

RECOGNIZING GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY ON MARCH 25

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 191st anniversary of the independence of Greece. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, it gives me great pride to draw attention to our nation's strong Hellenic heritage and celebrate Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. Against overwhelmingly difficult odds, the Greeks arose victorious. The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

The United States and Greece have enjoyed a long history of friendship since the early days of Greek independence. Today, we are close partners and allies. We share democratic ideals and common values, many of which were inspired by ancient Greek civilization. In fact, our republic is based on ideas about self-government set forth and practiced in Athens over 2,500 years ago.

Over time, many Greek citizens chose to bring their families to the United States, often to New York and surrounding areas, including Connecticut. They became proud American citizens, but preserved their history and culture to pass on to future generations.

I am proud to represent the thousands of Greek-Americans who live in northwest Connecticut. Their vibrant culture and important contributions have enriched our towns and cities throughout the state. I count many Greek-Americans as friends, and am pleased to join them in celebrating this important day. Zeto E Eleftheria!

HONORING MAJOR NENG LO

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life and service of the late Major Neng Lo. Major Lo's life was dedicated to his service in the United States Secret Army during the Vietnam War.

Neng Lo was born April 1, 1946, in Ban Houi Kinning, located in the Houi Kinning District of Muang Khoun in the Xieng Khouang Province of the Kingdom of Laos. He attended Muang Khoun Elementary School. While in the fifth grade, he was recruited to train and serve in the United States Secret Army. After completion of training, Neng Lo was incorporated into the Auto Defense Community stationed at Lima Site 15.

In 1964, at the age of 18, he was selected to transfer to the 2nd Company Infantry, 203rd Battalion, Special Guerrilla Units. This unit was a mobile unit that moved around the Plains of Jars to ambush and counter attack North Vietnamese Army, NVA, troops that oc-

cupied the areas. In 1966, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and became the Commander of the 3rd Company, 203rd Battalion. In January 1967, Neng Lo's unit was sent to Na Khang at Lima Site 36 in the Sam Neua Province. His assignment on this mission was to capture Muang Heim, which had been invaded by the North Vietnamese.

In late March of 1968, Neng Lo was promoted to Lieutenant and joined Group Mobiles 21 counter attack on Phou Pha Thi, the mountain where United States radar systems were installed to guide U.S. airstrikes over North Vietnam. Phou Pha Thi had been captured by the NVA. During several unsuccessful attempts to recapture the site, Neng Lo's unit lost most of its members.

In December 1969, Neng Lo was promoted to Captain and was appointed Commander of the 203rd Battalion, Special Guerilla Units of the 21st Mobile Group of the United States Secret Army. During this assignment, La's Unit was ordered to control the Long Matt Ridge located south of the Plains of Jars. This was a springboard mission to capture the Plains of Jars from the NVA. His mission was to attack the North Vietnamese front line directly so other units could penetrate the NVA line to attack its reinforcement units and supplies.

In November 1970, Captain Lo heliported to Khang Kai Lima Site 4 to capture a strategic position. In December 1970, the NVA attacked Khang Kai with Russian armored tanks and 130 mm mortars, capturing the site. Lo was killed in action. In February 1971, the 201st Battalion recaptured Khan Kai Lima Site 4, but Captain Lo's body was never found.

After his death, Neng Lo was promoted to the rank of Major. Major Lo was married to Mrs. Pang Thao. The couple has two daughters: Mee Lo and Mao Lo. Neng Lo's family resides in Fresno, California.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in posthumously honoring Major Neng Lo for his heroic service to the United States of America, and extending deepest condolences to his family. His legacy serves as an example of excellence, and his contributions to our country will not be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF  
RODNEY A. ANDERSON

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a noted professor at California State University, Fresno (Fresno State) who passed away on March 7, 2012. Dr. Anderson served as a political science professor and mentor for hundreds of students. He characterized the best of what our nation's education system has to offer—he was wise, kind, and worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were successful.

