

who fought for civil rights. But, back then, attempting to register and vote could be a perilous thing to do.

These efforts culminated in "Bloody Sunday," when our friend and colleague from Georgia, John Lewis, led demonstrators across the Pettus Bridge into the ranks of armed troops, rallying much of the country around the enactment of the Voting Rights Act—the crowning achievement of the Civil Rights Movement.

That was a high point in a struggle that had been going on for nearly two centuries.

In our country's formative years, it was thought by many that only people who owned property should be permitted to vote and participate in the political process. Free blacks were effectively excluded until after the implementation of the Voting Rights Act, even after the adoption of the 13th Amendment that granted the voting franchise to black males in 1866. This exclusion also extended to all women, who did not gain the right to vote until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.

In fact, not one country granted its citizens universal suffrage prior to the 20th century—not Greece in the 5th Century B.C., England with the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215, or the United States with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

I'm told that Finland, in 1906, was the first country to elect its government on the principle of universal suffrage in competitive, multi-party elections. But perhaps no one inspired the world more than those who valiantly carried the torch of freedom here in the United States, providing a beacon of light for the whole world to follow.

Today, there are 119 countries with democratic forms of government—almost two-thirds of the world's nations containing three-fifths of its people. For the first time in history, a majority of the world's people live under governments of their own choosing. Representative government can now be said to be a universal human value—a set of principles that are aspired to by the vast majority of people in our own country and around the world.

In 1867, Sojourner Truth told a group of friends who gathered for her 80th birthday: "It is about time for me to be going. I have been 40 years as a slave and 40 years free, and would be here 40 years more to have equal rights for all. I suppose I am kept here because something remains for me to do. I suppose I am yet to help to break the chain."

This continues to be our task today: to make sure the inalienable right to vote is never taken from anyone, and the chain remains broken for ourselves and for all humankind.

NAVAL HONORS GIVEN TO TWO SHIPS WITH CONNECTIONS TO MISSOURI

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I inform the House of the presen-

tation of the Navy Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Awards to two Navy ships with ties to Missouri.

The U.S.S. *Harry S Truman* (CVN 75) was awarded first place in the aircraft carrier division and the U.S.S. *Jefferson City* (SSN 759) was awarded honorable mention in the submarine division.

The Ney awards were established in 1958 by the Secretary of the Navy and the International Food Service Executives Association to improve and recognize quality food service in the Navy. The awards honor overall food service excellence by evaluating key areas in customer service, restauranturship, cleanliness and management. An independent team that reviewed food preparation, management, administration, equipment safety, sanitation, plastic waste and disposal evaluated each category.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women responsible for this exemplary service deserved to be recognized. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending congratulations to the servicepeople aboard these ships.

IN HONOR OF THE PANCYPRIAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND THE HONOREE OF THEIR ANNUAL DINNER-DANCE, ISMINI MICHAELS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this congress an outstanding organization located in my district in Queens. The Pancyprian Association of America Women's Issues Network (WIN) is dedicated to education, health, and a better quality of life for the Astoria community. This year they will be honoring Ismini Michaels at their annual Dinner Dance on March 3, 2001.

Ismini Michaels was born in Nicosia, Cyprus and graduated from the Teaching Academy of Cyprus. She was a teacher for twelve years at St. Anthony's School in Nicosia. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Michaels founded the children's choir and organized dozens of wonderful cultural events. She was a member of the "Pnevmatiki Stegi," the Choir of Cyprus, and worked at PIK, the Cypriot television station, hosting the television series Music and Dances of Cyprus.

In 1975, following the Turkish invasion, Ismini immigrated to New York City with her family in search of a better future. In New York, she worked at the Transfiguration of Christ Greek School in Corona for three years, and from 1981 through the present she has worked at the Archangel Michael Afternoon School in Roslyn, NY.

A dynamic member of the Hellenic community, Ismini has served in the Women's Division of the United Cyprians of America, the PanPaphian Association and the Cypriot Teachers Association. After the sudden death of her beloved husband, Stelios, she took on the continuation of his work with the Department of Health of Cyprus and the Greenpoint Chapter of Deborah Hospital, securing free therapy and surgeries for children with cancer.

Today Ismini is a member of the Pancyprian Association of America and its subdivision, the Women's Issues Network, as well as a member and the President of the Choir of the Pancyprian Cultural Division. She is also a member of the committee for Scholarships from the PanPaphian Association, and Treasurer of the Greek Children's Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering and Schneider Hospitals. She is also on the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Federation of America and is a production member of the television show "H Kypros Mas" (Our Cyprus) hosted and produced by Petros Petridis, with whom she has worked with for many years organizing theatrical and cultural events.

Ismini Michaels lives in Queens and has three daughters, Maria, Andri and Noni. From her daughter Andri she has two grandchildren, Stella and Nicholas.

I wish her the best of health so that she may continue her many contributions toward her fellow man and her beloved homelands of the United States and Cyprus.

SHOULD THE U.S. HELP HAITI?

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 26, 2001*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to the attention of the House an article written by one of our former colleagues, Joseph Kennedy, II. In an article which originally appeared in the Boston Globe, Mr. Kennedy takes note of the spectacular progress that Haiti has made towards democracy. He lauds their progress though they are one of the poorest countries in the world and have environment, water, and electricity problems. Additionally, the majority of Haitians are illiterate. He points out that America, though mighty, needs Haiti. He goes on to applaud the recently elected President, Jean-Bertraud Aristide and urges the U.S. to support his Presidency. I submit this article for your perusal and I too join Mr. Kennedy in his conclusion that the U.S. should and must help Haiti. I also laud Secretary Powell for his comments which appeared in an Associated Press article, where the Secretary called President Aristide's commitments to carry out governmental and political reforms, "an appropriate road map." I would like to insert into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Mr. Kennedy's article which appeared in the Boston Globe on February 7, 2001.

US SHOULD HELP ARISTIDE REBUILD HAITI

Today's inauguration of President Jean Bertrand Aristide serves to remind us of how far Haitian Democracy has come and how far the economy has to go in order to establish peace and prosperity in our Hemisphere's poorest nation. The average Haitian lives on less than \$1 a day—the lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Malnutrition is three times the regional average. More than 65 percent of Haitians cannot read or write. The same percentage survive on subsistence slash-and-burn farming that strips the landscape. The legacy of deforestation has left the mountains countryside barren and the coastal waters muddy with topsoil runoff.