

hand, others need extensive drug and alcohol treatments, or basic education, before they are able to hold down a job.

This combination of basic rehabilitative services to the most needy, and more education and job training activities for others, has proved a great success.

Unfortunately, Oregon's federal welfare waiver expires this year. If Oregon is forced to change its program to fit the guidelines laid out in the recently passed TANF reauthorization bill (H.R. 4), the result will be high cost and great disruption to a program that has been heralded as a success.

This simply does not make common sense. The legislation I am introducing today would extend existing, or recently expired, welfare waivers through fiscal year 2008.

Successful states, like Oregon, should be allowed the ability to continue their federal waivers, for as long as they have successful programs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
THOMASVILLE BULLDOGS!

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Thomasville High School Bulldogs have long been known for their winning football tradition, but with the dawning of the 21st Century, the Bulldogs are distinguishing themselves as a force on the basketball court as well. On March 15, 2003, both the men's and women's basketball teams of Thomasville High School captured the North Carolina state 1A basketball championship.

The Bulldog women's team became the first team in the school's distinguished history to win back-to-back championships after completing an impressive 32-0 season. Congratulations to Head Coach Eric Rader, Assistant Coaches Sara Larrick and Phil Apple, Managers Byron Lattimore, Patrick Jackson, and Andrew Oakley, and each member of the team. Best wishes to Impris Manning (11), Maya Ray (12), Brittany Marsh (14), Lavonnda Harriott (21), Tyronnica Alford (23), Tameka Thomas (32), Kendra Rutledge (34), Shay Harris (40), Charmette Davis (41), Tiffany Carroll (42), Tasha Dallas (50), and Erin Crowder (33). Miss Crowder performed especially well, obtaining MVP honors for the second time.

The Thomasville men's basketball team also performed well, finishing their season with a record of 29-2 before winning the state title. We congratulate Bryan Shore (10), John Benjamin (12), Adam Oakley (20), Cord Thomas (21), Rasheid Brock (22), Junior Thome (23), A.J. Banks (30), Roy Peake (32), Alan Jeffries (33), Josh Sweitzer (34), Jeremy Mills (42), Terranza Stephenson (44), Patrick Henderson (50), and Brandon Setzer (51). Mr. Setzer obtained MVP honors for the men's team. Athletic Director/Head Coach Woody Honeycutt and Assistant Coach Lacardo Means also deserve congratulations for their leadership in coaching this team to victory.

The Sixth District would like to extend its congratulations to the Principal, Dr. Mike Allred, the students, faculty, and families at Thomasville High School. Best of luck to the Bulldogs for another successful season next year.

SALUTE TO GREEK
INDEPENDENCE

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following statement onto the floor in support of celebrating March 25, 2003, as Greek Independence Day. The ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people. The Founding Fathers of the United States drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy.

Greece is 1 of only 3 nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in the twentieth century. Greece played a major role in the World War II struggle to protect freedom and democracy through such bravery as was shown in the historic Battle of Crete and in Greece presenting the Axis land war with its first major setback, which set off a chain of events that significantly affected the outcome of World War II.

Greece and the United States are at the forefront of the effort for freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights. Those and other ideals have forged a close bond between our 2 nations and their peoples.

March 25, 2003, marks the 182nd anniversary of the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire and it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our 2 great nations were born.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT AND AP-
PRECIATION FOR THE PRESI-
DENT AND MEMBERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES PARTICIPATING
IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 20, 2003

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, tonight the invasion of Iraq has begun. Overwhelmingly, it is the men and women of the American military who are carrying out this operation. That's why, although nobody can predict the twists and turns this war will take, I have no doubt that our troops will ultimately prevail. They are the best trained, equipped, and motivated soldiers the world has ever seen. They make us proud even in peacetime. And they will do so again in this conflict.

So it is right that the U.S. Congress should come together to express the Nation's respect and gratitude. And this resolution is a good first step. But it is only a beginning. We must follow up these flattering words with concrete measures of support for our troops, and for those veterans who served before them.

Let me be clear: I oppose this war. I voted against the Congressional authorization to use military force. I would prefer that our fellow citizens in the military were not risking their

lives in this invasion tonight. But now that it is underway, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the U.S. armed forces have our full and sustained support.

