

Badge, the Ranger Tab, and Parachutist and Air Assault Badge respectively.

Not only is Lieutenant Colonel Greene an exemplary soldier, he is both husband and father. He is married to the former Michelle Snow of Belchertown, MA, also a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army. They have two children, Jackson—14 and Austen—10. In addition to his many responsibilities, Lieutenant Colonel Greene finds time to volunteer in his community, serving as a coach and as a participant in career days at his children's schools.

The demands of military life are such that military families also sacrifice and serve the Nation along with their soldier. Lieutenant Colonel Greene's dedication to duty upholds the highest traditions of military service. He has repeatedly stood for the defense of our Nation and her citizens and their freedom. Devoted to the defense of liberty, he epitomizes what it means to be a soldier and a patriot.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Lieutenant Colonel Craig Greene, his wife, Lieutenant Colonel Michelle Greene and their sons, Jackson and Austen, for the commitment, sacrifices, and contributions that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and successful career.

#### RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 17, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1237 recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

I am honored to be a co-sponsor of this resolution, which celebrates the oldest national commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States and encourages us to use our understanding of history to more effectively face the challenges of the future.

Juneteenth began as a day to celebrate African-American freedom by commemorating the arrival of the news of the end of slavery in the frontier areas of the United States two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. 143 years later, Juneteenth has taken on a much bigger cause: encouraging self-development and respect for all peoples and cultures. Juneteenth is a day for Americans of all races, ethnicities and religions to join together and reflect on a chapter in America's history that continues to cast a shadow on the American experience. It is also a time to recognize that while we cannot change history, we must learn from it and use its lessons to eradicate slavery and improve human rights around the world.

Unfortunately, slavery continues to exist in the Sudan, West African countries and elsewhere. In addition, millions of women and children are trafficked as forced laborers and sex workers throughout the world. At least 800,000 people are trafficked across borders worldwide each year, including an estimated 14,500–17,500 persons into the United States. When trafficking within countries is included, the total

global figure rises as high as four million people, many of whom are women and children. The United States has both the moral obligation and the required resources to help end modern day slavery.

This Juneteenth, more than 60,000 Minnesotans will come together in my District for a festival and a parade celebrating African American history, cuisine and culture. Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to celebrate this Juneteenth by rededicating themselves to eliminating slavery, exploitation and racism in all forms from our world, and join me in supporting H. Res. 1237.

#### CONGRATULATING GARFIELD ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 30TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 30th birthday of arguably America's favorite feline friend, Garfield. From a humble beginning in Muncie, Indiana on June 19, 1978, Garfield and his creator, Jim Davis, have combined to bring laughter and cheer to the lives of millions of Americans over the past three decades.

It would have been easy for the bright spotlight of fame to have drawn our good friend Garfield away from his humble Indiana roots. Yet as the Muncie Star Press writes in a June 19 editorial, "Garfield is a hometown cat at heart." Remaining true to his roots, Muncie's favorite fat cat appears in the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's most widely syndicated comic strip character, appearing in around 2,580 publications each day.

Madam Speaker, as we struggle with another Monday and find ourselves longing for a lasagna dinner, Americans have turned for thirty years to their friends Garfield, Jon, and Odie. Born at five pounds and six ounces, Garfield ate so much pasta that he threatened to put an Italian restaurant out of business, and was rescued to the relief of millions of Americans who have been touched through his inspiring blend of cynicism, complacency, and mediocrity.

As Americans have gone from typewriters to BlackBerry and hatchbacks to SUVs, Garfield has remained a symbol of stability in an ever-changing world. Despite the turbulence of the past 30 years, Americans can still open their local newspaper to be greeted by the smiling face of Garfield. Nine lives or not, Madam Speaker, Muncie's favorite cat continues to live beyond all expectations.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAN- MACEDONIAN STUDIES CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SEC- OND ANNUAL TESTIMONIAL DIN- NER

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 23, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Pan-Mac-

edonian Studies Center on the occasion of its Second Annual Testimonial Dinner. This year the Center will be honoring His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, with the Philippion Award.

The Pan-Macedonian Studies Center was established in 1995 by Elias L. Neofytides, Fotis Gerasopoulos and Paul Evangelou to help forge links between generations and between persons of Hellenic descent living in the U.S. and Greece. The Center thus helped ease the transition for adults adapting to a new life in America and increase understanding between generations.

The Pan-Macedonian Studies Center has showcased the best of American and Hellenic cultures. It sponsors programs for young and old, including offerings in sports, fitness, arts and crafts, and dancing; educational initiatives such as a lending library and tutoring; and services including lessons on health education, accounting, civics, and computer literacy. The Center also helps produce Macedonian TV programming airing on Queens public television, and publishes and disseminates books on Macedonian culture to schools and libraries in the United States at no cost. The Center is open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, and all its services and programs are free of charge.

This year, the Pan-Macedonian Studies Center has selected His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios to receive the Philippion Award for his contributions to the Hellenic-American community. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios is a distinguished Macedonian who always brings "peace and serenity" into the hearts of the faithful adherents of his faith.

He was born Demetrios Trakatellis in Thessaloniki, Greece on February 1, 1928. In 1950 he graduated with distinction from the University of Athens School of Theology. In 1960 he was ordained a deacon, and in 1964 he became a priest. He was elected Bishop of Vresthena in 1967, and served as an auxiliary bishop to the Archbishop of Athens with the primary responsibility for the theological education of the clergy. From 1965 to 1971, on scholarship from the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, he studied New Testament and Christianity's origins and earned a Ph.D. "with distinction" in 1972.

As Bishop of Vresthena, he then returned to his ecclesiastical position in the Archdiocese of Athens and in the ensuing years he held the responsibilities of the theological education of the clergy, youth ministries, and other duties related to theological conferences in Greece and abroad. In 1977, he earned a Th.D. in Theology from the University of Athens.

From 1983 to 1993, the Bishop of Vresthena was the Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies and Christian Origins at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA. Serving as a faculty member for more than a decade, he taught many of America's Greek Orthodox clergy. He also taught at Harvard Divinity School as a Visiting Professor of New Testament during the academic years of 1984 to 1985 and from 1988 to 1989. After several years in the United States, he returned to Greece in 1993 to pursue full-time scholarly writing and research. At the same time, he resumed his responsibilities at the Archdiocese of Athens.

Elected Archbishop of America in 1999 by the Holy and Sacred Synod of the Ecumenical