

of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MARKING 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREECE'S DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the country where democracy was born and where democracy returned 180 years ago.

March 25, 2001, marks the 180 anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Before then, Greece had been ruled by the Ottoman Empire for almost 400 years, during which time Greeks were deprived of their civil rights.

It is with great pride that Hellenic Americans recount the stories of how their ancestors in Greece stood together and fought against repression by continuing to educate Greek children in their culture, their language, and their religion, even under the threat of death.

This year, the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York has as its parade theme the Hellenic-American educational system. It is especially important that they are paying tribute to education, cultural heritage, religious learning, and the Hellenic-American values and ideals that are taught in the United States Hellenic parochial schools.

□ 1845

Education has always been the key to preserving Hellenic culture, values, and religion.

This year I have the honor of being selected grand marshal, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), who cochairs the Hellenic Caucus with me, and Assemblyman Michael Giannaris from New York and California Secretary of State Phillip Ajjedilis and Honorary Grand Marshal Lucas Tsilas. We will have the privilege of marching with many members of my Astoria community, the largest Hellenic community outside of Athens.

The Hellenic and Phil-Hellenic community has a great deal to celebrate. They will celebrate the coming Olympics and the continued efforts of the Hellenic Caucus to seek a peaceful understanding with Turkey on the issues of the Greek Islands and Cyprus occupation. Here in the United States, we often take democracy for granted. In the world, there are still countries fighting for basic human rights. On this day of Greek independence, let us remember the words of Plato, and I quote: "Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike."

Is that not a great way to describe democracy?

The best way to express the feeling of the Hellenic community is the Greek National Anthem that tells of their struggle for independence.

I thank the Federation of Hellenic Societies of Greater New York for all of the contributions they have made to our community and in their efforts to make each year's Greek Independence Day celebration more exciting than the last. I know that I will remember this year. Zeto E Eleftheria. Long live freedom in Greece and in the entire world.

CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, today I, too, proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and the strong ties that bind the nations of Greece and the United States.

It was 180 years ago when the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused. The word "democracy" stems from two Greek words: "demos," meaning "of the people" and "kratos," meaning "power" and "strength." On this anniversary, it is the power and strength of the Greek people and their courage and commitment to the principles of human government and self-determination that we celebrate.

Revolutions embody a sense of heroism, bringing forth the greatness of the human spirit in the struggle against oppression. It was Thomas Jefferson who said that, and I quote, "one man with courage is a majority." Quoting Jefferson on the anniversary of Greek independence is particularly appropriate. Jefferson and the rest of the Founding Fathers looked back to the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers for inspiration as they sought to craft a strong democratic state. And in 1821, it was the Founding Fathers of our Nation to whom the Greeks looked for inspiration as they began their journey toward freedom.

Encouraged by the American revolution, the Greeks began their rebellion after 4 centuries of Turkish oppression, facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds. Like the United States, Greece faced the prospect of having to defeat an empire to obtain liberty. Many lives were sacrificed at the altar of freedom. In the face of impending defeat, the Greek people showed great courage and rallied around the battle cry, "Eleftheria I Thanatos," liberty or death.

Similar words, "Give me liberty or give me death," spoken in America

only 5 decades before by Patrick Henry, embodied the Greek patriots' unmitigated desire to be free.

News of the Greek revolution met with widespread feelings of compassion in the United States. The Founding Fathers eagerly expressed sentiments of support for the fledgling uprising. Several American Presidents, including James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, conveyed their support for the revolution through their annual messages to Congress. William Harrison, our ninth President, expressed his belief in freedom for Greece saying, "We must send our free will offering. The 'Star-spangled Banner,'" he went on to say, "must wave in the Aegean, a messenger for eternity and friendship to Greece."

