

partnered with the National Park Service to create a one-on-one mentoring program. MCC also provides young people with summer jobs through a combination of outdoor education, community service and recreational activities through its Project ReGeneration.

Under the leadership of Marilee Eckert since 1992, the nonprofit has grown to provide year-round employment to 116 people, operating under a budget of more than \$5 million and helping more than 3,000 young men and women gain job skills along with an education. Marilee also holds leadership roles in many local and national organizations. Her efforts have earned her recognition and awards from the county and the Sierra Club, as well as the gratitude of the many corps members who have benefited from her hard work.

Many of those who have benefited come from under-served populations. One such corpsman is Matthew Rainey, a 21-year-old convicted felon. "I didn't have an opportunity to work anywhere else," he says. "Honestly, I was living in my car, didn't have anything going for myself, but every single day, I would come to work."

Because of MCC, Rainey has earned his GED, saved enough to rent an apartment, and is considering following the trade he learned through his work at MCC.

"He has so totally blossomed," notes Deborah Schoenbaum, MCC's deputy director. "He has won just about every award you can get in the corps. It's been a life-changing experience for him."

Working at MCC has been a life-changing experience for many others, as well. An average of 300 young people go through the various MCC programs each year. In fact, some of MCC's sponsors and greatest supporters were previously in the corps program.

Corpsmembers not only arrive at work at 7 a.m. for a full day of work each day, but must put in 10 hours of education each week, as well. Marvin was one such young man willing to work this hard for a better future. Marvin came to the corps speaking absolutely no English, Schoenbaum remembers. "He now speaks English and has gotten a job with a top landscaping firm because he went through a landscaping program we have with College of Marin."

Such success stories, Madam Speaker, is why the Marin Conservation Corps deserves to be congratulated for its past 25 years of service. May it have an equally successful future.

THE NATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and the Department of Energy (DOE) on the groundbreaking of their Research Support Facility (RSF) on October 30, 2007.

The Research Support Facility will be an important building for the DOE and NREL. The building will house several hundred DOE and NREL staff in over 200,000 usable square feet

without sacrificing high priority special spaces. The building will include shared spaces to assist in optimizing human performance, enhancing creativity and recruiting the workforce of tomorrow.

The RSF is designed to meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "Platinum" rating as defined by the U.S. Green Building Council. The building will be a shining example of sustainable high-performance design. It will demonstrate the integration of high performance design features and practices, showcase technology advances, and capture the public's imagination for renewable and energy efficient technologies.

Investing in and expanding the National Renewable Energy Laboratory is good for national security, good for the climate and good for jobs.

I am honored to have the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the future Research Support Facility in the 7th Congressional District.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to join the Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes in my district and throughout the country in celebrating "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 67th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery. For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

At dawn on October 28, 1940, General Ionnis Metaxas was confronted with an ultimatum. An Italian ambassador delivered a message directly from General Mussolini demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or face war. General Metaxas simply replied "No!" and committed the brave people of Greece to resistance against Axis oppression. With level-headed determination and steadfast resolve, the citizenry of Greece mobilized. Men went calmly to their closets and retrieved their military uniforms and weapons. Women went about their necessary tasks, and the children assisted as they were able.

On OXI Day, the people of Greece chose the harder path, the path of resistance. That brave generation of Hellenes refused to submit to oppression even at the cost of their homes, their land, and their lives. Theirs was an act of self-sacrifice that clearly proclaimed the humanitarian ideals of their Orthodox Christian faith and their ethnic heritage. The Greeks' brave defense of their land was a crucial turning point in the Axis eastern advances. Dogged resistance by Greek patriots weakened Axis morale and derailed the Nazi war effort by delaying the eventual attack on Soviet Union. The Greeks' sacrifice will forever

be remembered and honored by the free nations of the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the heroes of OXI Day. In their brave words and deeds we see all of the highest virtues of Hellenic heritage: passion for justice, courage at a time of trial, unity in the midst of conflict, and willingness to sacrifice one's life for the good of others. On this day, we thank Greece for saying "OXI."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, October 24, 2007, I was not present for rollcall vote 996, final passage of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act. Had I been present for rollcall 996, I would have voted "aye."

REMARKS ON H.R. 1483, CELEBRATING AMERICA'S HERITAGE ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted in favor of H.R. 1483, the Celebrating America's Heritage Act.

I am pleased to support this legislation which creates six new national heritage areas and reauthorizes nine additional heritage areas, including one in my home State of New Jersey.

Since 1988, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, stretching roughly 300 miles from Perth Amboy to Cape May and west along the Delaware Bay to Deepwater, has been successful in encouraging New Jersey residents and visitors alike to explore the State's coastal resources and culture.

For nearly 20 years, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has played a key role in preventing overdevelopment of the Nation's most densely populated State. The trail has helped preserve a wide variety of natural resources and historical landmarks including bird sanctuaries, wildlife refuges and lighthouses. It has helped boost tourism and economic activity and has provided countless visitors with enjoyable and interesting opportunities for recreation.

Whether visiting the Nation's oldest operating lighthouse at Sandy Hook, canoeing on a fresh water creek in Double Trouble State Park, shopping at the 200-year-old fishing village of Belford, or taking in the view from Mount Mitchill, the highest point on the eastern seaboard, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail offers something for everyone to enjoy.

