

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 386, I was unable to cast my vote due to a previous commitment in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE LIFE AND
ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANTONIO
MEUCCI**HON. VITO FOSSELLA**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, Italian-Americans have contributed greatly to the United States; Columbus discovered America, two Italians signed the Declaration of Independence, Enrico Fermi split the atom and Captain Don Gentile, the fighting ace, was described by General Dwight Eisenhower as a "one man air force," to name just a few. I wanted to spend a few minutes today to honor an Italian-American who is often overlooked—Antonio Meucci.

The 19th century was a time of great technological innovation, as its birth heralded the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. However, unlike the century just ended and the new one we are beginning to explore, the rough and tumble of our young nation had yet to develop information exchange to the extent we enjoy today.

The Founding Fathers made America guarantor of unprecedented—and to this day unmatched—liberty. This liberty included an again unprecedented appreciation for intellectual property rights.

Today, with our study of historical records and ability to examine many disparate sources of information, we now know it is likely that the invention of what we know today as the telephone took place in the middle of the 19th century rather than at its end.

Its creator was Antonio Meucci. He worked for years to develop this new system of electronic communication. However, poor and sick, he was unable to keep the patents in force and died before the courts could decide with finality whether he or Alexander Graham Bell was the true inventor of the telephone.

It is known that Meucci demonstrated his device in 1860, that a description appeared in New York's Italian language newspaper and that Western Union received working models from Meucci but reportedly lost them. It is also known that Meucci, due to his limited means, settled for a caveat, a one-year renewable notice of an impending patent, first filed in 1871 but which he was unable to pursue after 1874, while Alexander Graham Bell was not granted a patent until 1876. Finally, it is known that the Supreme Court of the United States agreed to remand the issue for trial, but Meucci died a short time later, rendering the case moot.

With these facts before the House today, I ask for passage of this Resolution to honor the life and achievements of Antonio Meucci.

SUPPRESSION OF WOMEN IN
AFGHANISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice to those in Congress, this country, and throughout the world who are concerned about the oppressed women living in Afghanistan under the cruel Taliban regime. Never have the women in that country needed the support of others in the international community more than now.

When the Taliban, the ruling party in Afghanistan, took control in 1996, women were completely stripped of all their fundamental human rights and freedoms. Prior to 1996, women were allowed to work, have careers, and go to school.

Now, women in Afghanistan are not allowed to engage in any of these activities.

They are not allowed to leave their homes unless accompanied by a close male relative, or talk to, or walk with a man to whom they are not related.

The Taliban believes that women appearing in public in any capacity are instruments of moral corruption and agents of sexual anarchy. To avoid this, women must be kept covered, out of sight and off the streets. They must wear the burqa, the clothing garment that covers them from head-to-toe, leaving only a mesh square over their eyes to permit minimal vision.

Schools in Afghanistan have also been drastically impacted by the Taliban regime. Within three months of the capture of Kabul, the Taliban closed 63 schools in the city affecting about 100,000 girls, 150,000 boys and 11,000 teachers, of whom 75 percent were women. The Taliban shut down Kabul University sending home some 10,000 students, of which 4,000 were women.

Many children in Afghanistan are growing up without any education, since women are not allowed to teach young children because it qualifies as work. An entire generation of Afghan children are growing up uneducated.

Women in Afghanistan are beaten and killed when they disobey the Taliban's wishes and rules. Women are oftentimes the victims of deliberate and arbitrary killings and disappearances.

The Taliban turns a blind eye to the abduction of women, forces them into brutal marriages, and condones rapes and sexual assaults of young girls and women. Worse, women who are raped can be put to death for the crime of being a victim of rape. Women are publicly harassed, intimidated and beaten for carrying out activities common in our country, such as wearing make-up, which is deemed to be violating the strict rules of the Taliban.

Women are deprived of basic human rights and must live in constant fear.

The women in Afghanistan do not have a voice in their country, their community, or their home. We, as women in free societies throughout the world, must stand up for women in Afghanistan as their voice and as their sisters.

If we do not want to see repression and terrorism continue, we must directly aid Afghan women's groups and call on the future Afghanistan government to involve women in their quest for freedom.

We must condemn these acts of violence and human rights abuses and help our sisters in Afghanistan. I join my colleagues in condemning the Taliban and its outrageous treatment of women in Afghanistan.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF CONSULATE OF THE
SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN KANSAS
CITY**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the historic October 18 opening of the Consulate of the Slovak Republic in Missouri's Fifth District. Mr. Ross Marine, the Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic to the States of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, will receive the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, the Honorable H.E. Martin Butora, and his wife Zora Butorova.

The Consulate will serve to promote cultural, economic, and educational partnerships between the United States and the Slovak Republic. The Honorary Consul will encourage our expanding community of Slovaks to celebrate their heritage and culture, thus increasing awareness of the diversity of Kansas City's ethnic communities.

Eduard Kukan, the Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, appointed Honorary Consul Marine to the post in September of 2000. The United States Department of State granted Honorary Consul Marine approval to establish the Consulate in Kansas City. Honorary Consul Marine brings an impressive background of civic, community, and health care service to the position.

Kansas City has a history of partnership with Slovakia. Slovaks established their first community in Kansas City around 1900. Many of them fled the then Austro-Hungarian Empire in search of economic security and better lives for their families. Their hard work led to the growth of the city's meat packing industry due to the agricultural background of many of these immigrants. Today, descendants of these Slovak immigrants continue to contribute to the fifth district's economic livelihood and cultural soul. The community keeps their roots alive by participating in the city's ethnic cultural folk festivals performing traditional dances such as the polka, the kola, and the paterka. The premier Slavic Festival in the Midwest, the Sugar Creek Slavic Festival, is an annual June event drawing Slovak musicians and dancers from all over the region. This celebration is always a great success since its inception 16 years ago. Representative of the ethnic community in Sugar Creek, Missouri, Mayor Stan Salva proudly traces his roots back to Slovakia, as do many residents of his city.

From 1996 to 1998 Truman Medical Center Corporation, the Missouri Department of