

A Dumas, Arkansas, native, Mae was a longtime teacher in the public school system in my hometown of Prescott. During the course of her career, she enriched the lives of generations of Prescott school children through her love for her students and dedication to teaching. As an educator, she was an active member of the National Education Association, the Arkansas Education Association, the Literacy Council and the Nevada County Retired Teachers Association.

Mae was also a devoted member of the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Broughton, Arkansas. In the church, she served as a deaconess and a member of the Hospitality Committee, the Outreach Mission and the Women's Missionary Society. In addition, she gave of her time to be Children's Church Coordinator and Chair of the Program Committee.

Mae Grayson Hamilton was truly a role model not only to our young people, but to all those who knew her well. Her passing is a great loss to her former students, her church family, and all the people of Nevada County. I am grateful for her lifelong commitment to education and her community, and I was proud to represent her in the United States House of Representatives.

My heart goes out to Mae's husband, Johnny Hamilton, Jr., and her two daughters, Michele Hamilton Rhodes and Nicole Hamilton, and my thoughts and prayers are with all her family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my sincere congratulation to the people and Government of the Republic of Turkey as they celebrate the seventy-eighth anniversary of the founding of their nation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk on October 29th. This celebration is an important opportunity to highlight the incredible accomplishments of one of the world's most dynamic nations. I know I speak for many Members of Congress and the American people in extending our wishes for the continued strength and success of the Republic of Turkey.

Over the past seventy-eight years, Turkey has emerged as the secular and modern democracy that Kemal Ataturk envisioned in 1923. Turkey has proven that democracy and Islam are compatible concepts and that freedom and tolerance are universal ideals that should be embraced by all peace-loving nations. As Turkish President Sezer said in a speech commemorating the foundation of the Republic of Turkey on Sunday, "The Republic which was founded as a result of Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's foresight after our nation won its War of Independence is an idea of enlightenment and modernization."

As America faces her toughest test both domestically and internationally since World War II, it is reassuring to know that we have the unconditional and unequivocal support of the

Republic of Turkey in our counter-terrorism efforts. Turkey's support and sympathy for the American people following the September 11th attacks are testament to the strength of our nations relations and our common commitment to democracy and freedom. As Turkey celebrates her national day, it is important for the United States to recommit to strengthening our strategic partnership with our NATO ally.

As Co-Chairman of the Caucus on U.S. Turkish Relations and Turkish Americans, I believe that we would be remiss if we did not mention the significant contributions of the Turkish American community to our nation. This growing and increasingly important American community has enjoyed unparallel success at every level of American society and in every profession. As American ambassadors of Turkish culture and history, they are without a doubt the Republic of Turkey's greatest asset in the United States and have enriched America.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of the Republic of Turkey celebrate their nation's seventy-eighth anniversary, I know that they will continue to build on the political, economic, and cultural success envisioned by one of the twentieth century's greatest leaders, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Again, I congratulate the government and people of the Republic of Turkey as they celebrate the founding of their nation.

FUNDING FOR THE FREEDMEN'S
BUREAU RECORDS PRESERVA-
TION ACT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Treasury-Postal Appropriations Bill, H.R. 2590, includes funding to implement the Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act of 2000. The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act was sponsored by Representative JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and Representative J.C. WATTS. I was privileged to manage the legislation on the floor of the House last year.

This important Act requires the Archivist of the United States to preserve the records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the "Freedmen's Bureau," so that these records can be maintained for future generations. It further requires the Archivist to work with Howard University and other institutions to index the records so that they will be more easily accessible.

The Freedmen's Bureau, which was established in 1865, accumulated a treasure trove of records concerning newly emancipated African-Americans. These records contain information on marriages, births, deaths, labor contracts, Government rations and back-pay records, and indentured contracts for minors. The records are, in many instances, a key source of information to American families tracing their heritage. They are also a vital source of information for historians and students.

The Freedmen's Bureau Records Preservation Act has special relevance for Howard Uni-

versity. The fact that both the Freedmen's Bureau and Howard University grew out of the same impulse to remediate the wrongs of slavery at the end of the Civil War linked the two institutions together at their birth. The fact that General Oliver Otis Howard served both as the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau and as the third president of the University that bears his name adds additional strength to the link. Therefore, Representative MILLENDER-MCDONALD and I were honored to join many others in a ceremony at Howard University on February 27, 2001, to commemorate enactment of this important legislation.

With the support of Congress, the National Archives will employ microfilming technology to preserve the invaluable Freedmen's Bureau records, and Howard University will develop indexing strategies to provide their widest accessibility to scholars, genealogists, and the general public. Through this partnership, the Act's goals of ensuring preservation and promoting access can and will be achieved.

IN HONOR OF THE CONTINUING
SERVICE OF THE NATIONAL
GUARD AND RESERVE UNITS AC-
TIVATED IN SUPPORT OF OPER-
ATION ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution honoring the continuing service and commitment of the members of the National Guard and Reserve units activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In the days following September 11th, it was the National Guard and Reserve who were present on our streets and in our skies. They were present in our airports and on our waterways. They were deploying overseas in support of active duty units. This is not the first time we have seen these heroes in action. They are our associates and neighbors, our friends and relatives. And yet to many of us, their presence means so much more now than it did before.

We must honor the modern day Minuteman, for as our citizen-soldiers stand watch over us, they remind us that long before the phrase "Homeland Security" was crafted, they were here to preserve liberty on the home front. They were there to support our Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force. And they are still there, supporting our nation in this time of danger.

This war against terrorism may be lengthy and difficult, and we may at times feel less than fully secure, but I stand here today to tell you that I rest easier with the knowledge that the National Guard is on the job. We owe the men and women who have left their families and jobs to heed this call a great deal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting our National Guard and Reserve. Let us not allow a single Guard or Reserve member to join in this conflict, without knowing that the House of Representatives, and more importantly a grateful nation, holds them in the highest esteem. Let us pass this resolution now