

At a time when we search for heroes and outstanding leaders to provide us with that leadership imbued with warmth, compassion and understanding, we are well-served by the extraordinary efforts of Jack Levy.

REMEMBER THE MAINE!

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of a tragic and intriguing chapter in American History. This Sunday, February 15th, marks the Centennial Anniversary of the sinking of the *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* in Havana harbor, Cuba. This still unsolved mystery surrounding the sinking of the *Maine* and the role her explosion played in the start of the Spanish-American War have given her a most prominent position in American history.

On January 24, 1898, the *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* was dispatched from Key West to Havana to protect American lives and property during the conflict between Cuban revolutionaries and the Spanish Colonial Government. A letter home from Captain Charles Sigsbee recalls that fateful night of February 15, 1898, when the evening's calm was shattered by a "bursting, rending, crashing sound or roar of immense volume." At 9:40 p.m. the explosion lifted the forward section of the *Maine* followed immediately by a second, large and more violent explosion near the center of the superstructure. The entire interior of the vessel went dark as men struggled throughout the wounded ship to find a way out of the sinking and burning hull. The explosions emanated primarily from the forward section of the *Maine* where the crew was bunking and housed. 265 sailors were dead or missing following the disaster.

After an investigation by the U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry, it was determined that a mine had set off the explosions. While the court did not speculate on who had set the mine, a majority of Americans blamed it on the Spanish. The cry, "Remember the Maine!" echoed in the streets of the nation and the halls of Congress. Two days after the report of the court of inquiry, Navy Secretary John Davis Long ordered the peacetime white hulls of U.S. ships overpainted in dull battle gray.

The U.S. flag still flies from the salvaged mast of the *Maine* at Arlington National Cemetery over the graves of the sailors and Marines whose bodies were recovered in 1911. The remains of the first 27 members of the crew returned to the U.S. also rest at the *Maine* Memorial Plot in Key West, Florida.

The *U.S.S. Battleship Maine* and the people of Key West share an inexorable history. During her brief period of service the *Maine* would visit Key West on two memorable occasions. The destruction of the *Maine* and the tremendous loss of life shocked and deeply saddened the people of Key West. The entire community would mourn the dead sailors and offer aide and comfort to survivors of the explosion. Shortly thereafter, the city would offer a portion of its cemetery as a final resting place for the 27 dead sailors that arrived from Havana.

This weekend America will join the U.S. Battleship Maine Centennial Commission in Key

West to once again remember the *Maine* on the 100th anniversary of its destruction. As it was a century ago, the history of our nation, the island of Key West and the battleship *Maine* are bound together for all time.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuanian Independence.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet military forces. But in the past five years, the people of Lithuania have been able to finally enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of an independent nation.

The United States and Lithuania have now formed a significant partnership between our leaders, our governments, and our people. We have close trade relations with Lithuania. We are mutually committed to the security of the Baltic region.

With free and fair elections recently completed, Lithuania has established a commitment to democracy and pluralism. I believe we can say with great confidence that Lithuania is becoming a full partner in the effort to build democracy and promote freedom around the world.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their persistence and hope through the many challenging decades. The 80th anniversary of Lithuanian independence was celebrated by the Lithuanian-American community in Southeast Michigan on Sunday, February 8, at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Lithuania's independence.

HONORING ALBERT NEDOFF, JR.,
A NATIONAL LEADER IN DRUG
ENFORCEMENT

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, "It is my honor to congratulate Albert Nedoff, Jr., who after nearly twenty-four years of service at the Drug Enforcement Administration has been appointed the Associate Director of the Chicago High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force.

"With this new position, Albert will work under the leadership of the U.S. Drug Czar, Gen. Barry McCaffrey.

"Albert is a national leader in the area of drug enforcement, who has spent more than eight years in Detroit's DEA office. During his tenure, he was instrumental in several high-profile cases, including the dismantling of the Chambers Family's control of Detroit's crack cocaine market and the case that resulted in the arrest and conviction of Toni Cato Riggs, the widow of Gulf War Veteran Anthony Riggs.

"The 1990 murder of Anthony Riggs drew national attention when he was gunned down

in the streets of Detroit, just one day after returning home from the war. Four years after Anthony Riggs' murder, a task force of undercover drug agents and police officers, under the supervision of Albert Nedoff, videotaped a confession by Toni Cato Riggs regarding her involvement in her husband's murder, resulting in a first-degree murder conviction.