Various Members of Congress also showed a keen interest in the Greek struggle for autonomy. Henry Clay, who in 1825 became Secretary of State, was a champion of Greece's fight for independence. Among the most vocal was Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, who frequently aroused the sympathetic interests of his colleagues and other Americans in the Greek revolution. It should not surprise us that the Founding Fathers would express such keen support for Greek independence, for they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks and their own struggle for freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks, we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves, the American colonists, out of gothic darkness." Our two nations share a brotherhood bonded by the common blood of democracy, birthed by Lady Liberty, and committed to the ideal that each individual deserves the right of self-determination.

We all know that the price of liberty can be very high. History is replete with the names of the millions who have sacrificed for it. Socrates, Plato, Pericles, and many other great scholars throughout history warned that we maintain democracy only at great cost. The freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

Madam Speaker, on this 180th birthday of Greek independence, when we celebrate the restoration of democracy to the land of its conception, we also celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the strength of man's will. The goals and values that the people of Greece share with the people of the United States reaffirm our common democratic heritage. This occasion also serves to remind us that we must never take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

Remembering the sacrifice of the brave Greeks who gave their lives for liberty helps us all realize, Madam Speaker, how important it is to be an active participant in our own democracy, and that is why we honor those

who secured independence for Greece so many years ago.

Madam Speaker, today I proudly rise to celebrate Greek Independence Day and the strong ties that bind the nation of Greece and the United States.

One hundred and eighty years ago, the people of Greece began a journey that would mark the symbolic rebirth of democracy in the land where those principles to human dignity were first espoused. The word democracy stems from two Greek words; *demos*, meaning of the people, and *kratos*, meaning power and strength. On this anniversary, it is the power and strength of the Greek people and their courage and commitment to the principles of human government and self-determination that we celebrate.

Revolutions are often violent affairs. They come about when a people, who have too long suffered under the yoke of oppression and been denied the very basic tenets of human dignity, rise up in the name of self-determination. The concepts of self-determination and revolution were first espoused by the ancient Greek philosophers. Men such as Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, and Euripides developed the then-unique notion that men could, if left to their own devices, lead themselves rather than be subject to the will of a sovereign. It was Aristotle who said: "We make war that we may live in peace." On March 25, 1821, Archbishop Germanos of Patras embodied the spirit of those words when he raised the flag of freedom and was the first to declare Greece free.

Revolutions also embody a sense of heroism, bringing forth the greatness of the human spirit in the struggle against oppression. It was Thomas Jefferson who said that, "One man with courage is a majority." Quoting Jefferson on the anniversary of Greek independence is particularly appropriate. Jefferson, and the rest of the Founding Fathers, looked back to the teachings of ancient Greek philosophers for inspiration as they sought to craft a strong democratic state. And in 1821, it was the Founding Fathers of our nation to whom the Greeks looked for inspiration as they began their journey toward freedom.

The history of Greek Independence, like that of the American Revolution, is filled with many stories of courage and heroism. There are many parallels between the American and Greek Revolutions. I would like to take the opportunity to recount some of these tales with you now.

Encouraged by the American Revolution, the Greeks began their rebellion after four centuries of Turkish oppression, facing what appeared to be insurmountable odds. Both nations faced the prospect of having to defeat an empire to obtain liberty. And if Samuel Adams, the American revolutionary leader who lighted the first spark of rebellion by leading the Boston Tea Party, had a Greek counterpart, that man would be Alexander Ypsilantis.

Ypsilantis was a Greek who was born in Istanbul, and whose family was later exiled to Russia. Ypsilantis served in the Russian army, and it was there, during his military service, that he became involved with a secret society called the "Philike Hetairia" which translated means "friendly society." The "friendly society" was made up of merchants and other

Greek leaders, but the intent of the society was to seek freedom for Greece and her people.

The group planned a secret uprising for 1821 to be led by Ypsilantis. He and 4,500 volunteers assembled near the Russian border to launch an insurrection against the Turks. The Turkish army massacred the ill-prepared Greek volunteers, and Ypsilantis was caught and placed in prison, where he subsequently died. However, the first bells of liberty had been rung, and Greek independence would not be stopped.

