

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 188th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day and the valiant Greek struggle to cast aside the shackles of imperial oppression. For those who believe in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, March 25, 1821, resonates through the annals of history as a seminal moment in the epoch of democracy.

From ancient Greece the world came to speak of the founders of democratic thought—Cleisthenes, Themistocles, Pericles, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and countless others. When our founding fathers contemplated the establishment of the United States of America they looked across time and geography to the shores of ancient Greece. Thomas Jefferson and others who studied the Democratic philosophies of the ancient Greeks knew that in their teachings lay the formula for a just and free society.

In 1776 the sacred flame of liberty illuminated the shores of America, and when in 1821 the mother of democracy awoke and sought to liberate herself from the dark conquest that had befallen her, America cheered her on. During the Greek struggle for independence, many Americans felt a kindred spirit with the Greeks, and gave the name of a Greek Independence War hero to the town of Ypsilanti, Michigan.

It is only natural that the fraternal bonds of liberty between America and Greece have been present from the first day of the establishment of each country. History shows that Greece is one of America's greatest allies, from the passing of the ancients' democratic philosophy to the modern Hellenic Republic's fighting alongside the USA in every major struggle since its inception.

Long before the United States took on the Nazis in WWII, the only countries standing in the way of the Nazi onslaught were Greece and the United Kingdom. Greece paid a dear price for its steadfastness, losing 10 percent of her entire population, and nearly all of the ancient Jewish Community of Thessaloniki. The heroic acts of the Greeks were evident everywhere, from the daring removal of the Nazi flag that floated above the Acropolis, to the unparalleled resistance movement that resulted in the first defeat of an Axis Army when the Greeks pushed Mussolini's troops across the Albanian frontier.

Greece has come a long way in 188 years. In 2004 Greece did an outstanding job hosting the Olympics. She has been an important ally in the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and is the beacon of democracy in the Balkans, serving as one of the largest investors, business and job creators throughout all of Southeastern Europe.

Greece is a proven democracy and proven ally of the United States. Greece is a country that can be counted on to support the high ideals of freedom and liberty, and is and always has been a staunch American ally.

NATIONAL BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 178—expressing the need for enhanced public awareness of traumatic brain injury and support for the designation of a National Brain Injury Awareness Month.

It is appropriate that we debate this bill today, since March is widely recognized as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Now, more than ever, we need to heighten the public's awareness to a growing issue—Traumatic Brain Injury.

Traumatic Brain Injury has been called the signature wound of the War on Terror, as thousands of American servicemen and women have been diagnosed with TBI and untold more have yet to be diagnosed.

An estimated 360,000 soldiers have sustained Traumatic Brain Injuries in Iraq and Afghanistan. Furthermore, Military health screening programs have shown that as many as 20% of returning troops have suffered at least a mild concussion.

The use of Improvised Explosive devices are the primary cause of this silent wound. Often, symptoms don't manifest themselves for some time. Many of the symptoms of Traumatic Brain Injury are similar to Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, further hindering a proper diagnosis.

The dramatic increase in Traumatic Brain Injuries among military veterans has created huge stresses on the VA system's capability to handle. While there was no way that the VA could have predicted the demand for Traumatic Brain Injuries treatment and rehabilitation before our troops were deployed in response to the attacks on our country, the fact remains that we need to provide better services to our veterans, and we need to be able to provide those services in their own communities rather than requiring them to travel for treatment.

The Veterans Administration is already working with some private and nonprofit providers of Traumatic Brain Injury treatment and rehabilitation, but it can and should identify more opportunities to allow veterans to receive appropriate, high-quality care from providers in their own communities.

And that is why I have joined with my colleagues here in Congress and joined the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force.

Our goal is to further educate and raise awareness of brain injury and support funding

for basic and applied research on brain injury rehabilitation. It is important that we give brain injury the attention it is due to help us move beyond the "silent epidemic" and towards real treatments, supports, and eventually cures.

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force has worked to ensure that individuals have access to reliable information, effective prevention strategies, and, if injured, comprehensive and appropriate treatments.

We owe our nation's veterans a debt we cannot fully repay, but we must make sure that every soldier, sailor, airman or Marine exposed to an Improvised Explosive Device is properly screened and treated for Traumatic Brain Injury—we owe them no less.

I support the recognition of March as National Brain Injury Awareness Month and I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following Information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1109, The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Police Department Photography Lab Upgrades for the City of Miami

Amount Funded: \$400,000

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Contact: Pedro G. Hernandez, City Manager, City of Miami

Address: 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, Florida 33143

Description: The City of Miami Police Department Photo Lab Upgrades Project will upgrade and digitize the City's police department photo lab. Funds will be used to incorporate digital cameras, memory card readers and a digital photographic laboratory system which will replace the antiquated film technology that is currently in use. Funding for photo lab upgrades will facilitate the investigative and prosecutorial efforts of the law enforcement community in the City of Miami, with national crime fighting implications that extend beyond Southern Florida in circumstances when fugitives flee the City to avoid prosecution.

Project Name: Miami Beach After School Gang and Drug Prevention Program

Amount Funded: \$200,000

Account: OJP—Bryne Discretionary Grants
Contact: Kevin Crowder, City of Miami Beach

Address: 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Description: Continued After-School and summer programs ensure youth "growing-up" within the system. These youth are less likely to entertain outside and detrimental participation in other unsupervised activities, such as

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