

Please join me in honoring Jacob for his outstanding leadership and service in his community.

RECOGNITION OF GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 179th anniversary of Greek Independence.

In March of 1821, Alexandros Ypsilantis led his small band of troops across the Prut River into Ottoman-held Moldavia. Much like the men and women who fought for our own nation's independence, the soldiers who followed Ypsilantis came from all corners of the Ottoman territories, from all classes of Greek society, and from all walks of life. They traversed the waters of the Prut toward an enemy that vastly outnumbered them, and toward an empire which posed an almost insurmountable obstacle to the pursuit of freedom.

Though they were defeated, the courageous efforts of Ypsilantis and his troops planted a seed in the hearts of thousands of Greeks. This seed grew into a flourishing movement toward religious freedom, a re-inspired sense of cultural identity, and a long awaited return to the democratic ideals which were born in ancient Greece. On March 25, 1821, a series of revolts spread across northern Greece and the Peloponnese with the unified purpose of establishing Greek sovereignty. Today, 179 years later, Greeks throughout the world pause in thanks to their ancestors for returning to them the basic rights of representation and civil and religious freedom that we all assume to be our birthrights, but which are truly blessings.

I would like to congratulate Greece and the Greek-American community for their renewed freedom, and I ask you to join with me in wishing them an upcoming century of peace, prosperity, and self-determination.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COLLEGE OF  
JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATIONS  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

**HON. KAREN L. THURMAN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida is celebrating two very important anniversaries this year—the introduction of journalism courses at the university 75 years ago and the remarkable man who founded the journalism school 50 years ago, the late Mr. Rae O. Weimer.

Mr. Rae Weimer's vision and dedication to journalism guided the formation of the journalism school in 1949 and later the transition of the school into an actual college in 1967. He went on to serve as the first dean of the College of Journalism and Communications.

Today, in many ways, Mr. Weimer's legacy remains visible throughout the College. The

building where the College is housed bears his name, and the remarkable growth of the College and caliber of the faculty and students are considered a testament to his vision and leadership.

People who had the privilege of knowing and working with Mr. Weimer compliment his uncompromising commitment to quality journalism.

Among Mr. Weimer's many admirers is Brent Williams, a graduate of the College and the Director of Development and Community Relations at the University's public TV and radio stations. He describes Mr. Weimer as a man "totally committed to the students."

He speaks fondly of Mr. Weimer's gentle manner in dealing with students struggling to perform to the best of their abilities. He was known to meet with students to encourage them to do better. His uplifting and supportive pep talks helped the students to believe in themselves and excel.

Mr. David Flagg, another graduate of the College who is a former state legislator and now the director of government relations for Shands HealthCare, said Mr. Weimer often talked to students about a reporter's role as "gatekeeper" and impressed upon the students the importance of responsible and unbiased reporting.

Mr. Weimer's newsroom experience often guided him in knowing how to best prepare students for careers in journalism and communications. He emphasized "hands-on" as well as academic preparation for both faculty members and students.

Today, the College's undergraduate and graduate programs provide extensive opportunities for hands-on journalism experience in print, television, radio and in news media.

I've had the pleasure of being interviewed many times by student reporters at the university's radio and television stations and The Independent Florida Alligator. The students work hard, ask pointed questions and produce thorough, accurate and informative stories.

This shows me that the students at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications are getting a first-rate education. They are also providing a valuable community service.

In addition to Mr. Weimer's remarkable contribution, many other people deserve recognition for the College's achievements, including the three deans who came after him and built upon his vision: Dr. John Paul Jones, Jr., Dr. Ralph L. Lowenstein and, currently, Dr. Terry Hynes.

"Celebration 2000" is a tribute to all of them, including the students and faculty members over the last 75 years who have played a role in the College's outstanding growth and climb to national stature.

The University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications consistently ranks among the top 10 journalism schools in the country and students place prominently in a variety of national and regional collegiate journalism competitions.

The list is also getting longer of distinguished alumni.

This year, the College's Alumni of Distinction Awards for 2000 were presented to Dennis Kneale of Forbes magazine; Rene S. "Butch" Meily, vice-president of the public relations firm of Rubenstein Associates; Yvette Miley, executive producer of WTVJ-TV in Miami; W. Richard "Dick" Monroe, vice-presi-

dent for environmental affairs for DARDEN Restaurants (Red Lobster and The Olive Garden); Joan Ryan, a columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle; and Carol A. Sanger, vice president of corporate communications and external affairs for Federated Department Stores, Inc.

These fine men and women represent merely a small sampling of the hundreds of successful graduates from the College who are now leaders in newsrooms and businesses throughout this community, the State of Florida and the entire country. They are all proof that the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications provides students with the skills they need to build successful careers in journalism, public relations, advertising and other professions.

That's the real measure—far and above national rankings and awards—of a college's educational quality. After all, as the University's capital campaign makes clear, "It's performance that Counts."

Many thanks to all of you for making this College among the best in the country and for maintaining a steadfast commitment to educational excellence.

CONGRATULATING MISSIONARY  
GEARLENE (GERRI) LUTTRELL,  
OF SIKESTON, MO ON HER REC-  
OGNITION BY THE DAUGHTERS  
OF SUNSET

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 23, 2000*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 25, 2000, Gearlene (Gerri) Luttrell is being honored by the Sikeston, MO Daughters of Sunset at their 16th Annual Recognition Program. I would like to extend my congratulations to Gerri who is being recognized on this day for her community involvement.

Gerri is the daughter of Mattie Riggs and the late Hershel Riggs, Sr. and is a long time resident of Sikeston, MO. Gerri is the mother of four children, D'Ann, Delisa, Cheryl and Derek. She attended O'Brannon High School in New Madrid, MO and Richland High School in Gray Ridge, MO where she graduated in 1962. Gerri went on to graduate from the Licensed Practical School of Nursing in Sikeston, MO in 1964 and was employed with Missouri Delta Medical Center for over 20 years. Gerri retired from the Delta Medical Center this past December.

Gerri is a member of Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church, pastored by Minister Sylvester Morgan. She is a member of the adult choir and holds the position of minister of music. In March 1999, Gerri accepted her call into the Preaching and Teaching Ministry. Gerri is also a member of the Daughters of Sunset and is the vice president and minister of music for Mission Missouri Organization.

Congratulations, Gerri, on your recognition by the Daughters of Sunset. Your lifelong dedication to the health of your community and to the ministry in Sikeston, MO is an inspiration to us all.