When news of Greeks uprisings spread, the Turks killed Greek clergymen, clerics, and laity in a frightening display of force. In a vicious act of vengeance, the Turks invaded the island of Chios and slaughtered 25,000 of the local residents. The invaders enslaved half the island's population of 100,000.

Although many lives were sacrificed at the altar of freedom, the Greek people rallied around the battle cry "Eleftheria I Thanatos"—liberty or death. Those same words, spoken in America only five decades before by Patrick Henry, who said: "Give me liberty or give me death," embodied the Greek patriots' unmitigated desire to be free.

Another heroic Greek whom many believe was the most important figure in the revolution was Theodoros Kolokotronis. Kolokotronis was the leader of the Klephts, a group of rebellious and resilient Greeks who refused to submit to Turkish subjugation. Kolokotronis used military strategy he learned while in the service of the English Army to organize a force of over 7,000 men. The Klephts swooped down on the Turks from their mountain strongholds, battering their oppressors into submission.

One battle in particular, where Kolokotronis led his vastly outnumbered forces against the Turks, stands out. The Turks had invaded the Peloponnese with 30,000 men. Kolokotronis led his force, which was outnumbered by a ratio of 4 to 1, against the Turkish army. A fierce battle ensued and many lives were lost, but after a few weeks, the Turks were forced to retreat. Kolokotronis is a revered Greek leader, because he embodied the hopes and dreams of the common man, while displaying extraordinary courage and moral fiber in the face of overwhelming odds.

Athanasios Diakos was another legendary hero, a priest, a patriot, and a soldier. He led 500 of his men in a noble stand against 8,000 Ottoman soldiers. Diakos' men were wiped out and he fell into the enemy's hands, where he was severely tortured before his death. He is the image of a Greek who gave all for love of faith and homeland.

While individual acts of bravery and leadership are often noted, the Greek Revolution was remarkable for the bravery and fortitude displayed by the typical Greek citizen. This heroic ideal of sacrifice and service is best demonstrated through the story of the Suliotes, villagers who took refuge from Turkish authorities in the mountains of Epiros. The fiercely patriotic Suliotes bravely fought the Turks in several battles. News of their victories spread throughout the region and encouraged other villages to revolt. The Turkish Army acted swiftly and with overwhelming force to quell the Suliote uprising.

The Suliote women were alone as their husbands battled the Turks at the front. When

they learned that Turkish troops were fast approaching their village, they began to dance the "Syrtos," a patriotic Greek dance. One by one, rather than face torture or enslavement at the hands of the Turks, they committed suicide by throwing themselves and their children off Mount Zalongo. They chose to die rather than surrender their freedom.

The sacrifice of the Suliotes was repeated in the Arkadi Monastery of Crete. Hundreds of non-combatants, mainly the families of the Cretan freedom fighters, had taken refuge in the Monastery to escape Turkish reprisals. The Turkish army was informed that the Monastery was used by the Cretan freedom fighters as an arsenal for their war material, and they set out to seize it. As the Turkish troops were closing in, the priest gathered all the refugees in the cellar around him. With their consent, he set fire to the gunpowder kegs stored there, killing all but a few. The ruins of the Arkadi Monastery, like the ruins of our Alamo, still stand as a monument to liberty.

News of the Greek revolution met with widespread feelings of compassion in the United States. The Founding Fathers, eagerly expressed sentiments of support for the fledgling uprising. Several American Presidents, including James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, conveyed their support for the revolution through their annual messages to Congress. William Harrison, our ninth president, expressed his belief in freedom for Greece, saying: "We must send our free will offering. 'The Star-spangled Banner' must wave in the Aegean . . . a messenger of fraternity and friendship to Greece."

