trying to steal a little boat, a little skiff, which in the old days of these gallon-type vessels, there would all be like a little boat kind of trailing behind. In retaliation, Magellan landed a crew of people and with crossbows proceeded to kill seven Chamorros.

It is of great irony that many, many centuries later the people of Guam who had this experience, first-time experience with Europeans would actually commemorate Discovery Day, although, somewhat in tongue and cheek these days when this landing is recreated as it was earlier this week, it is the Chamorros who in turn killed the Spaniards. So it has taken on different dimensions.

It is part of a constellation of events, which has come to be known as Chamorro Week and Chamorro Month. I have been intimately involved in this process, because as a young teacher in the 1970s, I, along with a fellow teacher at George Washington High School in Guam, first conceptualized the idea of celebrating the indigenous culture and language and food and customs and art of the people of Guam.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, many of these items were thought to be of little social value, of absolutely minimal educational value. It was our intent at that time to not only highlight and celebrate and commemorate this beautiful culture, which had been 4,000 years in the making and which we have inherited for generation upon generation, to try to reflect upon it and the changes which have occurred on it and find room for it in the curriculum of the public schools and, indeed, all the schools of the island.

At the time that we did it, it was not originally widely accepted. Since that time, Chamorro Week celebration has become very widely accepted and is now practiced throughout the schools, and in many ways was part of a larger effort to reintroduce the essence of the culture and the language of the people of Guam into the public schools.

Today children in Guam are learning the Chamorro language and learning much about their heritage and much about their past in ways that would have been thought unthinkable when I was in elementary school. We feel very good about that, and we feel that March is a good time to reflect upon that and as we juxtapose the circumstances surrounding the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan and all those things, all of the events which followed that so-called discovery and the changes of this culture that has come to be known as the Chamorro culture of the Mariana Islands, of which Guam is the largest islands, more probably appropriately called the culture of the taotaomonas, the people of the land.

□ 2015

Now, throughout this whole time period, if we go back this 480 years, I take this opportunity to raise the historical background to the House, and I do this annually in order to draw attention to the fact that the people of Guam and, indeed, the people of all small Pacific island societies have a great challenge ahead of them; and that challenge is to survivor this century.

In many ways, the people, the indigenous Pacific islanders of the world feel impinged upon and feel that many of the things that they find familiar will be so dramatically altered over time that they will cease to exist as peoples, not just cease to exist as individuals, but that maybe three or four or five generations from now there will be no one who will identify themselves proudly as Chamorros and understand the meaning of that.

It is with some note of melancholy that I draw attention to this, because one of the most beautiful parts of it is the fact of the use of the Chamorro language, a language which I grew up with and which I know reasonably well. Yet, it pains me to know that succeeding generations do not know it as well.

So we use this opportunity to reflect upon the condition, the cultural condition and the social condition of our people as we engage upon this celebration and as we engage upon this commemoration.

It also provides some understanding to the kinds of legislation which I have introduced, including H.R. 308, an act to establish a Guam War Claims Review Commission which speaks to the experience of the Chamorro people during World War II, and a House concurrent resolution which I introduced in the past Congress and which I will introduce in this Congress, a resolution to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to help Guam achieve full self-governance.

After more than four centuries of colonial rule under Spain, under Japan, indeed under America, the people of Guam are entering a new world of self-discovery. Discovery by others is not nearly as important as discovery of oneself. And definition by others is meaningless if you cannot initially define yourself. And determination of your future pales in significance to self-determination.

So Guam in full partnership with the United States and in its strong desire to remain an integral part of the United States is now undergoing a process of self-discovery and self-definition and ultimately self-determination.

This process will eventually wind its way through this body as it has through the hearts and minds of the people of Guam, and it will call upon each and every one of us to, not only treat with respect the experiences of Guam, but to apply fully the best principles of democracy which makes America the great Nation that she is.

In the coming weeks, I will explain in greater detail H.R. 308 and the concurrent resolution which reaffirms the United States' commitment to help Guam achieve full self-governance. Both of these proposals seek justice for the people of Guam and true and full democracy and fair play as unique members of the American family.

In conclusion, I must believe that the people of Guam celebrate Discovery Day, this ironic holiday for us. It is a holiday in Guam, I might add, to recognize our rich culture and understand our unique history. This will enable us to understand how we are perceived and allow us to articulate our true history so that we, along with the United States, in this new century can redefine and maintain our strong relationship and allow Guam a greater voice in how the island is governed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SHOWS (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

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

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

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SLAUGHTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ESHOO, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at the request of Mr. PLATTS) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. GRUCCI, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a joint resolution of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 19. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Walter E. Massey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

SENATE ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled joint resolution of the Senate of the following title: