

Latina women in higher education and established an innovative organization to respond to these needs;

Whereas the principles of the Lambda Theta Nu Sorority are academic excellence, community service and sisterhood;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority fosters collegiate academic excellence and promotes an environment for personal growth within a unit of sisterhood for all its members;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority does not discriminate based on race, national origin, religion, sexual orientation or handicap;

Whereas, for over 20 years, Lambda Theta Nu Sorority has played an integral role in improving the college graduation rate for Latinas across 25 college campuses in California, Colorado, Nebraska and Texas;

Whereas Lambda Theta Nu Sorority is a founding member of the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization, the first of its kind.

Whereas for over 20 years the sisters of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority have been committed and devoted leaders for the Latino community by serving as positive and educated role models, and contributed to efforts to increase Latino literacy nationwide: Now, therefore, be it:

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) recognizes and honors the 20th anniversary of the founding of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority;

(2) commends its Founders and all Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. sisters for their bond of sisterhood, common ideals and beliefs, and service to the Latino community; and

(3) expresses its best wishes for Lambda Theta Nu Sorority Inc.'s continued success and growth.

#### HONORING FORMER MEMBER OF CONGRESS THOMAS J. MANTON

SPEECH OF

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 24, 2006*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and the record of our distinguished former colleague, Thomas J. Manton, a superb public servant who passed away on July 22nd.

Tom Manton was born on November 3, 1932. In many ways, his birth date was symbolic of the man Tom would become. Just as Franklin Delano Roosevelt, elected President a few days later, would usher in a new era of optimism and faith in the American system, Tom Manton lived a life that served as an inspiration to all who believed, and continue to believe, in the American Dream.

A young child during the Depression, Tom Manton was a typical son of Irish immigrants, people who came to this country in search of work and a better life for their children. In fact, Tom's father, Tom, Sr., was a laborer here at the United States Capitol. Surely, as he worked to help build the Cannon House Office Building, he must have looked around now and then, seen the grandeur of the place, and dreamed that one day, his son would work there, not as a laborer, but as an elected representative with an office suite in the building. This most American of dreams, in fact, came true.

Tom attended St. Joseph's School in Astoria, Queens, and St. John's Prep in

Brooklyn; he earned an undergraduate degree and, by going to school at night, a law degree from St. John's University. When his country needed him, Tom Manton served as a Flight Navigator in the U.S. Marine Corps. He then continued to serve his Nation and community by becoming a New York City Police Officer.

In 1970, Tom was elected to the New York City Council, where he continued his work to safeguard the welfare of his fellow citizens. He would continue in this position for fourteen years. In 1984, Tom seized the opportunity to represent his community in the U.S. House of Representatives when he won the election to succeed Democratic vice-presidential nominee Geraldine Ferraro.

Two years later, Tom became the Chairman of the Queens County Democratic organization and immediately began the revitalization of the local party. Tom took the reins at a time when the party was racked with front-page problems and a loss of public trust. Not only did he turn the party organization around and bring it back to full health, but in doing so, he insisted on making its membership more diverse and more reflective of the diversity of our beloved borough of Queens.

Tom's passion for equality took form in his commitment to helping new political leaders of varying ethnic backgrounds achieve impressive firsts. He helped elect the first Latino from Queens to the New York State Assembly; the first Chinese-American to the City Council; the first woman to serve as Borough President; and then the first African-American woman to Borough Presidency; he supported the first Indian-American and Korean-American District Leaders. These are just a few of these achievements.

As a direct result of the discipline and commitment he brought to every task, and the tireless work he put into the party, the Queens Democratic Committee is now one of the strongest party organizations in the country. Every Democratic candidate for President, going back to Michael Dukakis, sought Tom out, knowing that without his support, the votes of Queens Democrats would be few and far between.

As a congressman, Tom was a bull-dog-like advocate for New York's interests. He won a seat on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and used his influence to bring jobs and opportunity to his constituents. He fought for critical improvements in the Superfund program to accelerate the cleanup of toxic waste sites. He also took the lead in improving the conservation of our Nation's fisheries and ocean resources as chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Management. He used his experience as a former member of the NYPD to ensure that police officers across the Nation—and their families—would receive fitting lifetime compensation in the event of permanent job-related injuries. He was a Member's Member, constantly working behind the scenes to assist his colleagues, helping to rescue stuck legislation, or cutting deals that made everyone feel like a winner.

Having lived the American Dream himself, Tom worked ceaselessly to safeguard the opportunity for everyone, native born and immigrant alike, to live the American Dream as well. Tom was tough, but Tom was fair. And respect for Tom was universal, and went beyond ideology or partisan boundaries.

Tom never forgot his roots. He played a tireless and crucial role in helping to bring peace

to Northern Ireland. He served as co-chair of the bipartisan Irish Caucus. He was selected to be the Grand Marshal of the New York City Saint Patrick's Day Parade, something of which I know he was proud.

With Tom Manton's passing, we have lost one of the classic old school Irish politicians that New York has sent to Washington to look after the interests of ordinary Americans. Tom was a guy who was decent and honest. His word and handshake were his bond. Tom worked quietly behind the curtain, rather than grandstanding in front of the cameras. Tom was a stand-up guy, the real deal.

When Tom Manton entered Congress in 1985, I had been serving in Congress for little more than a year. All of us in the New York delegation turned to Tom for advice and guidance. Tom made a difference in the lives of everyone who knew him, and his efforts improved this country for every one of its citizens.

My heartfelt condolences go out to Tom's widow, Diane, his children, and grandchildren. He loved them dearly and they love him still. Like many of my colleagues, I will miss Tom. I will miss his wise counsel and his unquenchable passion for our community and its people. America and New York have lost a truly good man and a great public servant.

#### RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS OF CYPRUS AND TURKEY

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution expressing our deepest gratitude to Cyprus and Turkey.

We are all following the news from the Middle East with concern and regret. The Lebanese South—for many years a region of civil war, of mortal fear and hopelessness—is burning again. Parts of Israel are suffering under permanent rocket fire. The military actions are causing humanitarian difficulties, as well. Thousands of Americans and Europeans are suffering in the region. When Hezbollah started their offensive against Israel, there were at least 25,000 American citizens in Lebanon.

The current situation painfully reminds me of Lebanon in the year 1983, when 241 Americans were killed in a suicide bombing. It also brings to mind the evacuation of American citizens from Iran in 1979 and from Vietnam in 1975.

However, we must remain optimistic. There is some light in the darkness, something not to overlook in these sorrowful days: Even at a time when the United States is not the most beloved country in the world, we can feel that we are not alone. We are not alone in our efforts to save the lives of our citizens. True friendship is shown in difficult times, and I am glad it does.

I hope we are all aware that the United States could never manage the evacuation of 25,000 citizens without reliable partners in the region. Bearing this in mind, I feel deeply grateful not only toward two governments but also towards two people: The governments and people of the Republics of Cyprus and Turkey.