

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes for the incredible service she has provided for the citizens of her community. The world is a better place because of her years of distinguished service, and she has certainly earned the honor this notable award recognizes. The citizens of Charleston County and I congratulate Mrs. Holmes on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on July 23 I was necessarily absent and was not able to vote on three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

H.R. 2137—Criminal Law Technical Amendments Act of 2001—Yes; H.R. 1892—Family Sponsor Immigration Act of 2001—Yes; S. 468—James Corman Federal Buildings Designation—Yes.

ON THE ANOINTMENT OF REVEREND DR. HUBERT BANKS AS BISHOP

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Dr. Hubert Banks on his elevation to the Office of Bishop in the Pentecostal Deliverance Tabernacle Worship Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey. On July 29, 2001, Reverend Dr. Banks will be consecrated as Bishop, one of the highest levels in his faith, at the Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle in Paterson, New Jersey. Reverend Dr. Banks has devoted his life to his faith, community, his family, and to ministering throughout the world. He is truly an exemplary man of faith and we are fortunate to have him serve our northern New Jersey community.

Reverend Dr. Banks has faithfully ministered since 1985, however his involvement with the Church began when he was twelve years old. A graduate of Ridgewood High School, he has served as Director of various youth, senior, and state choirs and worked actively with youth faith groups. His outstanding leadership and devotion brought him to the position of deacon while continuing his work with a men's chorus. At this point, Reverend Dr. Banks was also named Board Chairman of the Allene Gilmore Day Care Center.

In 1980, Reverend Dr. Banks was licensed into ministry as an Evangelist by the United Christian Church and Ministerial Association. One year later, he was ordained and went on to found the Pentecostal Deliverance Ministry. Reverend Dr. Banks then brought his spiritual leadership overseas as he spent time ministering in Israel. Since that experience, he has

spent extensive time doing evangelistic work throughout Africa in Venda, Malawi, and Johannesburg. In 1990, Reverend Dr. Banks was promoted to District Elder in the Northern New Jersey region and received his Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Shiloh Theological Seminary shortly thereafter. In 1998, Reverend Dr. Banks was named Bishop-Elect under the Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries and now, three years later, he will be appointed to the respected position of Bishop in a traditional ceremony, rich with his faith's symbols. With his elevation to the title of Bishop, Reverend Dr. Banks will serve a larger congregation, bringing his dedication to new churches in the area. These churches are fortunate to have such an outstanding man both leading and serving their communities.

Reverend Dr. Banks' life as a minister includes his wife and two daughters, three stepsons and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Dr. Banks for his elevation to the position of Bishop and for the outstanding example he sets for all of us.

HONORING ANDREW A. ATHENS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding American, a humanitarian and a dedicated health provider, Andrew A. Athens.

Mr. Athens has dedicated his life not only to serving his family, his faith, and his nation, but is trying to improve the quality of life for millions of patients in need of health care throughout the world. With the same dedication and work ethic, Andy Athens and his wife, Louise, have raised their children and grandchildren in the best traditions of philanthropy, respect, and good will.

Andy was born in Chicago, IL, the son of Greek-American immigrants. He went on to serve as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II where he distinguished himself in the European and African campaigns for which he was decorated with the Bronze Star. Following the war, he helped rebuild the infrastructure of war-ravaged Europe, which service earned him a citation from the Hungarian Government. Subsequent to his return to America, Andy cofound Metron Steel Corporation, in which he served as its president for 41 years and during which time it became a major steel service center in the Midwest.

A life-long activist in the Greek Orthodox Faith, Andy Athens has held leadership roles on the local, Diocesan and national levels. While President of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America from 1974–1995, the highest position a layman can hold in the Church's national administration, Andy helped to establish the charitable arms of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Leadership 100. For his outstanding humanitarian service, Andy received numerous awards, including the highly

regarded Religious Heritage of America Award, the Athenagoran Human Rights Award, the Medal of Saint Paul, and other honors. Furthermore, Andy's service to the National Church has earned him the international recognition of the leader of World Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who has elevated Andy to the rank of Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew.

Responding to the need for political action, Andy mobilized the Greek American community to petition elected officials and to express their views for global action. In 1974, he founded the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), and continues to serve as its' chairman. UHAC has helped to bridge the gap between the Greek American communities who govern nationally and globally. It is a voice for human rights violations in the Mediterranean and the Balkans and the need for religious freedom in Turkey. Continuing his international humanitarian service, in 1995, Mr. Athens was elected to serve as the 1st President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE).

Andy's greatest political and humanitarian achievements have been in his service with the SAE, which represents 7 million Hellenes living outside of Greece. Under Andy's leadership, the SAE instituted an historic program bringing primary health care and job opportunities to Hellenes and their neighbors living in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The SAE Medical Relief Program has established three health care centers in Georgia, a clinic and visiting nurses program in Ukraine, and a health care clinic in Armenia. Soon, they will begin a full program in Albania. They have managed to help more than 34,000 patient's per month throughout these clinics.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in honoring Andrew A. Athens, a "Greek-American global advocate of all the values that have made our nation so strong." Mr. Athens has lived the American dream based on honor, duty, faith and respect. He has truly been saintly as a philanthropic global advocate for the values we all embody as Americans.

EUROPEAN INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE U.S.

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 22, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "Why America Says No."

Currently, the U.S. is under intense pressure from members of the European Union (EU) to conform to what they deem best for their combined interests. While U.S. economic and security interests often intersect with those of its European allies, such convergence is not always the case. Environmental standards (particularly those outlined in the Kyoto Protocol), agriculture subsidy levels, and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are among the issues on which the U.S. and the EU disagree. Participation in the proposed