

## GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 2004*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 183 years of the Greek people's freedom and independence, and their noble revolution from the Ottoman Empire in March of 1821. As Greeks and Greek-Americans celebrate Greek Independence Day, I join them and my colleagues in recognizing this great nation.

Nearly 400 years ago, the Greek people embarked on a powerful revolution against the Ottoman oppressors. The ancient Greeks forged a mighty wave of democracy and freedom following the fall of Constantinople, culminating with Bishop Germanos of Patras raising the Greek flag at Agia Lavras.

Today, 183 years after Greece's successful and bold revolution, she continues to prove herself a loyal ally of the United States, while standing firm in her advocacy of democracy and freedom. Greece is one of only three nations in the world beyond those of the former British Empire to be allied with the United States in every major conflict of the 20th Century. The United States is fortunate to have such a longstanding and reliable ally.

As we continue to eradicate the global threat of terror, Greece again stands firm with the United States. Our efforts in the war against terror would not be as successful without the continued assistance from our allies in Greece.

I join my colleagues in saluting and thanking the Greek people on this 183rd year of freedom and independence. To Greece, our free and democratic ally: "Cronia polla hellas".

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2004, I was in my congressional district due to a death in my family. I missed the recorded votes on rollcall No. 94, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2584, the Utrok Atoll Conveyance; rollcall No. 95, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3723, the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 94 and "yea" on rollcall No. 95.

## RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANSING CIVIC PLAYERS

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the Lansing Civic Players, a community theater in Lansing, Michigan, as 2004 marks their 75th year of continuous operation.

After three-quarters of a century enduring trials and tribulations, the Lansing Civic Players still continues to achieve the goal they set out for: To provide the people in the Lansing area with good community theatre.

In the fall of 1929, two amateur theater productions were established in the Lansing area: The Players Guild, started by Elva Schell and the Civic Theatre, created by August Fischer. In October 1929, the two groups decided to join resources, and the Lansing Civic Players Guild was born.

The first years were a struggle for the group. The members of the Lansing Civic Players Guild performed all necessary functions. They were the actors, the ticket salesmen, and the set builders. They did it all. They had very little money, but they had a determination to bring quality theater to the Lansing area. The group began work on their first play, "The Trial of Mary Duggan." It was at this time the royalties for the show were pulled, and the Lansing Civic Players Guild was left without a play. But as they say in show business, the show must go on. The group rushed to find a new production, and on May 24, 1930, they performed "Captain AppleJack." This performance had over 1,000 people in attendance, including the Governor of the State of Michigan, and is still a record setting attendance to this day for the theater.

Today, the group operates their business, the building, rehearsals, and costume shop out of a fire hall which they acquired in June, 1977. The Lansing Civic Players have performed at three area high schools since inception, and currently perform at the Hannah Community Center. They have received awards for longevity from the Community Theater Association of Michigan as well as the Lansing City Council.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th anniversary of the Lansing Civic Players and the impact they have made on mid-Michigan.

## COMMENDING SAS INSTITUTE OF CARY, NC, FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a milestone for SAS Institute, a home-grown North Carolina software company with roots in our State's fine university system. Since 1976, SAS has been a leading employer, both in our state and around the world, as exhibited by its ranking in Fortune magazine's annual "100 Best Companies to Work For" list year after year. And SAS' \$1.34 billion in revenues make it the world's largest privately held software company and the leading business intelligence software company. Today, SAS announces the release of SAS®9, its most advanced business intelligence software ever. SAS®9 helps businesses and organizations worldwide turn raw data into better, faster and more accurate business decisions. Congratulations to SAS, a great North Carolina company that serves the world.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 29, 2004, I was unable to vote on H.R. 2584, to provide for the conveyance to the Utrok Atoll local government of a decommissioned National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship (rollcall 94) and H.R. 3723, the Vaughn Gross Post Office Building Designation Act (rollcall 95). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both measures.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GENE TAYLOR**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on March 29, 2004, I was unavoidably detained because my departure flight from my congressional district was delayed as a result of mechanical problems. This situation resulted in my having missed rollcall votes 94 and 95. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 94 and "yea" on rollcall vote No. 95.

## TRIBUTE TO RAY MEYER

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Ray Meyer for his selfless dedication to his Delta, Colorado community, and congratulate him on being recognized by the Delta Chamber of Commerce as their Citizen of the Year. A lifelong resident of Delta and a member of the Delta City Council, Ray has involved himself with numerous civic organizations. This award is a well-deserved testament to his ongoing efforts to better his community.

Born in Delta and raised in his father's grocery store, Ray has always been an active member in the community. The time Ray spent away from Delta was just as active, attending college at the University of Denver and serving our country in the Navy during World War II. Once he came home from defending our country in the Asian-Pacific Theatre, Ray joined his father's grocery business. In 1958, he became manager of Delta Savings and Loan, and served as CEO and chairman until his retirement in 1985.