Various Members of Congress also showed a keen interest in the Greeks' struggle for autonomy. Henry Clay, who in 1825 became Secretary of State, was a champion of Greece's fight for independence. Among the most vocal was Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, who frequently roused the sympathetic interest of his colleagues and other Americans in the Greek revolution.

It should not surprise us that the Founding Fathers would express such keen support for Greek independence, for they themselves had been inspired by the ancient Greeks in their own struggle for freedom. As Thomas Jefferson once said, "To the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves . . . American colonists, out of gothic darkness." Our two nations share a brotherhood bonded by the common blood of democracy, birthed by Lady Liberty, and committed to the ideal that each individual deserves the right to self-determination.

We all know that the price of liberty can be very high—history is replete with the names of the millions who have sacrificed for it. Socrates, Plato, Pericles, and many other great scholars throughout history warned that we maintain democracy only at great cost. The freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past—in Greece, in America, and all over the world.

Madam Speaker, on this 180th birthday of Greek Independence, when we celebrate the restoration of democracy to the land of its conception, we also celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and the strength of man's will. The goals and values that the people of

Greece share with the people of the United States reaffirms our common democratic heritage. This occasion also serves to remind us that we must never take for granted the right to determine our own fate.

As Aristotle stated: "If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

Remembering the sacrifice of the brave Greeks who gave their lives for liberty helps us all realize how important it is to be an active participant in our own democracy. That is why we honor those who secured independence for Greece so many years ago.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 180th anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. Although there are no final victories in the long struggle to extend the principles of equality and democracy, we should take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate the triumphs of freedom over tyranny.

I would like to thank the co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY and Congressman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, for their efforts to organize these statements for Greek Independence Day.

For almost 400 years (1453–1821), the Greek people lived under the brutal domination of the Ottoman Empire. This dark period was characterized by the denial of all civil rights, the closing of Greek schools and churches, and rampant kidnappings of Christian and Jewish children. The Greek Revolution marked the beginning of the struggle that freed the Greek people and reestablished democracy in Greece.

Since their war of independence, Greece has been a strong ally to the United States. In turn, the U.S. has opened its heart to multitudes of Greek immigrants. The contributions of the Greek community in the United States are immeasurable. Greek-Americans have played a significant role in all aspects of American life including our arts, sports, medicine, religion, and politics. In the House of Representatives, the children of Greek immigrants have brought their legacy and inspiration. Congress has been made a better place for their contributions.

In San Francisco, the Greek-American community is a vital, historic, and vibrant component of our world-renowned diversity. The social fabric of San Francisco has benefited from the civic leadership of our late Mayor George Christopher, former Mayor and HUD Regional Director Art Agnos, and former Golden Gate Bridge District Board Member Stephan C. Leonoudakis.

Ancient and modern Greece stand as examples to people around the world of overcoming tyranny. They taught the world that the supreme power to govern is vested in the people through self-governance. Wherever tyranny and ethnic cleansing occur, the principles of equality and democracy are also under siege.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I am proud to stand in recognition of the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today and to speak with pride about 180 years

of freedom and independence for the people of Greece. Like the Fourth of July, Greek Independence Day reminds us of our duty to defend freedom—whatever the cost.

Every year at this time, my colleagues and I reflect and remember the great influence Greece and Greek democracy had on the founders of the United States. This year, I would like to underscore the fact that Greece, the first democracy, continues its march to become fully integrated into the European Union.

On January 1, 2001, Greece became the twelfth member of the European Monetary Union—the euro-zone. Shops in Greece, ahead of the required deadlines, are already displaying prices in the old drachmas and new euros. Euro banknotes will begin to circulate in January 2002, with the drachma, Europe's oldest currency, ceasing to be legal tender the following March. I myself am sentimental about seeing an end to the drachma, but I admire and respect the economic progress and financial stability Greece has demonstrated in order to meet the criteria of membership in the European Monetary Union.