"I am pleased that after nearly forty years of city and federal government service, Albert Nedoff has chosen to continue serving our country in the area of law enforcement. Though he will be missed in the Michigan area, it is reassuring to know that he will still be fighting to rid our nation's streets of drugs. I wish him well in his new position and wish his family the very best in the future."

TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO VAZQUEZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Mr. Alberto Vazquez, the newly selected Mr. Amigo.

Every year, members of the Mr. Amigo Association, who represent the City of Brownsville, Texas, travel to Mexico City to select a new Mr. Amigo to serve as the honored guest of the Mr. Amigo festivities in Brownsville. The Mr. Amigo festivity is a four day international event which invites the United States and Mexico to celebrate the cultures of these neighboring countries. During the Mr. Amigo celebration, which originated as a pre-Lenten festival, Brownsville citizens participate in a series of parades, dances and parties to demonstrate the goodwill of both countries. It is a major function which is eagerly anticipated by many South Texans as well as our winter visitors.

We are honored to recognize Mr. Alberto Vazquez as the 34th Mexican citizen chosen by the Mr. Amigo Association. Mr. Vazquez was born in Guaymas, Sonora. He filmed 34 movies with outstanding Mexican Stars such as Soler, Marga Lopez, and last year's recipient of Mr. Amigo, Angelica Maria. Mr. Vazquez has recorded 108 records, many of them receiving gold and silver status, and listings on the top spots of the international record charts. He has received numerous awards and recognitions throughout Mexico, the United States and Latin America.

Alberto Vazquez recently released his latest record "Cosas de Alberto Vazquez," which includes such hits as "Te he Prometido," "Tus Ojos," "Anoche me Enamore," and "El Ultimo Beso."

Mr. Alberto Vazquez is a perfect recipient of the Mr. Amigo award. For he has, over the long period of his career, taken his unique screen, television, and stage performances to numerous countries, including the United States. A true ambassador of his country and of his culture, he has been praised by numerous organizations for his unconditional commitment to improve mutual understanding and cooperation between Mexico and the United States. Mr. Alberto Vazquez should be recognized for both his artistic ability and his contribution to his commitment to bicultural relations between the two nations.

Mr. Amigo, Mr. Alberto Vazquez, will receive the red-carpet treatment when he visits

Brownsville as the city's honored guest during the upcoming Mr. Amigo celebration. During his stay on the border, he will make personal appearances in parades and other festival events. Official "welcome" receptions will be staged by organizations in Cameron County, Texas, and the cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending congratulations to Mr. Alberto Vazquez for being honored with this special award.

THE WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY: 125 YEARS OF HONORING THE MEMORY OF GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Washington Association of New Jersey. As the keepers of the Ford Mansion, also known as Washington's Headquarters, and the guardians of Morristown National Historical Park, the support of the Washington Association and its members has been extraordinary. This year, the Association celebrates its 125th year of service to honoring the memory of George Washington and preserving Washington's Headquarters and the park's historical sites for future generations.

The Ford Mansion, built in Morristown between 1772-74, was the home of Colonel Jacob Ford, Jr., a landowner, iron manufacturer and ardent patriot of Morris County. As Colonel of the Eastern Battalion of New Jersey's militia forces, Jacob Ford participated in the first Battle of Springfield. However, shortly thereafter, he fell ill with pneumonia and died on January 10, 1777. Even so, Colonel Ford's widow, Theodosia, who was left with five children, offered the mansion to General George Washington to use as his headquarters during the very harsh winters of 1777 and 1779-80 in New Jersey. Unlike the areas of New Jersey nearer to New York City, Morristown had fewer loyalists and its surrounding hills provided natural defenses for a winter refuge where the next summer campaign could be planned. In addition, the Continental Army and various militias could be maneuvered quickly to either Manhattan or Philadelphia from their primitive and difficult encampment at Jockey Hollow.

In this grand home, Washington, along with his aide-de-camp Alexander Hamilton, would lay out the strategy for much of the Revolution's greatest campaigns. At a tall secretary desk, which still graces the mansion, Washington penned some of the most important letters of the Revolution. Some of the greatest heroes of the war, including the Marquis de Lafayette, General Schuyler, General Greene, General Knox, and even the infamous traitor General Benedict Arnold, walked through the Ford Mansion's front door and graced Martha Washington's wartime dining room with their conversations about victory, defeat and the battles yet to come. It has been said that under the Ford Mansion's roof have been gathered more figures known to the military

history of our Revolution than any other house in America. It is no wonder that Morristown is considered the Military Capital of the Revolution.

