

proud of your many achievements. Your career of distinguished service is a tribute to your professionalism as an officer and leader of character to the nation. Your accomplishments, past and present, are exceptionally well known. Your receipt of this award is yet another confirmation by the West Point Society of Philadelphia and the Long Gray Line that you have been an outstanding role model for us all. For you, the words from our Alma Mater ring true, "May it be said, well done!" The Corps of cadets, staff and faculty and the entire West Point community wish you the very best in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. LENNOX, Jr.  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army  
Superintendent.

Congratulations, General Downing.

RECOGNIZING MR. MARCO  
ANTONIO FIREBAUGH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Marco Antonio Firebaugh. Marco Antonio Firebaugh was a former California state Assemblyman and a tireless advocate for working families.

Mr. Firebaugh was an advocate for millions of Californians who have no voice in government. He represented the 50th Assembly District in southeast Los Angeles from 1998 to 2004 before leaving office due to term limits. Mr. Firebaugh was appointed Assembly Majority Floor Leader in 2002 and chaired the California Latino Legislative Caucus from 2002–04. His achievements on behalf of the people of Los Angeles significantly improved their day-to-day quality of life.

Perhaps Mr. Firebaugh's most notable accomplishment was the passage of his legislation to allow students living in California to pay in-state tuition to California state colleges and universities regardless of their immigration status. During his time in the Assembly, Mr. Firebaugh's work also included a bill directing state air quality funding toward low-income communities heavily affected by pollution. At the time of his death, Mr. Firebaugh was a candidate for the state Senate in the 30th District, in southeast Los Angeles County.

I want to extend my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Marco Antonio Firebaugh—a man who so passionately fought to improve the lives of those he was elected to serve. Mr. Firebaugh is survived by his two children, Tlalli Ariana and Nicolas Andres, his mother, Carmen Ramos Garcia, brothers Carlos and Jesse, and sisters Cecilia and Esmeralda.

TRIBUTE ON THE OCCASION OF  
THE 185TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, the American people join with the people of Greece in celebrating the 185th Anniversary of the revolution

that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire.

The bedrock of our close relationship with Greece is our mutual devotion to freedom and democracy and our unshakable determination to fight, if need be, to protect these rights.

Greek philosophers and political leaders—Cleisthenes and Pericles and their successors—had great influence upon America's Founding Fathers in their creation of these United States.

We, as a nation, owe a great debt to Greece. Greece is the birthplace of democracy, as we know it.

Thomas Jefferson said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves (American colonists) out of Gothic darkness."

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were an attack on democracy and freedom—not just against our people, but also against all freedom-loving people everywhere in the world. The Greek people understand this.

I congratulate the people of Greece and wish them a Happy National Birthday.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. HERMAN  
ASH

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, a great American, and a great friend of mine, Dr. Herman Ash, who passed away in Saugerties, New York at the age of 96 earlier this month. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Ash for most of my life, since he treated me for a football injury in high school.

After fleeing Germany in 1937, Dr. Ash and his wife, also a doctor, settled in Saugerties and opened a medical practice. What many will remember most about Dr. Herman Ash, in addition to his medical practice, was his love of music. Dr. Ash was an accomplished pianist and violinist and enriched the small town of Saugerties with music that he played, composed, and taught. In addition to his own musical talents, he brought the Saugerties Pro Musica to town in 1995. This organization continues to host regular performances each year.

Not only was Dr. Ash's service to his community commendable, he was a true American. Endearred to the country that gave him refuge in 1937, Dr. Ash joined the U.S. Army and served as a captain in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. He was also a member of the Lamouree-Hackett Post #72 American Legion for over 60 years, most of which he served as the Post's medical officer.

Dr. Herman Ash's commitment to service to his community is something to be celebrated. Over his lifetime he tutored young musicians in Saugerties, was a literacy volunteer, taught English as a Second Language classes, volunteered for the Heart Association, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Juvenile Diabetes Association, a cause near and dear to his own heart.

Words cannot express the gratitude and appreciation felt by those whose lives, including my own, Dr. Ash touched. The world would be a much better place if everyone gave back to

others just a fraction of what Dr. Ash gave throughout his life. My thoughts and prayers remain with the family and friends of this great man.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILBERT  
LEO DANIELS

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Reverend Wilbert Leo Daniels and his brother the late Reverend Cooper Darryl Daniels for their dedication and service to the elderly and non-elderly disabled citizens of our community.

During his tenure as pastor of the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church, Reverend W. Leo Daniels secured the funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to begin development of an eight story housing facility in Northeast Houston. His dream of constructing a home for the elderly and handicapped was realized after his death under the guidance of his brother, Reverend Cooper Darryl Daniels.

The W. Leo Daniels Towers were dedicated in 1979 and have maintained nearly full occupancy for 27 years. The Towers, located at 8826 Harrell, Houston Texas consist of 100 units and serve to assist residents in their daily independent lifestyles. The residents are offered a variety of services including a beauty shop, a washateria and a cafeteria with a central dining room that accommodates 299 persons. The Towers also offer a remedial education class that is supported through the Houston Community College.

The W. Leo Daniels Towers has become a powerful influence among the residents and the Northeast Houston Community alike. In 2002, a computer literacy lab with bi-weekly classes was opened for all the residents and Northeast Community population to attend. The Towers have also collaborated with the Houston Food Bank and with the United Way of Houston Gifts to provide access to food, furniture, office supplies and clothing for its residents.

The solidarity of the Greater Jerusalem Baptist Church membership and the united efforts of all concerned have made the dream of Reverend W. Leo Daniels a reality. The Towers have helped fill the need of so many in the Northeast Houston Community, and I ask that we all honor this great achievement and pay tribute to those that are responsible for its success.

RECOGNIZING ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2005 FROM THE 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 1830, Members of Congress have had the great honor and privilege of nominating outstanding young men and