

Nation's founders and breathed life into America's experiment with democratic self-government.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great honor of representing a number of Greek-Americans in the Seventh District of New York. Their influence and active participation in the life of their communities has fostered economic, political and social growth throughout New York City.

Generations of Greek Americans have enriched every aspect of our national life, in the arts, sciences, business, politics and sports. Through hard work, love of family and community, they have contributed greatly to the prosperity and peace that we all enjoy as Americans today.

But as we celebrate Greek independence, we must keep in mind the ongoing struggle for freedom and demand for human rights on the island of Cyprus. I believe the United States and the international community must remain steadfast in our resolve to bring peace and unity to an island that has been home to violence and division for far, far too long.

Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate my strong commitment to Greek communities in my district, the country, and throughout the world. Their strength and dedication to democracy and peace in the world has made them a shining star of modern civilization.

IN HONOR OF CURTIS RELIFORD

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated work and inspiring courage of Curtis Reliford. Mr. Reliford's life story reflects the best of the American Spirit and reveals the incredible generosity to our nation's people.

Mr. Reliford experienced a troubled youth in his native Louisiana. In his early years, he was lured down the self-destructive, illusionary path of drugs, alcohol, and money, all resulting in dead ends and unhappiness. Twenty one years ago, after much contemplation and perseverance, Curtis decided to move to California, with the hope of creating a better life for himself. In Santa Cruz, CA Curtis has found himself by aiding those who need a hand. He is an active member of the NAACP, and created his own business as a landscaper, a skill he used, and will continue to use, in Hurricane destroyed New Orleans. Through strong determination, great self-sacrifice, and enduring dedication, Mr. Reliford began his long healing process. He believes, and has proven, his calling to aid those who require and ask for assistance.

The fruits of Mr. Reliford's life transformation have been truly spectacular, not only benefiting our local community, but touching people's lives on a national level. Mr. Reliford is a small business owner and has started a non-profit community support group "Brothers teaching Brother." Most recently, Mr. Reliford has turned his sights back on his native Louisiana. Due to his selflessness, Curtis has been awarded the Jefferson Award from the County of Santa Cruz. His commitment to the assistance of others is inspiring. He also shows no signs of stopping.

After witnessing the devastating destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Reliford, in-

spired by his daughter's proclamation of "Daddy, you can do anything!" decided to focus his nurturing spirit on the people devastated by Katrina. He began taking donations in Downtown Santa Cruz, in order to raise funds for those who lost their homes. Enough was collected to make a life altering trip down to Louisiana. Mr. Reliford has now completed three relief trips to the Gulf Coast, but he believes his work will not be complete until every person who lost their home receives full assistance. Mr. Reliford is setting up a new organization, "Follow Your Heart Action Network", dedicated to bringing continued help to people in the South.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Curtis Reliford that make the United States the great country that it is, and it's truly an honor for me to represent individuals like Mr. Reliford. The service of local members of the community is an asset to this nation, and I applaud Mr. Reliford's contributions. Curtis Reliford's dedication to advancing the condition of human welfare throughout our nation has had a positive impact on countless individuals, and for that reason I rise in honoring him.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN H. STROGER,  
JR.

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great public servant: John H. Stroger, Jr., President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

John Stroger is the first African-American to have been elected as Cook County Board President after serving Cook County for many years in other capacities, including as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Finance Committee. During his lifetime of public service, President Stroger has always served with distinction and with an unwavering dedication to improving the lives and well being of all of the residents of Cook County.

As Chairman, he was instrumental in the development and construction of a new hospital facility, which bears his name, John H. Stroger Hospital. The facility, which is state-of-the-art, serves the health needs of all of Cook county's residents, including the indigent and uninsured. John Stroger is the past President of the National Association of Counties and in that capacity, he provided leadership on public policy issues affecting local governments across the Nation. He was particularly concerned with the need of county governments to ensure health care access for all county residents.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you will join me in wishing President Stroger a full and speedy recovery from his recent illness and all the best to his wife and family.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. JADICK

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there is a physician in my district who deserves the

thanks of our Nation and this Congress for his actions in combat in Iraq.

Naval Commander Rich Jadick, MD, of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta deployed to Iraq in the summer of 2004. He arrived just in time for the Battle of Fallujah, the heaviest urban combat American troops have endured in a generation.

Newsweek Magazine quotes Dr. Jadick's commander, Lt. Col. Mark Winn, that as a direct result of Dr. Jadick's courageous actions under fire, at least 30 U.S. Marines were saved from death.

During just 30 days of combat, Dr. Jadick treated over 600 Marines and Iraqi soldiers and civilians. He established a forward aide station well advanced beyond the safety limit prescribed for combat medical personnel. His courage in ignoring the danger to himself in order to provide life-saving treatment for wounded personnel led to his being awarded the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia, I commend and thank Dr. Jadick for his heroism and extraordinary service to his Nation and his fellow man.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF THE CUBAN-AMERICAN JEW-  
ISH COMMUNITY

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 28, 2006*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to members of the Cuban-American Jewish Community who have contributed greatly to our Nation. They were elementary school classmates at the Plantel del Centro Israelita de Cuba and graduated from the sixth grade on June 20, 1958. Some of them were part of the Peter—Pedro—Pan Operation, which brought over 14,000 children and teenagers from Cuba who came to this country without their parents, thanks to the generosity of the U.S. Government. These Cuban Jewish children were cared for by the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, HIAS, which assisted them in finding housing in foster homes and orphanages.

Despite the fact that they all left Cuba after 1959, they have remained in contact since. Most of these individuals will be celebrating their 60th birthday this year and are holding a reunion in Miami. It will be their first gathering as a group since they risked their lives in search of freedom and liberty to come to this great country that warmly accepted them with open arms. They are proud citizens and are very grateful for the opportunities they have enjoyed in this country such as freedom, peace and prosperity, opportunities that our brothers and sisters in Cuba do not enjoy. I am glad to see such a wonderful group of people committed to bringing freedom and democracy to Cuba.

Many members of the Cuban-American Jewish Community have had long and successful careers that span many years of outstanding service, dedication, hard work, devotion, and love for our country. They are successful parents, professionals, businessmen, community leaders and grandparents. I am proud to recognize the Cuban-American Jewish Community for their tireless dedication to