

(Bouleuterion) located in Patara. Medium-sized towns sent two, whereas smaller towns could unite together to send one representative to the capital on their behalf. The number of representatives from each city-state determined taxes and other financial obligations. The general assembly was responsible for electing federal officers controlling communal land and determining trade and civil rights, as well.

The "Lyciarch," was the Parliament's president, which at various times served as the League's religious, military, and political leader. Many historians believe that women have served in Patara as the Lyciarch.

One of the thinkers who impacted the debate over our own constitution was Montesquieu. In Book IX of his *Spirit of the Laws*, he argues the utility of confederacy, stating: "It is unlikely that states that associate will be of the same size and have equal power. . . . If one had to propose a model of a fine federal republic, I would choose the republic of Lycia."

Alexander Hamilton and James Madison picked up on this concept, and cited the Lycian League as a model for our own system of government.

Both Alexander Hamilton and James Madison used the Lycian form of government in the *Federalist Papers*. The semicircular rows of the Lycian parliament building was a model to the seating arrangements in the U.S. Congress today.

In the *Federalist Papers* No. 16, Alexander Hamilton wrote, "I shall content myself with barely observing here, that of all the confederacies of antiquity, which history has handed down to us, the Lycian and Achaean leagues, as far as there remain vestiges of them, appear to have been most free from the fetters of that mistaken principle, and were accordingly those which have best deserved, and have most liberally received, the applauding suffrages of political writers."

This is how an ancient civilization thousands of miles away and over two thousand years ago made a major impact on our system as a representative democracy, preventing the possibility of tyranny, as feared by Alexander Hamilton and James Madison.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
GUNNERY SERGEANT ADAM F.
BENJAMIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant Adam F. Benjamin, who courageously and selflessly rose to the call of duty, and made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our country.

Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin grew up in Garfield Heights and graduated from Garfield Heights High School in 1993. Shortly after graduating, he followed his dream to serve our country and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He quickly rose up the ranks and by 2006, at the age of 31, was promoted to the position of Gunnery Sergeant. He was a loyal, courageous and dedicated Marine, who loved every aspect of serving our nation in the

military. Throughout his youth and career in the military, Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin was known for his positive outlook on life, caring nature and great sense of humor. He touched countless lives with his kind heart, generosity and sense of concern for others.

Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin was a brave and honorable United States Marine and an exceptional human being. The sacrifice, service and courage he has displayed will be forever honored and remembered by the entire Cleveland community, and by the nation. Gunnery Sergeant Benjamin's warm smile, generous heart, easy laugh, and joy for life will live on within the hearts and memories of those who loved and knew him best—his family, friends and fellow Marines. He will never be forgotten.

Madam Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of United States Marine Gunnery Sergeant Adam F. Benjamin. His life, gone far too soon, was framed by his great love of family, friends and country. I extend my deepest condolences to his mother and father, Judy Watters and Frank Benjamin; to his step-father, Robert Watters; to his brothers and sisters: Aaron, Amanda, Asa, Abram, Abigail, Amos, Amayah, Aric, Anyah, Alexis and Allen; to his grandmothers, Yolanda and Mary; and to his extended family and many close friends.

CONGRATULATING THE SMOKY
MOUNTAIN CHILDREN'S HOME
FOR 2009 ANGELS IN ADOPTION
PROGRAM

HON. DAVID P. ROE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Smoky Mountain Children's Home for their long heritage as residential care center and an adoption placement agency.

I was honored to nominate the Smoky Mountain Children's Home for the 2009 Angels in Adoption™ program. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, which orchestrates the Angels in Adoption™ program, presented an award to The Smoky Mountain Children's Home along with more than 190 Angels from across the Nation.

Madam Speaker, the Smoky Mountain Children's Home's philosophy comes from a basic faith based belief that every child deserves a family.

I am thankful for the important work that is being done at the Smoky Mountain Children's Home. They are working each day toward one of the most noble causes imaginable—to improve the life of a child by bringing him or her together with a loving family.

I am grateful for programs such as Angels in Adoption™ who recognize the good work done by great organizations like the Smoky Mountain Children's Home.

COMMEMORATING SEA OTTER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 30, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the 7th Annual Sea Otter Awareness Week, September 28–October 3, 2009, sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife. This week-long event provides the opportunity to educate the broader public about sea otters, their natural history, the integral role that sea otters play in the near-shore marine ecosystem, and the conservation issues they are facing.

In the early 1700's, before wide-scale hunting began, sea otters ranged across the North Pacific rim from Japan to Baja California. The worldwide population estimates for that time range from the hundreds of thousands to possibly a million or more. Before the hunting began, there were approximately 16,000–20,000 along California's coast. Killing these animals for their fur brought down their numbers until they were thought to be extinct off California by the early 1900s.

But they were not driven completely to extinction. In the 1930's a small population, of less than 100 animals that had escaped the hunt, was discovered in a remote cove on a coastal ranch in Big Sur, on the Central Coast of California. Since that time, groups such as Defenders of Wildlife, Friends of the Sea Otter, and Ocean Conservancy have raised public awareness and helped protect this important species under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. The presence of the California sea otter has become an icon of the state's coastal environment and culture, and these charismatic animals bring significant tourism revenue to Californian coastal communities.

The three year population average, counted by the U.S. Geological Survey this year, totals only 2,813 animals, a decrease of half a percent and the first such decline in over a decade. These numbers are significantly less than what is necessary to consider the population decline in recent years is highly concerning. Researchers are beginning to identify indirect hazards for sea otters such as non-point source pollution, pathogens, and entrapment in fisheries gear that are causing their population growth to reverse. Such realizations support the need for continued research and preventive measures to respond to these issues, while continuing to ward against the direct killings/takings that still occur.

The decline of Southern Sea Otters off of the California Coast not only impacts the species itself, but it affects other marine populations and the surrounding ecosystem because Sea Otters are what scientists refer to as a keystone species. This means that they are integrally important to the ecosystem in which they live. The demise of sea otters allows their prey, sea urchins, to proliferate unchecked leading to the alarming overgrazing of kelp beds—one of the oceans nursery grounds for many marine animals. Research shows that the absence of sea otters has a direct link to the sharp decline of kelp along portions of California's coast. Further, the Sea Otter is also what scientists refer to as a sentinel or an indicator species. In this way, the