

RECOGNIZING 188TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2009*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the glorious contributions of Greek civilization to the world, and to congratulate the people of Greece on the 188th anniversary of their independence.

I can speak no more simply than Edith Hamilton who wrote in her classic 1930 study of Greek civilization that “the Greeks came into being and the world, as we know it, began.”

I stand here as the Member of an institution whose very existence is owed to the Greek imagination and beneath a dome supported by columns of Greek inspiration. The principles of democratic governance, the ones which our Founders drew upon heavily to establish this republic, were first expounded upon in ancient Greece, and it is to that first age of reason that all democratic civilizations owe a debt of gratitude.

But it was not only the political philosophy of Greek civilization that left its mark on the world. One cannot walk the streets of this city without noticing its obvious tribute to the architecture of our democratic forebears. Stone columns line our most important buildings and stand guard our most cherished documents.

In addition to the philosophical and physical structures we honor in our own time from Greece, we also pay tribute on this day to its legacy in the arts and sports. The epic of Homer, the poetry of Pericles, Pindar and Aeschylus, the comedy of Aristophanes, the history of Herodotus, the Olympics and the marathon—any simple recitation will be incomplete and not wholly do justice to the accomplishments of centuries. But, let it be said that time has shown the greatness of their time to be the greatness of all time.

Our more recent histories our bound together as well. Just as our independence was a tribute to the ideas of ancient Greece, so too was Greek independence inspired by the American Revolution. Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis, founder of the modern Greek state said to the citizens of the United States in 1821 that “it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”

Since that kind and graceful message so long ago, the relationship between the United States and Greece—allies in times of both peace and conflict—grows stronger. Generations of Greek-Americans have maintained their traditions here, just as other civilizations for centuries have passed on the guiding lights of Ancient Greece. I am proud to join the Greek-Americans of New York’s Second District in celebrating the 188th anniversary of their independence day.

82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF CESAR CHAVEZ

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, work, and 82nd anniversary of the day Cesar Chavez was born.

He was born on March 31, 1927 near Yuma, Arizona. Chavez was a civil rights, Latino, farm worker, and labor leader. To some he was also a religious and spiritual figure; and to all, he was a community servant and a crusader for nonviolent social change. He also spent his time as an environmentalist and consumer advocate. But above all, he was a person who had the strength and courage to fight for what he knew was right and to try and rid the world of injustice.

After spending most of his childhood as a migrant farm worker with his parents, Chavez joined the U.S. Navy in 1946 and served in the Western Pacific just after WWII.

For more than three decades Chavez led the first successful farm workers union in American history, achieving dignity, respect, fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, and humane living conditions, as well as countless other rights and protections for hundreds of thousands of farm workers. Against previously insurmountable odds, he led successful strikes and boycotts that resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture. His union’s efforts brought about the passage of the groundbreaking 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act to protect farm workers. Today, it remains the only law in the nation that protects the farm workers’ right to unionize. We must continue to protect farm and agricultural workers who are a dedicated labor force and a vital contributor to our economy.

As I reflect on his life and work, I am privileged to be a fellow Veteran of the U.S. Armed Services and a fellow Mexican American. It was my honor to serve the country that we both felt strongly enough to continue to fight for its betterment. Chavez not only fought for Latinos, but he fought for the dignity of this nation, and for that we are forever grateful.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 163 through 165. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on each.

HONORING AAUW OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American

Association of University Women of Napa County on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of their founding. AAUW–Napa County has done visionary work to serve the community as well as fulfill their charter of advancing justice and equality for women.

Over 80 years ago, inaugural President Stella Linscott and a band of determined Napaans started the AAUW Napa County branch with the goal of promoting equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research. This organization that began as a response to sexism and discrimination in our society has become a pillar of our community.

Their endless contributions to the Napa Valley over the years include annual scholarships for local women, voter education forums, the Adopt-A-Road program and contributions to AAUW’s Legal Advocacy Fund and Educational Foundations. The Napa County Branch of AAUW is an important component of a statewide organization that has played a crucial role in finally achieving gender equity in college enrollment in California.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank AAUW–Napa County for the remarkable work they have done for everyone in our County. It is through the hard work and generous contributions of many members of our community that this branch has thrived for the past 80 years, and I know that we will continue to see progress for many years to come.

EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 31, 2009*

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. H.R. 1105 The Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP  
Account: Army Corp of Engineers—Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Army Corp of Engineers—Nashville District

Address: 110 9th Avenue South Nashville, Tennessee 37203–3863

Description of Request: Funding in the amount of \$42 million is required for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to replace the Chickamauga Lock. The lock is a major economic engine in the Tennessee Valley region. Commodities passing through the lock have origins and destinations in 17 states in the South, Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions, traveling an average 1,400 miles. Over the last several years, 2.5 million tons passed through the lock annually, and the forecasted traffic demand is expected to grow considerably. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers indicates that replacement of the existing lock is far more economical than continuing costly maintenance and repair.

Distribution of funding:  
Construction: 100%