

in aiding Sengbe Pieh and the Mendians in what became a two-year legal and political battle for their freedom. Pastor Simeon Jocelyn, Lewis Tappan, and the congregations of the United Church on the Green and Dixwell United Church of Christ established the *Amistad* Committee whose mission was to provide for the Mendians' basic needs. They gathered food and clothing, and arranged for students from the Yale Divinity School to teach the Mendians English so that they were able to communicate their story to their defenders. Roger Sherman Baldwin, a New Haven attorney who later enlisted the aid of former President John Quincy Adams, volunteered to defend the captives. Today, a statue of Sengbe Pieh stands proudly near the site where he and the other Mendians of the *Amistad* were first imprisoned. New Haven is proud of the role it played in this crucial moment in the ongoing struggle for human rights and racial harmony. We are honored to have the *Amistad* with us today.

There are so many wonderful people that have committed themselves to this project—their hard work and dedication to this cause has made this day possible. My sincere thanks and appreciation to former Connecticut Governor Lowell Weicker, responsible for securing the initial state funding and support for the project; Al Marder and the *Amistad* Committee, which recreated the original committee that first came to the defense of the *Amistad* slaves; the Connecticut African American Historical Society, whose work with the *Amistad* Committee and Governor Weicker established *Amistad* America; *Amistad* America, a non-profit educational corporation that worked with Mystic Seaport to build the replica and will continue to operate the ship; and the students and faculty of the Sound School in New Haven, who crafted a lifeboat, named Margru after one of the four children aboard *Amistad*, that will now be carried on the *Amistad* replica. The participation and diligent efforts of all these groups and talented individuals have produced a tremendous contribution to the history of Connecticut and the United States.

As we reflect on the 161 years of history that has passed since the original *Amistad* landed on our shores, it is important to remind ourselves that this continues to be an unfinished journey. In the United States, we tore our nation apart in violence before we put an end to the institution that brought Sengbe Pieh to these shores. In Sierra Leone, it would be more than a century after their native sons and daughters left their shores before they would be able to claim the right to truly govern themselves. Today, we watch as the United Nations and Sierra Leone's African neighbors help in its struggle for peace. If the history of the United States and Sierra Leone have taught us anything, it is that our journey towards peace, justice, and freedom has not yet ended.

Whether at sea or in port, the *Amistad* will carry this message to all who will hear it. A reminder of an extraordinary moment in our history, I applaud the inspired dedication that the New Haven community has shown for this project. It is with great pleasure that I stand and add my voice to all of those who have gathered today to welcome the *Amistad* home.

TRIBUTE TO THE 11TH GREAT DOMINICAN PARADE AND CARNAVAL OF THE BRONX

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor for me to recognize the Great Dominican Parade and Festival of the Bronx on its eleventh year of celebrating Dominican culture in my South Bronx Congressional District. This year's festivities will take place on July 16, 2000.

Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles, the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond.

On Sunday July 16, thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse in honor of Juan Pablo Duarte, the father of the independence of the Dominican Republic.

As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them. It is an honor for me to join once again the hundreds of joyful people who will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street, and to savor the variety of their celebrations. There's no better way to see our Bronx community.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. This year's festival includes the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

In addition to the parade, President Febles and many organizers have provided the community with nearly two weeks of activities to commemorate the contributions of the Dominican community, its culture and history.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE KOREAN WAR

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize not only the importance of our strategic relationship with the Republic of Turkey but their historic contribution in the Korean War. Almost 50 years ago, in October of 1950, the Turkish brigade consisting of 4,500 army troops arrived in Korea. By the time Turkey had completed its commitment, 29,882 were rotated through the brigade, 717 were killed in action, and 2246 were wounded. These fig-

ures, the highest casualty rate of the United Nations mission, demonstrated that Turkey's reputation was well deserved.

The Turkish brigade's courage and contributions were repeatedly highlighted in the press at the time. For example, the battle of Kunuri was detailed in a TIME magazine article which stated "The courageous battles of the Turkish Brigade have created a favorable effect on the whole United Nations Forces." Their courage was also referenced on Capitol Hill, with former Representative Claude Pepper opining that, "There is no one left who does not know that the Turks, our valuable allies, are hard warriors and that they have accomplished very great at the front."

Having become a member of NATO in 1952, Turkey also demonstrated its indisputable role in European security. Among all NATO allies, Turkey defended the longest border with the former Soviet Union, and carried a heavy responsibility in helping to contain, and ultimately defeat communism.

After the end of the Cold War, Turkey seized the opportunity to help shape the peace in the region. One of the first countries to recognize the independence of new emerging democracies, Turkey actively sought to assist with their efforts to integrate into the international community. Turkey provided them with direct assistance in credit and goods, military cooperation agreements to assist in building their national defense structure, scholarships for students to study in Turkish universities, offering an alternate route for transportation and communication facilities, and legal technical assistance and know how.

Turkey remains at the center of our energy security policy to develop the "east-west" access for the transport of both oil and natural gas from the Caspian region. This strategy would further shore up the economies of the countries involved, and encourage the development of democracy in the region.

At the time of the Korean War, most strategic thinkers would probably have envisioned Turkey as playing an important role in the future of European security, but the scope and breadth of the relationship which developed has most likely surpassed even the greatest expectations. Our relationship with Turkey has developed into a strategic one which we should continue to develop and nurture.

AIMEE'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2000

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 894, the No Second Chances for Murderers, Rapists, or Child Molesters Act (Aimee's Law).

Each year more than 14,000 murders, rapes, and sexual assaults are committed by previously convicted murderers and sex offenders. While the United States has been moving towards lengthy mandatory sentences for a number of crimes, sentences for murder, child molestation and rape often fall short.

Aimee's Law would add accountability to the existing formula for distributing federal crime