

fighting what appeared a losing battle, they never yielded, they never ceased to believe, and they never gave up their hopes and dreams of independence.

Finally, with help from Britain, France, and Russia, in 1829, the Greeks not only routed the Egyptian and Turkish forces, but also demanded and received the Sultan's recognition of independence.

Mr. Speaker, we all in America are taught from childhood about the heroics of George Washington, Paul Revere, Patrick Henry, Lighthouse Harry Lee, John Paul Jones, and the Minutemen of Lexington and Concord. The individuals and events of our own War for Independence are known throughout the world.

But we should also take time to commemorate the struggles of the brave men and women of Greece who fought and died for their own independence. The Greek culture and heritage has greatly influenced our country and the world. It is the spirit of the Greeks who fought for independence that we commemorate and honor today. Because they stood up for freedom and honor and dignity, we in America and Greeks everywhere, owe them a great debt.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the people of Greece on this, the 177th anniversary of the start of the revolution that led to Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. That conflict restored Greece's ancient and proud democratic tradition—a tradition that greatly influenced our own Founding Fathers.

Today, Greece stands tall in the world community, with memberships in the EU, NATO, and dozens of other multilateral organizations. Its commitment to democracy is an example for all nations. I salute the Greek people on their achievement and proudly celebrate our joint democratic heritage.

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, today Greeks and Greek Americans observe Greek Independence Day which marks the 177th anniversary of the revolution which freed Greece from the Ottoman Empire. History records the oppression and deprivation of human liberty to which the Greeks were subjected to during the period prior to the revolution. The Greek people were able to emerge from this period of their history and quickly reestablish their national identity and continue intact their cultural and religious institutions. It is a tribute to the spirit and determination of the Greek people that they prevailed in their struggle for liberty after such a long period.

Greek Independence Day, however, is not just a day of celebration for the Greek nation and for individuals of Greek descent, but rather, it is a day of triumph and celebration for democratic nations and proponents of democracy around the world. Today marks an occasion on which we can all celebrate and revere the birthplace of democracy and democratic ideals.

If you look at history and the teachings of the ancient Greek philosophers, you will quickly discover that it was the Greeks who introduced the notion of democracy into the political theories of the day. The ancient Greeks were the first to advance the principles that people should be equal before the law, that majorities should respect the rights of minorities, that men can govern their own affairs, and that merit should determine a person's place in society. Much of our own constitution

is based upon the ideas and the theories recorded years ago by Pericles, Plato, Aristotle and other philosophers of ancient Greece.

In more modern times, the Greeks have continued to cherish their liberty and democratic institutions. More than 600,000 Greeks lost their lives fighting on the side of the Allies in World War II. Greece continues to this day its fundamental commitment to freedom and individual liberty.

So on this anniversary of Greek independence, I join with people of goodwill everywhere in recognizing the successful struggle by the Greek people to gain their independence, and in what their successful struggle means to freedom loving people throughout the world.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for his very thoughtful statement. The time for our special order is ending. The bonds between our two countries have never been stronger.

As we prepare for the new millennium, we look forward to building on our partnership for democracy in our own countries and throughout the world. I thank my colleagues for participating in this special order.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FORD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of on account of official business, participating with presidential delegation in Africa.

Mr. KLECZKA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of a family funeral.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business with the President of the United States in Africa.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. ROTHMAN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today, on account of family business.

Mr. WYNN (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today through Monday, March 30, on account of official business.

Mr. YATES (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today after 3:30 p.m., on account of physical reasons.

Mr. SAXTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today after 3:30 p.m., on account of personal matters.

Mr. HOUGHTON (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week, on account of official business.

Mr. EHRlich (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today, on account of attending a funeral.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legis-

lative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PASCRELL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PASCRELL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBERSTAR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. BURTON, for 5 minutes, March 26.

Mrs. MYRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HASTINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PAPPAS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MICA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOX, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. GOSS, for 5 minutes, today.

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

Ms. SANCHEZ, and to include therein extraneous material, notwithstanding the fact that it exceeds two pages of the RECORD and is estimated by the Public Printer to cost \$2,062.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. PASCRELL) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. MANTON.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Mr. KANJORSKI.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida.

Mr. KUCINICH.

Mr. PICKETT.

Mr. LIPINSKI.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. BERMAN.

Ms. PELOSI.

Mr. MENENDEZ.

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. KIND.

Mr. LANTOS.

Mr. MCDERMOTT.

Mr. DEUTSCH.

Mr. DINGELL.

Mr. FARR of California.

Ms. LOFGREN.

Mr. BARCIA.

Ms. ESHOO.

Mr. ETHERIDGE.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES) and to include extraneous matter: