

into the Record a Caribnews editorial celebrating how the country has overcome obstacles to persevere during its young existence.

Grenadians are resilient people who are dealing with trying times. As the editorial reads, "Like many of its neighbors in and out of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS, Grenada is facing some serious economic and social challenges. Crime has reared its ugly head and the galloping economic expectations of its young people are adding to the list of worries which need urgent attention." The editorial continues, "As if those weren't enough, it has a pile of debt on its books to manage and reduce it."

Despite these social issues and a violent political uprising in 1983 that subsequently led to a U.S. military presence and later the disastrous results of Hurricane Ivan, the people of Grenada have never faltered in showing the will to advance their country. Today, Grenadians continue to embrace their current stable parliamentarian, democratic government and highly respect the civil liberties afforded to them. As the editorial explains, "Grenada, a nation, which has had more than its fair share of difficulties, has shown an amazing ability to see the glass as being half full when others looking on consider it half empty."

It is this glowing optimism and resolve that makes the island of "spice" such a treasured nation in our global community. Mr. Speaker, please join me again in congratulating Grenadians in the United States, abroad and in their native homeland on their thirty-second anniversary of their glorious independence.

MUCH TO CELEBRATE ON ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

One of the most heart-warming scenes is that of a small country, rising from the ashes left behind by natural and national disasters, picking up the pieces, if you will, and showing neighbors, even the wider world the stuff of which resilience and legends are made.

Grenadians are one such people. After Hurricane Ivan struck in 2004 and devastated the land of "spice," killing 39 persons, leaving thousands homeless and wiping out almost all of its infrastructure while coming close to tearing out the soul of its inhabitants, a collective will emerge once again, determined to rebuild and make the country of 90,000 people even better than before.

Although Grenada, Carriacou and Petit Martinique, the tri-island state, is far from reaching its goal of a complete recovery, it is well on the way, so much so that Standard & Poor's, Wall Street's premiere credit rating firm, recently hailed the efforts to return the country's finances to a manageable and sound foundation.

That's quite an achievement in less than two years.

Aided by Caribbean help, international assistance and led by Dr. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister, the government reached out to civil society, the trade unions, the church and other limbs of society. In the process, the administration marshaled the energy of the young and the middle-aged and the wisdom of the senior folk to chart a new course and write a new chapter in the nation's colorful history.

So, when it observed the 32nd anniversary of independence on February 7 with church services, military parades, special games and other activities, it was clear that Grenada had much to thank God for and to celebrate.

Grenada, the most southerly of the chain of Windward Islands, has traveled this road of disaster and rehabilitation before. Almost a quarter of a century ago, October 1983 to be

precise, the People's Revolutionary Government turned on itself, killing its leader, Maurice Bishop and several of his ministers and senior government officials. The resulting turmoil, including a dust-to-dawn curfew imposed by the military triggered an invasion or a U.S. "rescue mission," depending on your point of view. The country then set out to rebuild itself and by any measure, it had succeeded. Its housing stock improved by leaps and bounds; the infrastructure expanded and upgraded; the health and education profiles brightened; and the economy was on a growth path.

Then along came Ivan.

Like many of its neighbors in and out of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, OECS, Grenada is facing some serious economic and social challenges. Crime has reared its ugly head and the galloping economic expectations of its young people are adding to the list of worries, which need urgent attention. As if those weren't enough, it has a pile of debt on its books to manage and reduce.

But it has many things going for it as well. The nation has a stable political environment that's based on the rule of law and parliamentary democracy. Its respect for people's civil liberties hasn't been tarnished by any abusive practices and the main opposition forces led by the National Democratic Congress are keeping Dr. Mitchell and his government on their toes.

As in the case of its OECS neighbors Grenada must make good on its pledge to join the Caribbean Single Market later this year. It should have come home to Grenadians by now that they can't afford to remain outside of the CSM and survive in a globalized world. It must also move to recognize the Caribbean Court of Justice, CJCJ, as the judicial body of last resort, a move that would end its long-standing relationship with the Privy Council in London. Just as important, it must continue to place education high on its agenda. The investment in education, which got a major boost during the days of the People's Revolutionary Government, is paying off in the form of a strong human resource base.

Grenada, a nation, which has had more than its fair share of difficulties, has shown an amazing ability to see the glass as being half full when others looking on consider it half empty. That positive approach to life has worked well for its people in the past and we are confident that with more international and regional help it would do so again.

Grenadians abroad, whether in New York, Miami, London, Toronto, Birmingham or Port of Spain have been a well of support from which the country has drawn some of its succor. They too deserve praise at this time of celebrations.

Happy Independence anniversary.

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE LINCOLNVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL AND THE RUFUS KNIGHT BELL

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, early in November I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Lincolnville Central School in Lincolnville, ME. In Lincolnville, as in so many small towns across this country, the local elementary school is an important part of the community.

As Lincolnville opens a modern new school building, it honors its past by displaying an old bell, formerly housed in the old school building. The old bell will be a reminder of the many teachers, staff, and students who were a part of the old school. It will challenge the Lincolnville community to continue its long tradition of quality education.

The school bell is named for Rufus Knight, a former teacher at the old Lincolnville school. The bell was honored in a poem by his great-grandson, John A. Knight, which was read at the school opening:

This is the bell that called to us to drink at springs of learning.

This is the voice of the silver tongue that satisfied our yearning.

The tocsin sound of wisdom this ancient bell awakened and horizons of us rural folks no longer were forsaken.

The light of education Our knowledge is expanding. This ancient bell awoke in us deep thoughts of understanding.

And, for many generations we did study and excel with the beauteous sounding of this old bell.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WORK OF HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATE JOHN P. SALZBERG, PH.D.

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 28, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Salzberg, Ph.D., as he retires from his lifelong work of promoting human rights around the world.

Thousands of torture survivors and human rights advocates around the world are forever indebted to the tireless work of Mr. Salzberg throughout his 30-year career in the field of human rights. John Salzberg completed his doctoral dissertation in human rights in 1973 from New York University. Following his education, John spent several years working for former Congressman Don Fraser, D-MN, as staff on the House Subcommittee on International Organizations. In this capacity, John Salzberg aided in the groundbreaking work on human rights undertaken by Congressman Fraser, which led to the creation of a Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in the State Department in 1976. John traveled with Congressman Fraser on what was the first official human rights investigation mission to South Korea and Indonesia in the late 1970s. In addition, while working for Congressman Fraser, John assisted in the drafting of the legislation which mandated the annual human rights report now issued by the State Department each year.

After working for Congressman Fraser, John went on to work at that same Bureau of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs for 4 years, to ensure it fulfilled the mission intended by Congressman Fraser's legislation.

Most recently, John used his knowledge of the legislative and policy process, and his dedication to justice and equality, as an advocate for the Center for Victims of Torture. John began working for the Center for Victims of Torture in 1992, first as a volunteer and then as its representative on Capitol Hill. As an advocate for victims of torture, John was a major force behind the drafting, promotion and eventual passage of the Torture Victims Relief Act