The recent achievements of the Greek economy were praised by the U.S. Ambassador to Greece, Nicholas Burns, at a late-January business conference in Thessaloniki. Greece, he said, was an example to all its northern neighbors who look forward to members in the European Union. Ambassador Burns spoke of the interest now evidenced by American businesses in investment in Greece, especially its northern region. U.S. investments in Greece currently total \$2.2 billion, while bilateral trade increased by some 20 percent.

So we celebrate today not just the glorious past of Greece, but the promising future.

I also want to say a few words about the contributions of Greek-Americans to our own society and communities. In Worcester, there is no better example of this rich heritage than the parish of St. Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church and the leadership of the Reverend Dean N. Paleologos. Located at 102 Russell Street in Worcester, Massachusetts, St. Spyridon is known for its many services and contributions to the community. In addition to running two schools and hosting a food bank, the church is the home for a number of neighborhood gatherings and meetings where plans are made to meet the needs of the community. Father Paleologos is an active member in the Worcester Interfaith Council, a coordinating group for public action and service by the religious community.

And St. Spyridon's parish also knows how to celebrate Greek Independence and Greek heritage. Every two years, more than 60,000 visitors participate in the church's Greek Festival. This year, on March 25, the Worcester Greek community will join the Greek Parade in Boston, which is supported by the Greek Consulate, many Greek and American organizations, and by the Metropolitan Metahodios. On April 1, 2001, St. Spyridon's Greek School will celebrate Greek Independence Day with a special Doxology, honoring both Greece and America, and by hosting a community program of poetry, songs and traditional dances.

On behalf of the more than 1,000 families of Worcester who celebrate their Greek heritage, I am honored to be able to support 180 years

of Greek Independence. I want to thank Congressman BILIRAKIS and Congresswoman MALONEY for their leadership in organizing today's tributes. They are an inspiration to all of us in Congress.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I join with my colleagues in celebration of the 180th anniversary of Greek independence. At this time, I would like to thank my colleagues from Florida and New York who have once again shown great leadership in initiating this Special Order and organizing the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues.

Greece has often been called the "cradle of democracy," and rightfully so. In an address that could have been written by one of our founding fathers, Pericles wrote over 2,000 years ago, "Our Constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of the minority, but of the whole people . . . equal before the law." The dream that was born so many years ago in ancient Athens is still alive and well today, here in the United States, and around the world.

Without the example of Greece, the United States might not even be in existence today. As we looked to them for inspiration and guidance in our early, fragile years, so they looked to us on March 25, 1821, when they shook off the repressive bonds of the Ottoman Empire and declared themselves a democracy once again. Since then, they have developed into a strong ally and stabilizing force in their region of the world.

The United States has felt the impact of Greece in many other ways, most notably in the dedication and hard work of its sons and daughters who have immigrated to our nation. These immigrants have contributed greatly to their communities. In my home state of Rhode Island, there are thriving Greek communities in Providence, Pawtucket and Newport. There—as they have done across the United States—they became active participants in their community, and we are richer today because of their great contributions.

Because of all that Greece has given to not only the United States, but also the entire world, it is fitting that we honor our strong ally and its sons and daughters within our nation. Once again, I commend my colleagues for their dedication in making this annual Special Order possible, and look forward to continuing my work with the Hellenic Caucus.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Madam Speaker, a declaration of independence is much more than one man standing his ground against another, or a woman raising a flag in protest, or even signatures on a written statement. A declaration of independence is the heart and soul of democracy. Throughout history, people have stood in the face of oppression and demanded to be heard.

It was ancient Greece that originated the basic concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern is vested in the people. The United States adopted this philosophy in the framing of our government, and in 1821 your ancestors enshrined this philosophy in their pursuit of freedom.

On March 25, 1821, the Greek people declared their independence from the Ottoman Empire. Although true freedom was not earned for many years, it was March 25, 1821

that will be remembered for all time. These brave men and women will forever remain a symbol to the people of Greece and to many around the globe.