Within the Congress and across our Nation, we still have profound disagreements over the rationale for this pre-emptive strike. For my part, as a member of the International Relations Committee, I have been thoroughly dismayed at the handling of the buildup to this war. I believe it is particularly misleading to argue that this assault is part of the fully justified and necessary response to the savagery of al Qaeda. I strongly object to language in this resolution that does exactly that.

This is not to say that I oppose liberating the Iraqi people or ending the brutality of the Iraqi regime. Saddam Hussein is a ruthless dictator who has visited unspeakable horror on Iraqis and their neighbors. And I find myself concurring with those in the Administration who believe that this could be exactly the kind of radical strategy that could shock the Middle East into real change. But the way that the Administration so thoroughly assaulted the structures of world order in its rush to war could make our coming victory in Iraq a Pyrrhic one.

The White House attitude has isolated our nation from the rest of the world more thoroughly than at any time in recent history. It has alienated some of our closest allies, seriously damaged the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and potentially undermined the international order that the United States worked so hard to establish after World War II.

Either the Administration does not realize, or else it refuses to accept, that we need that international order. It is precisely because of this global cooperation that we have been so successful in the war against al Qaeda. Since for the most part, that is not a war in the traditional sense. It is one waged in the shadows, through intelligence agencies, special forces operations, and old-fashioned police work. Due to the sheer obscenity of the September 11 attacks, and the threat to the international order that this organization represents, most of the world welcomed the chance to assist us in fighting al Qaeda. And the help of many nations—yes, even that of France—has made a great contribution to our efforts against the terrorists.

But the Administration's belligerent swagger into war with Iraq has squandered that goodwill. Its ever-changing rationales for this action—particularly its assertion of direct links between Saddam and al Qaeda, which our own CIA refuses to corroborate—have undermined our credibility. Its refusal to estimate the cost of the invasion and subsequent occupation has stripped the budget resolution the House considered tonight of any connection to reality. Its abandonment of our veterans calls into question our long-term commitment to our serving military. Its penchant for secrecy and intolerance for dissent feeds conspiracy theories about our true intentions. And its assumption that might makes right sends a terrifying signal to a world that only recently had begun to embrace the traditional American view that legitimacy is derived from democracy and the rule of law. Although I am certain that our military will win the war in Iraq, I am greatly concerned that the Administration will lose the peace.

Time will only tell who is right. Many in this chamber will continue to have great differences with the Administration on this policy. But there is one thing on which I agree wholeheartedly with the President: our men and women in uniform deserve our deepest respect and appreciation. These American citizens are willing to die so that we may live; to risk life and limb for the sake of our national security. And they will do their job effectively, honorably, and without unnecessary partisan rancor. I call on my colleagues, and all Americans, to acknowledge their sacrifices by living up to the ideals for which they are fighting.

RECOGNIZING JASON GUTHERY AS
WINNER OF THE COTILLION FOR
ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jason Guthery, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership. He has been honored with the Award of Distinction as winner of the Cotillion for Achievement scholarship program.

The Cotillion for Achievement award was established in 1986 and is presented annually. Two winners, one male, one female, are selected from public and private school seniors attending school in Andrew and Buchanan County, Missouri. Students are evaluated on four criteria; scholastic achievement, extracurricular activities, community involvement and an essay written by the student. This prestigious award has been extended to Jason.

Jason has established himself as a well-rounded student. He is involved in numerous activities, including Student Council president, yearbook editor, newspaper editor, Spirit team, baseball captain, football captain, LaFayette overnight experience, Peers Always Listen, blood mobile, Youth Forum facilitator, Lindbergh Christmas volunteer, Young Life junior leader, and a junior counselor of the Missouri Association of Student Councils. Additionally, he has been honored for his achievements with such awards and distinctions as the Students Owning Academic Responsibility academic pin winner and academic letter winner.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jason Guthery for his many achievements and in wishing him the best of luck in his future.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF PAT LOOMES' TENURE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GIRLS INC. OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Loomes, Executive Director of Girls Incorporated of Alameda County. Pat has selflessly dedicated her life to inspiring girls to be strong, smart and bold.

Pat grew up in Ireland and immigrated to the United States with education and activism as her primary goals. After earning a graduate degree she began working at the Berkeley Women's Center in the early 1970s. There she identified the immense need for preventive measures for women who had suffered life-long abuse and low self-esteem, and who possessed very few skills that could translate into employment or self-improvement.

It was at this time that Pat accepted the position as Executive Director at a small organization for girls with the passion and foresight that produced the thriving social service agency that Girls Inc. of Alameda County is today.

