

of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Rachele Teller, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Rachele is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Rachele is an exceptional student at Napoleon High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Rachele is a Class Representative in the Student Government and a member of the schools S.A.D.D. program. Rachele is also the Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper. Outside of school, Rachele is involved with the International Order of Rainbow for Girls and various other community activities.

In special tribute, therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Rachele Teller for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

MEMORIAL DAY 1998—OUR THANKS  
AND GRATITUDE TO ALL WHO  
SACRIFICED FOR OUR NATION

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for all of us on this Memorial Day to commemorate all those who made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield, on the seas, and in the air, so that we in our nation may enjoy the liberty for which they gave their lives.

Our Memorial Day services which date back to our country's tragic conflict, the Civil War period, which tore apart our nation and in which brother fought brother, have taught us how fragile our liberty is.

The first National Memorial Day was held on May 30, 1868 in honor of those who had given their lives during the Civil War. It was Arlington National Cemetery, in the presence of General Ulysses S. Grant, where future President James A. Garfield touched upon the solemnness and reverence of honoring the dead stating:

If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men whose lives were more significant than speech and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung. \* \* \* they summed up and perfect, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue.

In the subsequent Spanish American War, the two World Wars, in Korea, in Vietnam, in Somalia, Grenada, Panama, and the Persian Gulf, and in countless other skirmishes, on lawless frontiers, and in peacekeeping efforts

throughout the world, our brothers and sisters, our sons and daughters, our parents, our friends and loved ones, our fellow Americans, have given their lives for a greater cause.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt summed up the American Spirit when he said: "We, too, born to freedom, are willing to fight to maintain freedom. We, and all others who believe as deeply as we do, would rather die on our feet than live on our knees." We are a proud peace loving nation, but when alternatives fail, we will fight to maintain liberty and freedom. Memorial Day is a solemn day where we honor those who had the courage to die on their feet.

We honor our fallen heroes of those conflicts, not only because they are worthy of our honor, but also by recalling their sacrifice, we make certain that we keep the peace for our future generations. By honoring our tragic heroes, our nation is reminded to avoid the mistakes and errors that could lead to any future conflict.

As we pause today, remembering our loved ones who died in service, let us take a moment to also recall all those Americans whose fates are still unknown, our POWs and MIAs. There are over two thousand from Vietnam, and countless others from other conflicts. Let us remember those thousands of service men and women who still remain unaccounted for.

We also honor the millions of other Americans who sacrificed to defeat tyranny here and abroad, the women and civilians who worked in our defense plants and who served in the auxiliary during both World Wars, our workers in business and industry who helped to make our nation the "Arsenal of Democracy", the Boy and Girl Scouts who conducted metal and paper drives, the housewives who learned to make do with ration stamps, the workers who learned to car pool, and the senior citizens who served as civil defense officers, those who wrote letters and spent packages to our troops in Korea, Vietnam, The Persian Gulf and Bosnia. All of these Americans have helped make the world safe for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, let us give thanks and praise to all the men and the women, who worked together and in many cases died together, so that we may remain free.

Let us also pause today to pray for the safekeeping and safe return of our thousands of American service men and women serving in distant lands in peacekeeping missions.

Thank you and God bless.

IN HONOR OF VARICK MEMORIAL  
A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church of New Haven, Connecticut on the occasion on its 180th anniversary. Blessed with a vibrant and thriving congregation, Varick's history reflects the words of its motto, "Each One Reach One, Each One Teach One, Each One Save One"

Established in 1818 by 35 former slaves, Varick's philosophy reflects the history of this great church. These newly freed men and

women first sought to worship at the First Methodist Church. However, Bishop James Varick of the A.M.E. Church of New York soon convinced the group to join with his movement. From its very inception, this parish family has reached out in fellowship to the Dixwell and Greater New Haven Community. In its earliest days the parsonage of the church served on the Underground Railroad, which was led by an A.M.E. Zion Church member named Harriet Tubman.

The church's mission of outreach brought countless distinguished men and women to its pulpit, including educator Booker T. Washington and Civil War hero E. George Biddle. The distinguished ranks of the pastors of Varick Church include six men who went on to enlighten even more people by becoming A.M.E. Zion Bishops.

This year, Varick has the honor of hosting the 1998 New England A.M.E. Zion Church Annual Conference. As their members gather in fellowship, I rise to salute their tireless ministry. Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church has changed the face of New Haven through its moral guidance and unwavering commitment to improving our community. I join with Varick in celebrating their first 180 years, and thank them for their continued faithful service to the many families whose lives have been changed by the good works of Varick Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BERLIN AIRLIFT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 12, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in just a few days President Clinton will be in Berlin to mark the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. Just last week, I joined a number of my colleagues in preparing a CARE package to mark this anniversary. These CARE packages will be sent to Berlin for the 50th anniversary celebrations of the airlift, and then they will be shipped on to Afghanistan to provide assistance to the Afghani people who have been devastated by twenty years of war and turmoil.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly appropriate that we remember and reflect upon the Berlin Airlift and the significance of that event in United States foreign policy as we mark the half century anniversary of this event. It was one of the most critical steps in defining the American response to the Soviet Union and in establishing the parameters of United States policy in the Cold War.

All of us are familiar with the story of the Berlin Airlift. In the spring of 1948, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin began a campaign to force the Western Allies from the occupied city of Berlin, which was isolated inside East Germany, some 150 miles behind the Iron Curtain. In a concerted effort to consolidate his hold over all of Central and Eastern Europe, he pressed to eliminate this island of democracy inside the Soviet occupation zone.

Mr. Speaker, as the occupation of Germany began at the end of World War II, the United States, Britain and France had negotiated air corridors to fly over the Soviet zone in order