The United States and Greece have been at the forefront of efforts to promote freedom, democracy and human rights throughout the world. These common ideals have forged a bond between the people of Greece and the United States. It is only appropriate that Americans join in celebration with all Greek-Americans on this special occasion.

It is important to teach America's youth about the many different backgrounds that combine to create our American Heritage, and today it is appropriate to highlight Greek-American heritage.

We have reached a period in time that rivals no other. There are more democratic nations than ever before, but we must continue to make certain that those people still living under the hand of oppressive governments, such as the occupied 40% of the beautiful island of Cyprus, have the tools and resources necessary to achieve their own self-determination.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all Greek-Americans on this day of celebration.

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire. March 25, 2001 will mark the 180th anniversary of the start of Greece's struggle for independence from the Turks.

The struggle of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire exemplifies the remarkable ability of a people to overcome all obstacles if the will to endure is strong enough and the goal, freedom, bright enough.

The parallels between the United States and Greece are substantial. American political thought was influenced just as much by Greek philosophy as the Greek revolution of 1821 was inspired by the American fight for freedom in 1776. In fact, Greek intellectuals used the U.S. Constitution as the basis for its own constitution in the 1820's.

Moreover, the common struggles of our countries have given rise to a bond that spans the generations. The United States and Greece have long-standing historical, political, and cultural ties based on a common heritage, shared democratic values, and alliances during World War II, the Korean War, the Cold War and the Persian Gulf War.

Greece is a country of 11.5 million citizens. Its gross domestic product measures approximately \$120.25 billion per year, and it is estimated that Greece's economy will grow at a rate of five percent annually over the next few years. Furthermore, Greece has major export markets in the United States, Germany, Italy, France and the United Kingdom. And as we all know, Greece has among the richest cultural histories of all nations. The Greek language dates back at least 3,500 years and university education, including books, is free.

The citizens of Greece are now preparing to host the 2004 Olympic Games, an honor that holds particular historical significance for them. Beginning in 776 B.C., the Olympic Games were held in the valley of Olympia in Greece every four years for almost 1200 years. The modern Olympic Games were created by Baron Pierre de Coubertin and inspired by the ancient games. First staged in 1896 in Athens,

the games attracted about 245 athletes to participate in 43 events. At the Sydney 2000 Games, more than 10,000 athletes took part in 300 events. The Olympic Movement has survived wars, boycotts and terrorism to become a symbol of the ability of the people of all nations to come together in peace and friendship. And in 2004, the games return to their home.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent a large and active Greek-American community in the Fifth District of Massachusetts. U.S. participation in Cyprus settlement efforts, the fight for freedom and human rights for the people of Cyprus, the inclusion of Greece in the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and the presentation of the Congressional Gold medal to His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew have all been priorities for the Greek-American community and worthy initiatives I've been proud to support. I will continue to fight for the interests of Greece and Greek-Americans and encourage other Members of Congress to join me.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence. This is a great day, for it commemorates the return of democracy to this, the cradle of Western Civilization, after nearly four hundred years of foreign trade.

Greece has always been proud and independent by nature. Its people were a powerful force both culturally and militarily, as evidenced by the works of Homer and the multitude of Greek philosophers. The pinnacle of Greek influence was Alexander the Great and his unification of the eastern Mediterranean and ancient Middle East. Greek culture was spread throughout the new empire and for the first time, people were communicating with a common language, sharing ideas in a way never before possible. This hellenization was an idea that transformed every place it touched.

Nearly two thousand years later, another important concept from ancient Greece came to the forefront of modern thought. The concept of "rule by the people," an alien idea in a time still dominated by kings and queens, gained prominence in the young United States. This was the desire of the framers of our Constitution, and they found their inspiration in the principles of the polis of Athens.

