

to see the program get back to where it was when Dobbie was coaching.

"This was in the works when I first saw this group of kids. I'm a big believer in hard work getting you where you want to go, and my philosophy was we won't be out-worked. This year the whole team got behind that philosophy.

"I wouldn't have come here if I didn't believe the potential was here to win a state championship. All I did was convince them they were capable of doing it, and give them the work to back it up."

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF
RUDOLPH V. MARSHALL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" V. Marshall, the founder and chairman of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition, who recently passed away at the age of 64.

Rudy Marshall proudly served this country for 30 years. He enlisted in the United States Navy. He worked at the Veterans' Hospital and the Alameda Naval Supply.

Rudy demonstrated his leadership abilities in the community. He was often involved with service projects, which helped to build and to strengthen the neighborhoods. He developed a trust and a bond with the people.

One of Rudy's greatest achievements was his founding and chairing of the Bay Area Black Media Coalition in 1979. He was a tireless advocate of the racial diversification of newspaper and broadcast facilities. Rudy utilized all legal avenues to ensure the fair treatment of African Americans and other minorities by the media.

He conducted workshops and seminars for young people to have the opportunity to experience broadcasting and media work first hand. Rudy provided mentors from the communications industry in hopes of fostering an interest for a career in journalism.

Rudy Marshall was a pioneer in bringing to the people's attention the demand for fair and diverse representation in the media industry. He had a deep passion for justice, fairness, and professionalism.

He has touched us all. Rudy Marshall, beloved husband, father, grandfather, friend, and community leader will be deeply missed.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEDICAL
SAVINGS ACCOUNT AVAIL-
ABILITY ACT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of medical savings accounts. As we begin the 107th Congress, I am sad to report that over 43 million Americans are without health insurance. One solution to help alleviate this problem is medical savings accounts (MSAs). Figures recently released by the Internal Revenue Service confirm that MSAs are

insuring the uninsured at an astounding rate. According to the IRS, since the program began in January of 1997, 32 percent of MSA purchasers were previously uninsured.

This success is in spite of restrictions placed on the pilot program, which was part of the bipartisan Kassebaum-Kennedy health care bill that President Clinton signed into law in 1996. As of now, you can only get an MSA if you work for a company with 50 or fewer employees or if you are self-employed. However, many thousands of uninsured people have been purchasing MSA policies because MSAs are making health insurance affordable for the first time. In addition, MSAs allow for choice of doctor and put healthcare decisions in the hands of the individual, not a managed care administrator.

Today, following in the bipartisan spirit under which MSAs were originally created, Chairman THOMAS and I have introduced the Medical Savings Account Availability Act, with strong bipartisan support. This bill would repeal the 750,000 cap on taxpayer participation and make MSAs permanent. The legislation also expands the eligibility of MSAs to all individuals with a qualified high deductible plan.

Repealing the 750,000 cap and making MSAs permanent are key to continuing the success of MSAs. Last year, Congress extended MSAs for 2 years. Nevertheless, many insurers are reluctant to invest the capital to market MSAs if they will expire soon. The Medical Savings Account Availability Act would make MSAs permanent. Insurers have also been hesitant to offer MSAs because the cap restrictions limit the size of the market in which MSAs could be offered. Therefore, repealing the cap would encourage the mass marketing of MSAs and increase Americans' awareness of the benefits of MSAs.

It has been 8 years since the first Medical Savings Account bill was introduced with bipartisan support. MSAs have a proven track record of insuring the uninsured, giving individuals choice and control over their health care, making health care affordable by reducing the cost of premiums, and encouraging Americans to save for long-term health care expenses. With 43 million Americans vulnerable and uninsured, it's time to make MSAs available to everyone. I look forward to working with Chairman THOMAS, members of both parties, and others who want all consumers to be able to reap the benefits of MSAs. I urge my colleagues to join us and support the Medical Savings Account Availability Act. The 43 million uninsured Americans will thank you.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire, and to celebrate the shared democratic heritage of Greece and the United States.

On March 25, 1821, after more than 400 years of Ottoman Turk domination, Greece declared its independence and resumed its rightful place in the world as a beacon of democracy.

The people of Greece and the United States share a common bond in their commitment to democracy. Our Founding Fathers looked to the teachings of Greek philosophy in their struggle for freedom and democracy. And the American experience in turn inspired the Greek people to fight hard for their independence 180 years ago.

This bond between our two peoples stretches beyond the philosophy of democracy. The relationship between the U.S. and Greece has grown stronger and stronger through the years, and Greece remains today one of our most important allies.

Greece has made many valuable contributions to the United States and to the lives of all Americans. Greek-Americans are a vital part of our cultural heritage, and I feel fortunate that my district in New York has benefited from the active participation of Greek-Americans in our community.

I am proud to stand today in commemoration of Greek independence and in recognition of the contributions Greece and Greek-Americans have made to our country.

BANGLADESH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2001

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 30th Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

On this important occasion, we should all remember the people who sacrificed their lives and others who endured immense suffering to achieve political self-determination. Despite this, and since achieving independence, the people and government of Bangladesh have played an increasing role in global peacekeeping and democratic consolidation.

Bangladesh is roughly the size of the State of Wisconsin but has a population estimated at roughly 130 million. It is bounded by India from the north, east and west and by the Bay of Bengal and Myanmar from the south. Bangladesh has a rich historical and cultural past as a consequence of the influx of varied races and nationalities, including the Dravidian, Indo-Aryan, Mongol-Mughul, Arab, Persian, Turkic, Dutch, French and the English cultures.

The area that is now Bangladesh was under Muslim rule for five and a half centuries, followed by British rule for another two centuries. It was, most recently, a province of Pakistan for 26 years. The people of Bangladesh achieved their Independence through a difficult nine month long war of liberation in 1971.

Since Independence, the people of Bangladesh have overcome formidable challenges, including rapid population growth and food shortages. The country is consolidating democratic principles at home, is a partner in global peacekeeping efforts, has vast amount of undeveloped gas resources, and has become an exporter of development best practices abroad.

The U.S.-Bangladesh bilateral relationship is deepening through trade and investment partnerships and an ongoing high-level official dialogue. President Clinton made a historic visit to Bangladesh in March 2000 and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made a reciprocal visit in October of that year.