

Title 9 in this Chamber to enable our young girls to see opportunities that they had not seen before in the fields of sports and other areas of education. We have such a leader as the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) with us today, who is helping to groom the younger Members who are coming in and helping them to learn the process of this august body.

As we recognize Women's History Month, it is the leaders such as the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and others who have distinguished themselves in this body.

Mr. Speaker, I last evening spoke to a group of women veterans in celebration of this particular week dedicated to women veterans. We find that women have increased in our armed services from about 7 percent to 14 percent. They are now not only just the nurses in our armed forces, but they serve now and are really flying fighter planes in Afghanistan and other parts of the world, as we know, and see hot spots throughout the world. Certainly women have positioned themselves on the front lines of these very hot spots.

Women have positioned themselves in high tech, in viewing tomorrow's era, in viewing tomorrow's world, where young women will become scientists and biologists. And so today I am happy to recognize Women's History Month and to advance the leadership of women throughout the globe and to even put a spotlight on the women of this House, those who have been leaders for all of us.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand here in support of Women's History Month and Resolution 371. Before 1970, women's history was rarely the subject of serious study. Since then, however, this field has undergone a metamorphosis. Today, almost every college offers women's history courses and most major graduate programs offer doctoral degrees in the field.

It is no secret that the representation of women and men in government is not equal, but it is also worth noting that this Congress has the most females ever serving in the history of the United States. The strides women have made into public service, holding leadership positions on all levels of government, is something we should recognize and celebrate.

I would like to take a moment and recognize some remarkable women from West Virginia: Phyllis Curtain, a remarkable opera star; Pearl S. Buck, a fantastic author; Mattie Lee, a woman who created a home for women, where they could live and work early in the 1920s and 1930s in our country; Karen LaRoe, President of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology; Bertie Cohen, a community volunteer; and Henrietta Marquis, a physician in Charleston, West Virginia, who recently passed away, who practiced into her 90s. These women, all

West Virginians, all different, were pioneers of their time.

We know that democracy needs all genders, races, religions and ethnicities to participate in order to provide proper representation. As a mother and a wife, I think I bring a different perspective to the debate over issues than a husband or father would. Neither one is more right than the other, just different. The plurality of these different people working together as one government can better serve West Virginia and the rest of America.

I stand here today to celebrate all of the bold actions and wonderful achievements of the women who have gone before me. I ask my colleagues to stand up as we celebrate Women's History Month and work to broaden our perceptions to include all of those who normally could be excluded, especially in giving our sisters and daughters an opportunity to serve their communities, their States and their country.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we ask this House to recognize Women's History Month, I think it is important to know how this whole project began.

In 1970 women's history was a very fledgling idea. It was started by the Education Task Force of Sonoma County, California. A Commission on the Status of Women was initiated and they put together a Women's History Week for that county. Our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), told me early on of her participation in establishing and recognizing this week. There were many projects that people participated in.

Finally, in 1979, the director of the Sonoma County Commission established a Women's History Institute, and from there it grew and grew until March of 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued a Presidential message to the American people encouraging the recognition and celebration of women's history all throughout America. And so, from that point of March 1980, the recognition of women's history week at that time was part of the national agenda.

The Senators on the other side co-sponsored a joint resolution and in March 8, 1981, the first national Women's History Week was established. This has provided for the establishment of many clearinghouses. All across the country, schools have also adopted it as a project, and women within local communities have been recognized for the outstanding work that they have performed not only for their community but for the State.

In 1987, at the request of national women's organizations, museums, libraries and other leaders in this country, the national Women's History Project was formed, and Congress was petitioned to expand the national celebration to an entire month. So, since

1987, this has been a great event for women to celebrate.

So I am very pleased on behalf of our colleagues to join in this request to have the House unanimously endorse the designation of March as National Women's History Month for the year 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) for her wonderful statement and also for the pioneering ways that you did that allowed me to come and be elected this very first time to my first term in Congress. I thank the gentlewoman for her contributions, and I thank her in joining me in celebrating March as Women's History Month.

I urge all of the Members to support this resolution and to reflect upon our democracy. This special month creates an opportunity for all of us to remember the women who have played a critical role in the life of our great country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 371.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my special order today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.