Thirty years later, in 1821, spurred on by the American example, the people of Greece acted upon a desire to be free. The Ottoman Turks had conquered the region in 1453, bringing an end to over a thousand years of rule by the Orthodox-Christian Byzantine Empire and its resurgence of Greek culture. After a bloody eleven-year war, Greece was finally free once again.

In the modern era, one of the most important reminders of Greek heritage is the Olympic Games, which are finally returning to their origins in Athens in 2004 for the 25th Summer Olympic Games. Every four years, the Olympics have symbolized peace and excellence for people the world over, reassuring us that even the smallest nation can compete on an equal ground with the largest country.

Madam Speaker, it is this feeling that I believe is the greatest contribution Greece has given to our world. We are all equal, whether it is in our democratic government, or in

friendly competition, and we can come together in friendship even during the most difficult of times. With that, I would like to thank my colleagues for holding this special order and once again congratulate Greece on the anniversary of its independence and all of the gifts it has given us.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 180th anniversary of Greek independence. One hundred and eighty years ago, after nearly 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire, the courage and commitment to freedom of the Greek people prevailed in a revolution for independence. It is an honor today to celebrate Greek Independence Day in the House of Representatives.

Greece and the Greek people have made remarkable contributions to the United States and societies throughout the world. The achievements of Greek civilization in art, architecture, science, philosophy, mathematics, and literature have become legacies for nations across the globe. In addition, and most importantly, the Greek commitment to freedom and the birth of democracy remains an essential contribution for which we as Americans are eternally grateful.

Greek civilization has inspired the American passion for truth, justice, and the rule of law by the will of the people. The forefathers of our nation recognized the spirit and idealism of ancient Greece when fighting for American independence and drafting our Constitution. Forty-five years after our own revolution for independence, this tradition and commitment to freedom was carried forward by the Greek people through their successful revolutionary struggle for sovereignty.

Greek Americans can take pride today in the contributions of Greek culture and in their ancestors' sacrifice. The effects of the vibrant Greek people can be witnesses throughout the United States in our government, culture, and economy, as well as in our commitment to freedom and democracy throughout the world. We, as Americans, are grateful for these gifts.

Madam Speaker, it is important for us to recognize and celebrate this day together with Greece to reaffirm our common democratic heritage. I am proud to join in this celebration and offer my congratulations to Greece and Greeks throughout the world on this very special day.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues in the House of Representatives in celebration of Greek Independence Day, March 25th. All of us who love liberty are justified in noting this important day. Greece is the birthplace of the democratic ideal, the principle upon which all our work here depends. The genius of the American republic and the concept of liberty, which sustained our fight for independence, cannot be separated from the great works of the philosophers of ancient Greece.

Every ethnic group in the United States can claim a special bond to our nation's essence. But Greek-Americans can take special pride in knowing that our constitution's organizing principle, "a government of the people, by the people and for the people" came to our shores from the heart of the Aegean.

Madam Speaker, Greece has been a friend and ally to the United States longer than many

countries have been in existence. And, through immigration, our nation has been the great beneficiary of the strength, wisdom and creativity of Greece's sons and daughters. Millions of Americans who can trace their family roots back to Greece have contributed in countless ways, large and small, to the greatness, prosperity and harmony of the United States.

I believe the influence of Greece on our nation is underappreciated because it is so ubiquitous. We see it in our nation's architecture, it surrounds us in our theater and humanities, it is instilled in our national intellect at all of our great universities. We need only look around this chamber to sense how critical Greece's legacy to our country has been.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues, Representative MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and Representative CAROLYN MALONEY, for helping to organize this salute to Greek Independence Day. I know that the whole House will join me in congratulating the Greek people, and all Americans of Hellenic descent, on this special occasion.

Mrs. KELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues to commemorate the 180th Anniversary of the Greek revolution. In 1821, the Greeks, after nearly 400 years of slavery under the Ottoman Empire took up arms and fought for their freedom. March 25, 1821 marked the beginning of this Greek revolution and their struggle for independence.

