

Virginia Lonas Sharp, Cora Black, Sara Rudder, Gladys Rogers, Elree Culps, Onye M. Holliman, and Angie A. Nazaretian for fifty years of membership. For over half a century, these members have devoted themselves to their Limestone County community, their state, and their nation providing not only financial assistance but also their personal time whenever the community needs them.

The Alabama Grand Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star was established in Alabama in 1901 in Montgomery. Thousands of members in the 200 chapters of this fraternal organization support countless numbers of charities and humanitarian projects such as cancer research and scholarships that enhance and enrich the lives of all of our citizens. I commend and thank this distinguished group for their service, and especially these fifty-year members of the Athens Chapter #214.

COMMEMORATING THE 182ND ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the 182nd anniversary of Greek Independence. This is a great day, for it commemorates the return of democracy to the cradle of Western Civilization after nearly four hundred years of foreign rule.

Greece has always been proud and independent by nature. Its people were a powerful force both culturally and militarily, as evidenced by the works of Homer and the multitude of Greek philosophers. The pinnacle of Greek influence was Alexander the Great and his unification of the eastern Mediterranean and ancient Middle East. Greek culture was spread throughout the new empire and for the first time, people were communicating with a common language, sharing ideas in a way never before possible. This Hellenization transformed every place it touched.

Nearly two thousand years later, another important concept from ancient Greece came to the forefront of modern thought. The concept of "rule by the people" gained prominence in the young United States. This was the desire of the framers of our Constitution, and they found their inspiration in the principles of the polis of Athens.

In 1821, thirty years after the birth of our nation, the people of Greece acted upon a desire to be free. The Ottoman Turks had conquered the region in 1453, bringing an end to over a thousand years of rule by the Orthodox-Christian Byzantine Empire and its resurgence of Greek culture. After a bloody eleven-year war, Greece was finally free once again.

In the modern era, one of the most important reminders of Greek heritage is the Olympic Games, which are finally returning to their origins in Athens in 2004 for the 25th Summer Olympic Games. For more than a century, the Olympics have symbolized peace and excellence for people the world over, reassuring us that even the smallest nation can compete on an equal ground with the largest.

With their intertwined histories, Greece and the United States stand as natural allies with a fine record of cooperation at the global level.

The roots of this strong relationship are fixed in the two nations' shared views on independence, freedom, and democracy. These principles still flourish millennia after their creation, and the United States and Greece continue to uphold the promise of democratic ideals.

Mr. Speaker, it is this feeling that I believe is the greatest contribution Greece has given to our world: We are all equal, whether it is in our democratic government or in friendly competition, and we can come together in friendship even during the most difficult of times. With that, I would like to thank my colleagues for holding this special order and once again congratulate Greece on the anniversary of its independence and all of the gifts it has given us.

REMEMBERING RABBI ISRAEL MILLER

HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rabbi Israel Miller's contributions to the global Jewish community and in memory of his recent passing.

Rabbi Miller was born in Baltimore, MD., but he made his home in New York. A graduate of Yeshiva University, the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and Columbia University, Rabbi Miller was a well-learned man who dedicated his life to the needs of the international Jewish community.

Rabbi Israel Miller expressed his dedication to different members of the Jewish community through his activism and leadership in a variety of organizations. He served as president since 1982 of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, an organization dedicated to financial restitution of Holocaust survivors. Miller helped Soviet Jewry through his leadership of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. He also served as chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, founding and honorary president of the American Zionist Federation, and a founder of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

Rabbi Israel Miller lived a long, healthy and gratifying life. He is survived by his wife, Ruth, his four children, 19 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and brother and sister. I share their pride over his achievements.

Rabbi Miller's accomplishments and contributions to our local, national and international community were obvious and greatly appreciated. His involvement in the peace process in Israel is notable and commendable, specifically in light of the recent conflict.

I join my constituents and the entire Jewish community in remembering Rabbi Miller as a leader and role model for past, present and future generations.

CELEBRATING AFGHAN GIRLS GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I commend Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN for her leader-

ship and thank her for organizing today's statements. On March 23, the girls of Afghanistan returned to school, and on that day a milestone was reached in the re-establishment of Afghanistan's civil society. Preceding the takeover by the Taliban, women constituted 70 percent of the teachers in Afghanistan, 50 percent of the government workers, 40 percent of the health professionals. During the Taliban regime, women were forced out of the workforce and girls were banned from school. Now, the women are returning to work, and with the return of girls to school, Afghanistan is laying the groundwork for the full participation of all of its children in developing a brighter future.

As we celebrate this milestone in Afghanistan, we also must recognize the need for access to education for girls around the world. Nearly a quarter of the world's adult population cannot read and write and two thirds of the illiterate adults are women. In looking at gender equality in secondary education enrollment, only eleven percent of countries have achieved gender equality, in fact 51 percent of countries have a lower enrollment ratio for girls than boys.

Education gives women the skills and tools that they need to participate fully in society. Education enables women to raise healthier and better-educated children. Educated women are more likely to participate in the decision making process of government, making an impact on policy that affects their daily lives. As we celebrate with the people of Afghanistan, let us also commit ourselves to ensuring that other girls across the globe have access to basic education, and the chance to make a better life for themselves.

HONORING ROGER SAMUEL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the recipient of the Edgar A. Guest Community Service Award. The Edgar A. Guest Award is given annually by the Flint-C.A. Durand Masonic Lodge Number 23 to honor the community service of a distinguished non-Mason. This year's recipient is Roger Samuel. He will receive the award at a dinner to be held in his honor on April 9th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

As an honorary member of the Old Newsboys of Flint, Roger Samuel plays an integral part in that organization's Christmas campaign, "Let No Child be Forgotten." In its 77th year, this program is dedicated to the idea that every child will be remembered on Christmas Day. Each year thousands of volunteers sell newspapers on the street corners throughout Genesee County. The newspapers publicize the program and raise money to pay for toys, coats, boots, hats and mittens. Roger donates the resources of the Flint Journal and pays for the ink, paper and printing of these newspapers. Without his support, valuable money would be diverted away from children.

Roger Samuel has lived in Flint since 1991 and has been the publisher of the Flint Journal since 1996. His work with the Old Newsboys of Flint is just one part of Roger's commitment to his community. During the last decade Roger has served as the president of the Rotary Club of Greater Flint Sunrise, chair of the