

are buried at the cemetery. Most of the time, the service includes grieving families mourning their loss. But each year, about 120 homeless veterans are also buried there, and rarely does a family member attend. Reverend Miller, the chaplain for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 17, conducts services, and an honor guard is provided by the appropriate service branch.

At the age of 57, Reverend Miller is not the only one to provide this greatly needed final farewell. But when he started handling the services 2 years ago, he was one of the most frequent unpaid volunteers conducting services. He drives 60 miles round trip from his home to the cemetery and often performs services for more than one veteran a day. On January 31st, he held services for six homeless veterans, only one of which had any family there to attend.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Rev. Robert Miller on the floor of the House, today. He stands as an example to all of us by helping those who cannot help themselves. I commend him for his selfless acts of service.

IN HONOR OF J. RANDALL WARD
JR.

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to J. Randall Ward Jr., for his years of service to the United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware (UCP) organization.

Randall has dedicated over 40 years of service to the United Cerebral Palsy of Delaware organization. Before Randall's efforts, the UCP's summer camp used an inaccessible swimming pool for more than 100 children and all camp activities were held in outdoor tents with portable bathrooms as the only restroom facility. Camp Manito now boasts a new campus, with a larger more handicapped accessible swimming pool. The tents have been replaced with a beautiful building equipped with many amenities, including air-conditioning and accommodations for 4 full-time staff members.

Randall has been recognized locally as a finalist for the Delaware Jefferson Award, an honor awarded annually by the American Institute of Public Service commending outstanding public service leaders within the community. He is one of 5 very admirable nominees, all making exceptional contributions to the State of Delaware. No matter who is chosen as the recipient of this award, they are each deserving candidates who demonstrate that one person can truly make a monumental difference.

I congratulate and thank Randall Ward for all he has contributed to the State of Delaware. Many children are grateful and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. He is an exemplary citizen and a proud American. Thank you, Randall, for all you have done and continue to do for our State and our country.

TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF
GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 185th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against incredibly difficult odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history to gain their independence.

Following 400 years of Ottoman rule, in March 1821 Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. The bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: A new spirit was about to be born in Greece. The following year, the Treaty of Constantinople established full independence for Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States and the strong commitment to democracy shared by both nations. The Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire while drawing inspiration from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their war of independence, the Greeks also received support from many Americans, including Presidents James Madison and James Monroe and Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, each of whom gave memorable speeches in Congress in support of the Greek revolutionaries. Just as our defeat of the British army was remarkable, so too was the Greek triumph over the Ottoman Army, a momentous achievement in world history.

New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside Greece and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our Nation's history and culture.

On April 2, the president of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamontidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis and Secretary Petros Galatoulas in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The grand marshals of this year's parade are Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Andrew Athens, Paul Stapholopoulos, and John Rangos.

Relations between the United States and Greece remain strong with a shared commitment to ensuring stability in southeastern Europe. I hope permanent solutions can be found for ending the division of Cyprus and finding a mutually agreeable name for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Greece continues to be the home of wonderful artistic achievements including the annual Eurovision song contest, which this year will be held in Athens. I also am pleased to note that Greece hopes to open its Acropolis Museum by the end of next year. This museum will give visitors the opportunity to experience and learn about the Acropolis in a new and exciting way. I hope that the Elgin Marbles, which have been on view in the British Museum, will soon be returned to their home.

As a founder and cochair of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress, I ask the Nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence. Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and Nation.

Zeto E Eleftheria. Long Live Freedom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REV.
PATRICIA SPEARMAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rev. Patricia Spearman for an exemplary life dedicated to God and community.

Patricia was born in Indianapolis, and spent much of her childhood traveling throughout the Midwest and South with her evangelist mother. They spent a week or so at a time at different churches and between her eighth grade year and second semester of her junior year she attended over 200 schools. Traveling so much fostered in her a curiosity of people and the roads they travel and gave her a healthy respect for human diversity. After 16 years, Patricia was tired of traveling and decided to finish high school in Kansas City, MO. She supported herself with after-school jobs and later, took her first pastorate in a small Kansas City church.

After graduation, Patricia attended college in Dallas on a band scholarship for 1 year, and then transferred to Norfolk State University in Virginia on an academic scholarship. She majored in political science, planning on a career as a minister and attorney. Then, during her freshman year, Patricia enrolled in Reserve Officers Training Corps to fulfill a physical education requirement. She did so well, that during her sophomore year she committed to serving 2 years' active duty in the Army after college, followed by 4 more years in the Army Reserves. She served with the military police in South Korea, advancing through the ranks until leaving active duty in 1983 as a lieutenant colonel. Since then, as a reservist, Patricia has been recalled to active duty several times, and last fall completed a 30-month deployment working in counterterrorism at the Pentagon.

From the days of that first posting in South Korea, Patricia continued working in ministry, sometimes unofficially, often under the auspices of overworked but grateful chaplains. Now she brings to Las Vegas skills learned during a lifetime of serving churches, working in campus ministry at the University of Louisville in Kentucky and serving as school board president in Texas. Last November, Rev. Patricia Spearman was named pastor of the Las Vegas's Covenant United Methodist Fellowship. While she has traveled extensively in her