Ray has served his Delta community as a member of the city council for 14 years, sitting as chairman and on numerous committees, including region 10. He is also an active member at St. Michael's Catholic Church, a member and past president of the Lions Club, and a former president of the Rotary Club and Delta chamber. He serves on the library board and the public arts committee, and is a member of the Community Concert Association.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize Ray Meyer before this body of Congress and

this nation today for his commitment to his Delta, Colorado community. He has done much for the city of Delta, and I congratulate him on receiving the Delta Chamber Citizen of the Year award. I would also like to congratulate Ray and his wife Jo as they recently celebrated their sixty-fifth wedding anniversary. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday March 29, 2004.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I not been unavoidably detained, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No., 94—Motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments to H.R. 2584; and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 95—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 3723.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 29, 2004, I missed rollcall votes No. 94 and 95.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 94 and 95.

COMMENDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTIES, INC. ON THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commend Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. on their 40th anniversary. Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes family planning and healthy, responsible reproductive and sexual behavior through the provision of high-quality, comprehensive educational, counseling, medical and referral services.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding, acceptance and support for reproductive choice and family planning services. They provide these important services to everyone who needs them, regardless of their ability to pay.

Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. promotes public understanding of global problems that stem from population pressures and encourages support of programs working toward solutions to these problems. More than 52,000 reproductive health care visits are provided

annually to more than 20,000 low-income women, men and teens. Planned Parenthood should be commended for their outreach to underserved populations and for their provision of care in an unbiased and accepting environment.

The advocacy efforts on behalf of clients that Planned Parenthood provides, ensures that women and families continue to have access to the full array of reproductive health care services. I celebrate Planned Parenthood's forty years of dedicated service to this community.

Professional and peer educators provide sexuality education to promote healthy sexual attitudes and responsible sexual behavior to more than 66,000 teens, young adults and parents annually. As a nurse I understand firsthand the importance of proper health education. I commend Planned Parenthood for providing such a critical service.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for Planned Parenthood, as we join in commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara, Ventura & San Luis Obispo Counties, Inc. in order to focus public attention on the importance of promoting family planning and responsible choices so that each person may make an educated choice about the future.

HONORING LAURIE MARRS UPON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Laurie Marrs upon her retirement after 20 years of service as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce.

Due to her leadership in the business community, the Northville Chamber of Commerce has become one of the premier business associations in the State of Michigan. From 1985 to today, Laurie Marrs has increased membership from 100 to 525 members, founded and served as chairperson for the Northville Victorian Festival, increased the number of Farmer's Market vendors from 6 to 100, instituted the annual State of the Community luncheon and founded the Northville Business Showcase.

Her husband, Terry, and daughters, Kelly and Andrea, should be extremely proud of the undeniable mark she has left on the community. We at home will sorely miss and always benefit from her dedication and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere appreciation to Ms. Laurie Marrs, upon her retirement after 20 years as Executive Director of the Northville Chamber of Commerce, for her fine service to the community.

TRIBUTE TO LON ERWIN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lon Erwin for his remarkable record of service to

the community of Durango, Colorado. I would also like to congratulate him on receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award from the Durango Chamber of Commerce which was presented by his wife, Sidney Zink, a Durango City Councilor. This award, honors an individual who is associated with the Leadership La Plata program and is dedicated to building a stronger community by bringing people together.

Since his graduation from the Leadership La Plata program in 1990, Lon has been active in numerous initiatives and organizations. He serves as president of the local chapter of Civitan International, serves as board president of the Southwest Colorado chapter of the Red Cross, and is the executive director of the Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado. Erwin is also the volunteer coordinator for Durango Food Share, which distributes food to those in need in Durango, Cortez, Pagosa Springs, and Aztec, Colorado. Not only is he willing to give his time to worthy causes, but he had the foresight to establish leadership classes for high school students in Durango, Cortez, Bayfield, and Ignacio, ensuring that the next generation has the tools to lead and strengthen the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Lon Erwin before this body of Congress and this nation. His efforts to strengthen his community are truly remarkable, and his receiving the 2004 Barbara Conrad Award is a well-deserved testament to his tireless efforts. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future efforts.

SAVE THE SUMMERS ACT OF 2004

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 30, 2004*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Save the Summers Act of 2004, which will temporarily increase the cap on the number of skilled overseas workers allowed into the United States. For the first time and without advance warning, the Department of Homeland Security announced that the cap of 66,000 H-2B visas had been reached just six months into the current year—leaving summer employers stranded. This one-year emergency fix will increase the number of H-2B visas by 40,000 for fiscal year 2004 only. This bill will also require that the Department of Homeland Security provide Congress with quarterly reports on the number of H-2B visas issued and an annual report providing a statistical analysis of the program.

The H-2B visa program allows foreign workers to come to the U.S. for short periods of time (up to 10 months) to fill seasonal or temporary jobs. The fishing industry in Alaska, tourist and resort industry along much of the East Coast, the Upper Midwest, and the Rockies, swimming pool management companies across America, catfish, timber and sugar industries in Louisiana, crab processors in North Carolina, and the shrimp industry in Texas are just a few that depend on the H2-B program to bring in needed workers.

Fishing in Alaska supports nearly 20,000 jobs, and is estimated to be a billion dollar-a-year industry with nearly 700 million dollars-a-