles have in common, and how much each country has been influenced by the other.

Greece and the United States are bound by an absolute commitment to the democratic ideals of justice and freedom and continue to be strong allies. By commemorating Greek Independence Day, we also celebrate the strength and the resolve of the human spirit that has been the inspiration of us all.

I am very pleased to place into the RECORD a statement made on this 184th anniversary of Greek independence written by one of my constituents, Constantinos Nicolaou:

STATEMENT OF MR. CONSTANTINOS NICOLAOU
OF MARYLAND

The greatness of the human spirit, regardless of any efforts to suppress it, will always rise against tyranny and oppression and will start revolutions where heroism will pay any price, even the ultimate sacrifice of life, in order to gain freedom and independence.

Every time we commemorate heroism such as the one exhibited by the Greeks on March 25, 1821 and during the ensuing struggle for their freedom, we cannot help but think of our great Founding Fathers, who were so much influenced by the ancient Greeks in their struggles for freedom and the creation of what had become the freest, most democratic country in history, the United States of America.

Thomas Jefferson looked to the ancient Greek philosophers and their teachings as an inspiration in trying to create a fair, strong, democratic state. And it was not accidental that many of the Greek leaders of the 1821 revolution, turned to America for inspiration as they were embarking in their struggle for freedom.

Both nations were faced with seemingly insurmountable struggles, rising against empires to claim their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Both nations became triumphant at the end, because of their love of freedom. The great American Patriot, Patrick Henry, proclaimed, "Give me liberty or give me death." The Greek patriots went to battle proclaiming, "Eleftheria I Thanatos"—liberty or death.

As with the American Revolution, the Greek revolution is filled with stories of heroism and sacrifice. News of such heroism and sacrifice met with strong feelings of support by the American public and by their politicians, including President James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, who expressed their support for the Greek revolution through their annual messages to Congress. Henry Clay, our secretary of state in 1825, was very vocal in his support of Greece's fight for independence. Daniel Webster, more often than not, influenced his colleagues in looking into the Greek struggle with sympathetic interests.

It is, of course, no surprise that our Founding Fathers and other prominent Americans were supportive of the Greek struggle for independence. As mentioned, they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson, of all the Founding Fathers, had a particular affinity for Greece, not only because of its classical republican philosophy but also because of his studies of the origins of languages. He expressed that affinity many times, as in a letter to John Brazier on August 24, 1819. In that letter, Thomas Jefferson addresses "Mr. Pickering's Memoir of the Modern Greek," and the Memoirs review by Brazier. He tells Brazier, "I had been much pleased with the memoir, and was much also with your review of it. I have little hope indeed of recovery of the ancient pronunciation of the finest of human languages, but still I rejoice to the attention the subject seems to excite with you, because it is evidence that our country begins to have a taste for something more than merely as much Greek as will pass a candidate for clerical ordination. . . . Among the values of classical learning, I estimate the luxury of learning the Greek and Roman authors in all the beauties of their originals. And why should not this innocent and elegant luxury take its preeminent stand ahead of all those addressed merely to the senses? I think myself more indebted to my father for this than for all other luxuries his cares and affections have placed within my reach."

Jefferson expressed his empathies with Greece revolting against its Ottoman rulers. In an 1823 letter to Adamantios Coray, the Greek patriot and scholar that he had met in Paris years earlier, he stated:

" . . . You have certainly began at the right end towards preparing them [the Greek people] for the great object they are now contending for, by improving their minds and qualifying them for self-government. For this they will owe you lasting honors. Nothing is more likely to forward this object than a study of the fine models of science left by their ancestors; to whom we also are all indebted for the lights which originally led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

No people sympathize more feelingly than ours with the suffering of your countrymen; none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success. And nothing indeed but the fundamental principle of our government never to entangle us with the broils of Europe could restrain our generous youth from taking some part in this holy cause. Possessing ourselves the combined blessing of liberty and order, we wish the same to other countries, and to none more than yours, which she first of civilized nations presented examples of what man should be.

The ties that bind America and Greece go, of course, far beyond their parallel and noble struggles for freedom. The philosophical and cultural connections, although little known to the public at large, could not be stronger or better assimilated. Such connections were born almost at the same time with the birth of our nation, if not before. In his excellent study of "Lincoln at Gettysburg," Gary Wills tells us:

"America as a second Athens was an idea whose moment had come in the nineteenth century. . . . In the early 19th century, an era that became known as America's Greek Revival was taking shape. Archaeological discoveries in Greece at the time brought the ancient democracy to mind just as modern Greece began its struggle for freedom from the Turks.

"Edward Everett, President of Harvard, founder of Mount Auburn, congressman, Massachusetts's governor, minister to the Court of St. James's in London, senator, secretary of state and principal speaker at Gettysburg years later, was the leader of the Greek Revival. Harvard established its new chair of ancient Greek studies for him. While studying in Germany, Everett went to Greece, 'to walk over the battlefields where the first democracy of the West won its freedom.' He returned to America convinced that a new Athens was rising here. His appearances, 'prompted rallies for Greek independence'—a favorite cause of Everett.

"Everett's prestige influenced others, including historian George Bancroft, whose 'main interest was Greek history.' . . . Bancroft was ahead of the wave of histories that would glorify Periclean Athens in Victorian England. Direct democracy, a flawed system in republican theory, was rehabilitated, for its usefulness in the parliamentary reform movement, by British historians like George Grote. In America, a similar motion toward government by the people, not just for the republic, was signaled by an enthusiasm for Greek symbols. Bancroft became a Jacksonian Democrat when he began to apply historical skills formed on the Attic democracy to America's development. Walter Savage Landor recognized what was happening in America when he dedicated the second volume of his *Pericles and Aspasia* to President Andrew Jackson."