For the past 25 years, Pat has been instrumental in the financial growth of the organization. Under her direction, operations grew to over \$3 million, and today the organization serves thousands of girls. Girls Inc. has expanded from a small tutoring and recreational club to offering girls more than 10 acclaimed programs ranging from science, math and technology enrichment to leadership and fitness as well as comprehensive mental health services.

During her tenure as Executive Director of Girls Inc., Pat has been ahead of her time in confronting girls' most sensitive needs with conviction and grace. In 1989, when funding cuts discontinued a local program for pregnant teens and teen parents, Girls Inc. began to support services for this population. Pat also oversaw the implementation of the award-winning national program, Preventing Adolescent Pregnancy. Since that time, Girls Inc.'s health and sexuality programming has expanded to include services to school-age mothers, pregnant and parenting girls involved in the juvenile justice system, as well as providing reproductive health education in schools from Berkeley to Union City.

Pat's hard work and devotion have not gone unrecognized. In 1986 and again in 2000, the United Way awarded Pat the Seaton Manning Outstanding Professional Award for her "visionary leadership and tireless advocacy for girls." The Wells Fargo Foundation and the Management Center of San Francisco also honored her with the 2001 Navigator Award for Model Leadership.

Pat served as a member of the National Girls Incorporated Board of Directors for 13 years. In 1995 she delivered a seminar on math and science for girls at the International Women's Conference in Beijing, China. Her advocacy skills were well utilized in these arenas of national and international policymaking.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Pat Loomes in commending her 25 years of tireless commitment to empowering girls. Pat has made it a personal and professional mission to strike a balance between her ideology and direct service to her community. She has been not only the driving force behind the success of Girls Incorporated of Alameda County for 25 years, but a crucial advocate for girls around the globe as well.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the 182nd anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

Greek Independence Day is a celebration of freedom and democratic self-governance. Classical Greece was the birthplace of democracy. Athen's era of liberty and self-governance inspired many of our Founding Fathers, particularly Thomas Jefferson as the author of the Declaration of Independence. Freedom movements throughout history have been inspired by classical Greece.

The 400 year foreign occupation of Greece by the repressive Ottoman Empire cast a pall over the proponents of democratic self-governance. The Greeks captured the world's imagination again when they began their fight for freedom from the Ottoman Empire in 1821. The Greeks won their independence and renewed the worldwide movement towards self-governance.

I am proud to represent one of the longest sustained communities of Americans of Greek descent. The first Greek came to Lowell in the mid-19th century. By the 1890s Greek immigrants began moving to Lowell to work in its mills. They opened Greek Orthodox churches, developed small businesses, organized social institutions, and helped build the city of Lowell.

The Greek families thrived and grew and Lowell became a major destination point for Greek immigration. In fact, Lowell was called the "Acropolis of America." Thousands of Greek families throughout the United States can trace their roots back to Lowell.

The Hellenic community of Lowell remains vibrant and engaged. For example, last month I held a community forum on the Cyprus dispute. The unlawful division of Cyprus has been a major foreign policy dilemma for N.A.T.O. and the State Department. This winter, a new United Nations plan and popular support on both sides of Cyprus for a settlement fostered intensive negotiations.

Because of the importance of this issue, I held a forum on the Cyprus negotiations. I'm often told that people do not care about international affairs until after a dispute has become an international crisis. This was proven wrong by the demonstrated interest of the Hellenic community in the Cyprus negotiations.

Those in attendance at the Cyprus forum belonged to such institutions as: Hellenic Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church, Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, St. George's Greek Orthodox Church, the Federation of Hellenic-American Societies of New England, Greek American Legion Post #1, the Mani Society, the Pan-Macedonian Association, the Pan-Laonian Federation, the Order of A.H.E.P.A., the Euorkos Society, the Sons and Daughters of Kastrakini, and the Pan-Messinian Federation, among other institutions.

The latest negotiations failed largely because the northern Cyprus obstructionist leader Rauf Denktash prevented the plan from being sent to the Turkish Cypriots for a referendum. This latest travesty by Mr. Denktash will only fuel the increasing distant between himself and the new, pro-settlement government of Turkey.

While frustrating to all, the negotiations went further than any prior negotiations. It is the continued interest and work of the Hellenic community that will raise awareness about Cyprus. I can think of no better living tribute to Greek Independence Day.