National Heritage Areas provide great opportunities for Americans to experience the history and culture of a particular State or region. My Central New Jersey district is home to the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. This heritage area protects and promotes more than 250 historic

sites. On October 12, 2006, I was proud to see the Crossroads National Heritage Area signed into law by the President. I hope that with the passage of this bill and eventual signature of the President, many of my colleagues will get to experience similar pride with the creation of national heritage areas in their districts for the benefit of their constituents.

Many of these National Heritage Areas do not receive money from the Federal Government alone. The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, for example, receives only a third of its funding from the Federal Government. Our investments in National Heritage Areas are often matched by State and local governments as well as the private sector.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1483 will enable millions of Americans to visit and treasure heritage areas in their home State and across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation.

THE WITHDRAWAL OF MY CO-SPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 106, THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Ms. KILPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I am opposed to genocide whenever and wherever it has occurred in history and I believe that we should never forget any atrocity that occurs anywhere, at any time. While I believe that the incidents that took place in Armenia were wrong and merit acknowledgement, I have decided to withdraw my sponsorship of H.R. 106, the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

Turkey is a strategic partner and one of our few friends in the Middle East. It allows us to use its air force base at Incirlik for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey's leaders have said if this resolution passes, they will withdraw our military access to this base. Because the President has distanced or destroyed our relationships with many countries as a result of the war in Iraq, we should maintain and strengthen our rapport with the few allies we have, particularly in the Middle East.

However, there is a more important and fundamental reason that I have withdrawn my support. I can no longer support any resolution that condemns another country for its actions, while we here in the United States will not address and have not come to terms with the miscarriages of justice, the lack of equality, and the human rights violations that take place against our own citizens.

Our poor, our women, our less educated, our people of color, and others who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised across our great country—lauded as the “land of opportunity”—suffer daily from injustice and inequality. They lack access to affordable health care,

quality education, well-paying jobs, capital, and other items necessary to give them and their families a chance at achieving the American Dream. Most recently, the President chose to veto a bill that would provide access to health care to 10 million children of working class parents. This is simply inexcusable.

In the Bible, John 8:7 reads “let him who is without sin cast the first stone.” Here, in the United States, we are often quick to point out the faults and flaws of other countries, their leaders, and their citizens. However, before we criticize, chastise, and condemn them, we must first challenge our own imperfections, consider our own inadequacies, confront our own issues, and change our own behavior.

There are human rights violations taking place all across the world, from Sudan and Syria, to Bangladesh and Burma, to Nicaragua and Colombia. Simultaneously, there are unresolved human rights challenges here in America that we have not begun to tackle.

I was always taught to take care of home first. I believe that America can and should be a force for change. As a world leader, we not only have the power, but we also have the responsibility, to make a positive difference in the lives of others—here at home and in countries around the world. However, before we point the finger at anyone else, we must take a deeper, closer look at the problems that plague our cities, our communities, and our country and work to change the lives of our citizens for the better.

This resolution, at this time, could undermine the efforts of the United States to prevent the Turkish military from launching an attack inside Iraq; it could create a logistical nightmare for our military women and men in Iraq and Afghanistan. If we have strained relations with Turkey, the largest Muslim ally we have in the Middle East, further damage to the standing of the United States in the Islamic world would be the immediate result.

This is the right bill, but this is the wrong time. America must be what we want to see for the world.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF COOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the citizens of Coosa County, Alabama, who on this Saturday, October 27, will celebrate their county's 175th anniversary.

On December 18, 1832, the Alabama Legislature established Coosa County from lands acquired under the Creek Indian Treaty of Cusseta. The October 24th celebration will take place in the county seat of Rockford,

and will feature organizations from around the county. In addition to a live band and county history lecture, each of the county's cities and towns will present a welcome address.

I am pleased to recognize the citizens of Coosa County today for reaching this important milestone in the history of their county, and in the history of our great State.

RECOGNIZING FAMAGUSTA, CYPRUS AS A GHOST CITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I met with Mr. Alexis Galanos, Mayor of Famagusta, Cyprus to discuss the current situation he and his constituents face every day.

In 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, running residents of Famagusta out of their town and their homes in fear. Since then, Famagustians have been unable to return to their city in the occupied area, and the city itself remains a ghost town.

Prior to the invasion, Famagusta was a bustling tourist destination and an economic dynamo. The hotel and construction industries were booming, the harbor had been widened to further contribute to its economic activity, and the rich and fertile mainland easily supported production of the potato crop.

This all changed with the invasion of Turkish soldiers. Turkish troops drove the people of Famagusta out of their town and sealed it off with barbed wire. This is how the situation remains today, 33 years later. 45,000 residents of Famagusta have become refugees in their own country; they lost their land, their homes, their property, their businesses, their livelihoods, and for some, their lives. Since the Turkish invasion, churches, cathedrals, monasteries, and the cultural heritage have been subject to looting, vandalism, destruction, and theft.

In 2003, partial lifting of movement restrictions by the occupying regime allowed some displaced Greek Cypriots to visit their old homes, but they are still denied the right to return to where they were born and raised. Property that was once in the hands of Greek Cypriots has been unlawfully distributed to illegal settlers from Turkey, and unprecedented illegal construction is taking place on land that technically belongs to Greek Cypriots.

The former residents of Famagusta worked very hard to make a living. Families spent decades paving the way for the well-being of future generations, but they were forced to start over from square one.

The people of Famagusta, like other Greek Cypriot refugees, have a burning desire, and a right, to return to their homes. I am pleased that Mayor Galanos was able to visit Washington to share the story of Famagusta, Europe's Ghost Town.