Dr. Anderson grew up on his family's farm where he learned the value of hard work. Dr. Anderson attended Geneva High School, where he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America and excelled in extemporaneous speaking competitions. Upon graduating from high school in 1984, Dr. Anderson pursued a bachelor's degree at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. After graduating with

high honors, he earned his master's and doctoral degrees in political science at the Ohio State University.

In 1996, Dr. Anderson joined the Fresno State Political Science Department and worked there until his passing. Throughout his career, he taught 200 students in five classes every semester. American politics, statistics, political behavior, and comparative politics were among the subjects Dr. Anderson taught.

Many of Dr. Anderson's students have gone on to graduate school or rewarding careers as attorneys, teachers, staff members for the California State Legislature and the United States Congress, or consultants. Henry Adams famously said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." As an alumnus of the Political Science Department at Fresno State, I know firsthand the importance of a dedicated teacher who serves as an academic guide, moral paradigm, and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life and service of Dr. Rodney A. Anderson, a principled man and treasured member of the Fresno State community. Dr. Anderson's life was not only filled with personal milestones, but his dedication to his work and students was admirable.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,585,576,040,333.70. We've added \$4,958,698,991,420.62 to our debt in 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCING THE REPUBLIC OF  
GEORGIA DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2012

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Republic of Georgia Democracy Act of 2012. This bill sheds light into the deteriorating political situation in the Republic of Georgia and makes clear to the Georgian Government that maintaining democratic institutions and regular free, fair and competitive elections are key priorities for a strong relationship between our two countries.

This bill will help to reverse the suppression that has been intensifying by showing the Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili the cost of these anti-democratic actions. I know Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle share my growing concern over the violent suppression of parties, nongovernmental organizations and workers in Georgia. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and stand up for democracy in Georgia.

SAINTE MARIE 175TH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Sainte Marie, Illinois, upon its 175th anniversary.

Sainte Marie was founded in 1837 by immigrants from eastern France. They were a group of several related families, who, fearful of outside influences on the Church, decided to establish a colony in America, where they might practice their religion as they saw fit. To this end, they elected to send one of their children, Joseph Picquet, to find a suitable place for their settlement. At the time, Picquet was only 19 years old, but he was wise beyond his years.

After arriving in America in 1835, Picquet lived briefly in Philadelphia, learning the language and local customs. He then spent most of 1836 exploring America and her vast wilderness. After extensive travel, he settled on a location for the colony in southern Illinois on the Embarras River, not far from Vincennes, Indiana. He chose the site for its untapped resources and the strong French presence in the area.

Having found the site for the colony, Picquet then returned home to collect his family, and in June of 1837, Picquet and 24 of his relatives arrived in what would become the village of Sainte Marie. While preparing their settlement, they stayed on a nearby farm, and their construction efforts were blessed by Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the first priest to be ordained in the United States.

On October 28, 1837, Picquet and the other settlers took possession of the land, which they dedicated to the Virgin Mary. They called it a *Colonie des Frères*, since they were all related by either blood or marriage. Largely due to Picquet's efforts, the colony quickly grew and became a cultural center for the region. It soon had such facilities as a saw mill, a post office, a church, a free school, and even a railroad station. The settlement was renamed Sainte Marie, retaining the spelling of their French heritage, and in 1865 Sainte Marie was officially chartered by the State of Illinois.

Today Sainte Marie remains a charming rural community which teaches strong morals and family values. Its citizens are proud of their town and its history, as well as the many businessmen and professionals it has produced. This summer the people of Sainte Marie will honor the town's history and its citizens with its Quartoseptcentennial Celebration. In recognition of this momentous occasion, I ask my fellow members of this House to join with me as I wish them success in their upcoming festivities and in the years to come.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Women's History Month, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Girls Scouts of America was founded in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. Savannah native Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low started a regular meeting for local girls to provide them with the opportunity to achieve great physical, intellectual, and spiritual success.

For 100 years, Girl Scout chapters across the United States have helped millions of girls grow into women of courage, confidence, and character. Girl Scouts of America has several award-winning programs that encourage girls to discover themselves and their values, connect with their communities, and take action to make the world a better place. Traditions such as the Girl Scout Gold Award challenge girls to make a measurable and sustainable difference in their community by assessing needs, designing solutions, and organizing resources to sustain the project.