Nearly a century later, the Washington Association of New Jersey was founded in Morristown in June of 1873, in order to save the Ford Mansion as it was offered for sale by the heirs of Colonel Ford's grandson, the Honorable Henry Ford. Four New Jersey gentlemen, former Governor Theodore F. Randolph, William Van Vleck Lidgerwood of Morristown, and George A. Halsey and General Norris Halsted of Newark, were responsible for leading this great effort. The Association was chartered by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature on March 20, 1874 as a stock-granting corporation in New Jersey.

The Association maintained the Ford Mansion in Morristown until 1933, and in the process accumulated a remarkable collection of Revolutionary War memorabilia. Through the influence of the Washington Association, Mayor Clyde Potts of Morristown and Mr. Lloyd Waddell Smith, member and sometime president of the Association, the Ford Mansion was donated to the Federal government on March 2, 1933, creating Morristown National Historic Park, the nation's first historic park. Also included in the park were Fort Nonsense in Morristown and certain parcels of land in Jockey Hollow where the troops were encamped during the horrible winter of 1779-80.

Today, the Washington Association of New Jersey supports Morristown National Historic Park by acquiring rare books and manuscripts pertaining to the Revolution or George Washington, contributing financially to the park and, by Federal statute, is the official consultant to the National Park Service in Morristown. The Association also acts as an advocate for the park when the property is threatened by any inappropriate development.

In 1998-99, the Washington Association of New Jersey will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its foundation and incorporation. Planned activities include updating and reprinting "A Certain Splendid House" (the history of the Ford Mansion), publication of a scholarly catalog on "War Comes to Morristown", the new, permanent exhibit at Washington's Headquarters Museum, a lecture series which will bring distinguished scholars into Morristown, and the eventual expansion of Washington's Headquarters Museum so that more of the 400,000 items in the collections at Morristown can be properly exhibited.

Although the mansion is now part of a National Historic Park, the Association's work is appreciated most by the residents of Morris County. Washington's Headquarters, as it is called by most, is the Town of Morristown's common denominator. It is what the people of Morristown identify themselves with, what they remember most when they leave and the first thing they want to see when they return. It is our public treasure and the Washington Association of New Jersey is its entrusted guardian.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I salute the Washington Association of New Jersey on the occasion of their 125th anniversary and for their great work in preserving our nation's first National Historic Park, the memory of our nation's greatest citizen and Morristown's most famous and dearest house.

AGRICULTURE EXPORTS AND TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a concurrent resolution regarding trade between the U.S. and the European Union. Recent news reports indicate that the Administration may be considering concluding a trade agreement with the EU that would not include agriculture. Given the difficulties that American agricultural exports face in gaining access to the EU market, it is unthinkable that any cross-sector agreement with the EU would exclude agriculture. This resolution calls on the Administration to actively pursue eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers imposed by the EU on U.S. agricultural exports. This resolution also cautions the Administration against engaging in trade negotiations that might undermine the ability of the United States to have a level playing field for American producers.

American agriculture is more than twice as reliant on exports as the overall economy, and thus the American farmer is hurt the most by unfair barriers to market access. This is especially true with the European Union, where barriers to U.S. agriculture products remains the most vexing problem in our commercial relationship. The EU has shown relatively little progress in liberalizing trade in agriculture between our two markets. The EU has failed to comply with a WTO ruling which overturned an EU ban on hormone-treated beef from the U.S. The EU has failed to implement the bilateral agreement on veterinary equivalence standards and EU subsidies continue to distort market prices. U.S. farmers are the most efficient and productive in the world and they deserve our every effort to pry open foreign markets and tear down unfair barriers to market access.

Mr. Speaker, if U.S. agriculture exports are to continue growing at the present rate, the U.S. government needs to be more aggressive in eliminating barriers to trade around the world. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, last week on February 4th during Roll Call Vote No. 7, on H.J. Res. 107, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes.

I ask unanimous consent that the record reflect this.

MEL McLEAN: EXAMPLE OF THE AMERICAN DREAM

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of my colleagues to Mel McLean of Humboldt