

Crete. This is a historic event with direct significance to the allies' victory of World War II.

On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location. At that time the British controlled the island. It was a very strong point on the lifeline to India and protected both Palestine and Egypt.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?" The invasion of Crete took 11 days. It resulted in more than 6,000 German troopers listed as killed, wounded or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division were felt so hard by the German Military it signified the end of large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion. In contrast of the European underground movements that took a year or more after being invaded to activate. Young boys, old men and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending their Crete. German soldiers never got used to Cretan women fighting them. They would tear the dress from the shoulder of suspected women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. The Times (London) July 28, 1941 report that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme to write history. This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The price paid by the Cretans' for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces was high. Thousands of civilians died from random executions, starvation, and imprisonment. Entire communities were burned and destroyed by the Germans as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for four years. The battle of Crete was to change the final outcome of World War II.

The Battle of Crete significantly contributed in delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The two month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter. The Russian snow storms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

This significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people must always be remembered and honored. Democracy came from Greece and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people is seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York, that is located in Astoria. The association's Chairman Steven Kohilakis and Co-Chairman Charles Marangoudakis, together with the presidents of the member clubs: Emmanuel Taouganakis, Omonia, Emmanuel Velonakis,

Minos, Emmanuel Piperakis, Cretan Brotherhood, George Filippakis, Erotokritos and Aretousa, Marina Pefani, Pasifai, Cleo Aliferis, Cretan Sisterhood, Emmanuel Vlastakis, Filoxenia, John Daskos, Diktamos, Andreas Fiotodimitrakis, Labris, Mr. Polihronakis, Idomeneas and Mr. Berikakis, Kazatzakis are excellent representatives of their Cretan heritage.

I request my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece and the diaspora.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SCOTT B. RADCLIFFE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Scott B. Radcliffe. Scott recently accepted his offer of appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and will soon enroll as part of the Cadet Class of 2002.

Scott, who is from Perrysburg, Ohio, will soon be graduating from Perrysburg High School. After graduation, he will begin preparing for what figures to be one of the most exciting, challenging, and educational experiences of his life: his four years at West Point.

While attending high school in Perrysburg, Scott distinguished himself as a talented student. His academic achievements in the classroom are certainly accomplishments of which he can be proud. An honors student, Scott has maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.3, placing him near the top in his class of 315 students.

In addition to his excellent work in the classroom, Scott has proven himself to be a talented and gifted student-athlete. Scott has excelled on the fields of competition throughout his high school career. During his senior year, he was selected as the Captain of the Varsity Football Team and the Varsity Basketball Team. He has also been active in the Perrysburg Show Choir, symphony, and the school musical.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate several outstanding young men and women from the Fifth District to the nation's military academies. I am pleased that Scott was among those nominated for the West Point Class of 2002. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Scott Radcliffe, and in wishing him well at West Point and in the future.

IN HONOR OF PEOPLE'S SELF-HELP HOUSING

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has pro-

vided countless Central Coast families with hope and a home, People's Self-Help Housing.

People's Self-Help Housing is being honored today by the Fannie Mae Foundation for sustained excellence in their work. It is an award of recognition that is justly deserved.

Through the efforts of the good and hard-working individuals at People's Self-Help, more Central Coast families live in places they want to call home. I extend to them my sincerest thanks for their years of dedication, and congratulations for achieving this well deserved commendation for the Fannie Mae Foundation.

People's Self-Help Housing has been providing housing for low income families for more than 25 years. They have produced over 1400 units for low income seniors, families, farmworkers, and other special needs groups. Expanding beyond their original "sweat equity" program, People's Self-Help now handles affordable rental units, property management and complete construction services. They provide well managed properties and ensure that much needed health and education services are available to residents of these communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have known the head of this wonderful organization, Jeannette Duncan, for years and I have seen firsthand the fantastic work that this group does. People's Self-Help helps to fill a glaring need in our bucolic seaside and inland rural communities. Housing is expensive on the Central Coast and finding clean, affordable, quality homes and apartments can be a real struggle for people of limited means or extraordinary needs.

Among their many accomplishments, People's Self-Help has provided farmworkers with national award-winning townhouses in Santa Maria, updated the Victoria Street apartments in downtown Santa Barbara, and provided apartments for seniors in Templeton. Through their creativity and persistence, the Central Coast has filled communities where low and moderate income families find an opportunity to participate in the American dream.

They have done these things by working with developers, banks, local, state and Federal officials. But most of all, they have done this by thinking first and foremost of the communities they serve and the people who so often are forgotten in our society.

This is an example of public-private partnership that works, providing services to communities that need them and opening the doors of opportunity to all.

I commend Jeannette and everyone at People's Self-Help for their years of service and success, and in the recognition that is being bestowed upon them today.

HONORING CALVIN AND MARJORIE BRIGHT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pair of very special friends of mine—Calvin and Marjorie Bright—and to recognize them as they become the first recipients of the Bart Bennett Community Award.

This award, given by the City of Modesto in my district in California's great Central Valley,