The impact of Girl Scouts of America programs is not limited to our local communities. Specialized learning programs centered on science, technology, engineering, and math increase the education of young women in these important fields. The Girl Scout Research Institute performs research that provides significant insight into the lives of today's girls and young women.

Today, more than 50 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae, and 3.3 million girls and volunteers are active members in Girl Scouts of America. In the Central Valley of California, over 12,000 girls ranging in age from kindergarten to high school are Girl Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in applauding the Girl Scouts of the United States of America for 100 years of leadership in the lives of girls and young women and congratulating the organization on its centennial celebration.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 19, Tuesday, March 20, Wednesday, March 21, and Thursday, March 22, 2012, I was unavoidably detained for personal reasons, and missed a series of recorded votes. The votes included, H.R. 3992, to allow otherwise eligible Israeli nationals to receive E-2 nonimmigrant visas if similarly situated United States nationals are eligible for similar nonimmigrant status in Israel; H.R. 2087, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land situated in the Atlantic District, Accomack County, Virginia; H.R. 5, to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system, among others.

If present, I would have recorded my votes as follows: on March 19, "yea" on rollcall vote 111; on Tuesday, March 20, "nay" on rollcall vote 112, "nay" on rollcall vote 113, "yea" on rollcall vote 114, "yea" on rollcall vote 115, "yea" on rollcall vote 116, and "nay" on rollcall vote 117; on Wednesday, March 22, "nay" on rollcall vote 118, "nay" on rollcall vote 119, "yea" on rollcall vote 120, "nay" on rollcall vote 121; on Thursday, March 22, "nay" on rollcall vote 122, "yea" on rollcall vote 123, "nay" on rollcall vote 124, "yea" on roll vote 125, and "nay" on rollcall vote 126.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS &amp; VIEWS

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN**OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Monday, March 26, 2012*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago, on March 16, 1972, a local couple in the Northern Mariana Islands, Abed E. Younis and Maria Paz Castro Younis, wrote, edited, printed, and distributed the first issue of the Marianas Variety News & Views. So began the life of what is now the oldest local newspaper in our islands—on a table-top printer in a small commercial space they called Younis Art Studio.

The Variety, as the paper is now more succinctly known, still provides its readers with extensive local news and views. It also carries reports of the region, the United States and the world, as well as interesting and in-depth feature stories. The Variety includes a thought-provoking opinion section, where the public can air its views, and where the Variety itself regularly takes an editorial stand on the issues of current political, social, and economic import in the islands. Always, though, the Variety is a publication independent at heart without ties to business or political interests. The mission it serves is to deliver the latest news to our community in a fair and even-handed manner.

These days, the "community" served by the Variety has expanded beyond the shores of the Northern Marianas. The paper is published and circulated each Monday through Friday in the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. There are print subscribers far and wide: in the South Pacific, the Philippines, Hawaii, Japan, and the mainland U.S. And the Variety's widely-viewed website, [www.mvariety.com](http://www.mvariety.com), reaches an even more extensive audience and allows its readers to content with comments about the published stories and issues of concern and to interact with one another and share ideas in a forum that is constantly expanding.

The Variety is a member of the Associated Press, Reuters, and the Pacific Island News Association and has received a number of notable awards including "Best Newspaper," "Best Editorial Writing," and "Best News Photography" from the Society of Professional Journalists—NMI Chapter, an NMI Humanities Award for Outstanding Contributions to Journalism, Best Online Edition of a Pacific Island Newspaper, and an Environmental Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Over the years, the Variety has been a strong community partner, donating to and assisting numerous non-profit organizations, events, and activities, as well as creating community projects such as its own School Newspaper Program, through which elementary and high school students learn about the news trade by publishing their own school newspapers. The Variety also offers great on-the-job training opportunities, including annual internships for individuals interested in journalism, graphic arts, marketing and sales, web press technique, and other aspects of publishing.