Greece and the United States, bound by their absolute commitment to freedom and justice, have always been the strongest of the allies. Greece stood by us and fought with us in every single war or conflict since we both gained our freedom. And we always stood by Greece, and although at times we appeared to have forgotten how loyal and valuable the Greeks had been to us, our ultimate commitment to their freedom and well-being never wavered.

And as we commemorate and fight to free all people, let us remember that some other friends of ours are still agonizing and asking for our help in fighting forces of evil still occupying their land and their homes. The people of the Republic of Cyprus, Greeks and Turks and all others, should be given more active support by our great nation in their efforts to reunite the island and get rid of the occupying forces. U.S. leadership is essential, and now it is the time that we should remember that the Cypriot people are where we had been, and they are striving for what we have earned long time ago, that is, their right to freedom, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It is essential that American leadership urges Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders towards peace. These are the two sides that hold in their hands, to the largest extent, the peaceful solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution that undoubtedly will benefit all the people of Cyprus, but it will also benefit

the nations of Greece and Turkey, will stabilize the region, and will strengthen the bonds and relationships between the United States and the countries involved in the conflict.

As we commemorate Greek Independence Day, we are celebrating the strength and the resolve of the human spirit as well as man's unbending will in the pursuit of freedom. The people of ancient Greece gave us values and ethics and showed us how to fight for freedom and democracy. Our country, more than any other country, shares those values and ethics, and in days such as this we reaffirm our common democratic heritage with the Greek people. The commemoration and celebration remind us also that we should stay forever vigilant in fighting for and protecting our freedom and our democracy, least we lose the right to determine our lives and our future.

Dionisios Solomos was the great poet who transformed in his poetry the unparalleled struggle and the sacrifices of Hellenism in the pursuit of Freedom. The Revolution so much influenced his poetry that he is considered the national poet of Greece. One of his most inspired poems, *Hymn to Liberty*, has almost become synonymous to that Revolution and it became Greece's National Anthem. The poem was published in 1825, along with translations in Italian, French and English.

The Revolution would have never been the same without Solomos. The enthusiasm of the fighters, as well as the international sympathy among the Philhellenes would have definitely been smaller without the *Hymn to Liberty*.

Probably nowhere was Solomos's vision of Liberty depicted better than here, in the United States. Here, in the Rotunda of our own Capitol Hill, we see a most wonderful painting of Liberty, with the sword in hand chasing her enemies, exactly the way Solomos envisioned her in his *Hymn to Liberty*. This figure was painted by another son of Greece, one who really grasped Solomos's vision of Liberty, Constantino Brumidi.

And as a tribute to the United States, Solomos envisions our country rejoicing in seeing Greece fighting for Freedom. He describes the American feelings this way:

Most heartily was gladdened
George Washington's brave land;
For the iron bonds remembered,
Her old slavery's cruel brand.

We live today in a great, free country. Our country became great, and will always be so, because the spirit and the morals that we share with Greece, as so eloquently expressed by Solomos, will always be with us.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHARLOTTE MAYOR MARK T. WILSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mark T. Wilson, Mayor of Charlotte, Texas, for his dedicated service to his community.

Mayor Wilson is one of Charlotte's proudest native sons. Born and raised in Charlotte, he graduated from Charlotte High School and attended TSTI in Waco, TX. While in school, he studied farming and ranching in preparation for a career as a rancher.

Mr. Wilson's family has been in the ranching business for many years, and he has estab-

lished himself in the business community as well, owning and operating heavy equipment and providing road construction and land clearing for local ranchers. In addition, he has given back to the community through his work as a public servant for the City of Charlotte. He began his service as an Alderman, and rose through the rank of Mayor Pro-Tem to become Mayor, a post he has held with distinction for the past 8 and 1/2 years.

He has left his mark on the community in other ways, as well. He and his wife, Jenci, are the parents of four children of their own, and have selflessly given their time to the foster parents' program. Mayor Wilson continues to give his time to his local church, the 4-H, and the Future Farmers of America.

Mayor Mark Wilson is a tremendous asset for the City of Charlotte, Texas. His work as a public servant, a successful businessman, and a dedicated father serve as an example to the rest of us. I am proud to have the opportunity to thank him here for all he has done.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE OLIVIA HERMAN TRACK AND FIELD COMPLEX

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 12, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend Olivia Herman, whose life will be commemorated in Lehigh, Pennsylvania, as the school district dedicates its new athletic complex as the Olivia Herman Track and Field Complex.

Olivia served on the Lehigh Area School Board for 13 years, from 1991 through 2003. She succumbed to cancer in March 2004 after a short battle with the disease.

Olivia was elected as president of the school board from 2001 through 2003. When she attended her very last school board meeting in December 2003, the board voted to dedicate to her the new athletic complex that was being built. Olivia had worked diligently to obtain funding for the new facilities, and the school district wanted to show its appreciation.

For eight years—from 1996 through 2003—Olivia served on the board of directors for the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit. Prior to that, she was the Director of Literacy for Carbon County, and was a volunteer reading teacher. Olivia Herman was a tremendous asset to the field of education. She was a lifelong advocate of reading and always stressed the importance of literacy.

Olivia received her college degree later in life after working professionally as a social worker for many years. She went to the University of Delaware, graduating in 1971. Olivia's husband, William, was sick at the time and the two stayed in Delaware for a few years before returning to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Olivia, herself a 1942 graduate of Lehigh Area High School, was by many accounts one of the most gifted athletes to ever graduate from the school. She was especially active in gymnastics, but she also participated in basketball, cheerleading, and track. She remained active in the school district throughout her life, organizing reunions for her former classmates every few years. When she retired, she decided she still had more to give of herself.