For many centuries, Greece, the birthplace of democracy, was subject to foreign domination and political control under the Ottoman Empire. Unfortunately, the Greeks did not enjoy the freedoms given in a democracy and so, with a strong determination for liberty, they began a lengthy crusade. When the fighting began, Greece came under fire in several areas ranging from its Northern province of Macedonia, to a near-war that began over the island of Imia near the coast-land of Turkey. The prospects for the rebels' success were not always promising. In fact, they were aided by several of their European neighbors who came to their assistance. England, France and Russia sent their naval fleets to help defuse the Egyptian navy, which was helping the Ottoman Turks exploit internal strife within the Greek ranks. These nations came together to break the bonds of the Ottomans' tyranny, and help the Greek people win the right of self determination. On March 22, 1829, Greece emerged from their fierce campaign for democracy and created the modern Greek state.

Here in the United States we owe a debt of gratitude to the many Greeks whose labor has helped to build this great nation. Throughout our history, the United States and Greece have shared a unique bond in that both nations have struggled for the right to freedom and self-governance. Clearly, our Founding Fathers had a deep admiration for the ancient Greeks who championed their own independence and modeled the American form of government upon the principles of Greek democracy. The ideology of Greece can be found in our own Constitution and these common ideals have promoted a strong bond between our two nations. We share a similar devotion for additional nations to join in our mutual values, goals and respect by embracing the rights and liberties we hold dear. Greek Inde-

pendence Day is a celebration for both Greek and American freedom.

I would like to thank the other members of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and particularly the co-chairs, my friend, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), for their efforts in organizing this fitting tribute.

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, on March 25th, 1821, 180 years ago this week, the Greek people declared their independence, throwing off the yoke of four centuries of Ottoman oppression.

Greek freedom fighters looked to the American revolution and American democracy for inspiration, and adopted their own declaration of independence. Our Founding Fathers in turn were guided by the democratic principles that first arose in Greece. They took to heart the ideals of ancient Greece, the birthplace of democracy.

This is a day for us to reflect on the vital alliance between Greece and the United States and to pay our debt to Hellenic ideals and to Hellenic culture. It is a day for Greek Americans to take pride in the independence of Greece and in the ancient culture of all Hellenes.

Since its liberation, Greece has stood by America. It is my hope and belief that the United States will continue to stand by its ally. Greece is one of three nations in the world beyond the former British Empire that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict of this century. One out of every 9 Greeks lost their lives fighting the Nazis during World War II. And through U.S. generosity, through the Marshall plan, Greece was able to rebuild its war-ravaged economy.

We must also remember that there remain problems in the eastern Mediterranean, problems between Greece and the successor to its former colonial master, Turkey. We must work to bring peace to the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean.

I hope that our new Administration will use its considerable influence with Ankara to convince the leadership there to support a peaceful and just resolution to the outstanding problems between our two allies. Most importantly, I hope that our government can convince the Turkish side to negotiate in good faith on the continued occupation and division of Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to urge all my colleagues to pay tribute to Greek Independence and to all of the contributions made by Hellenes throughout history.

Mr. SCHROCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 180th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

Over 200 years ago, our Founding Fathers turned to the scholarly teachings of ancient Greek philosophers and statesmen in order to form "a more perfect Union." These inspirational teachings about the virtues of democracy served as the basis of our own representative form of government.

On March 25, 1821, these teachings came full circle when the Greeks fought to regain the freedom, liberty, and individual rights they first taught to the world. Now, 180 years later, the Greek system of democracy is in full force and serves as an inspiration to us all.

The celebration of Greek Independence Day should not be reserved to only those of Greek

descent; it is a day that should also honor our own nation's democratic principles.

Greece and the United States have shared a common past. We have fought wars together, we are NATO partners, we maintain sound diplomatic relations. We are successful partners on the world stage.

The citizens of the United States are eager to celebrate the Games of the 28th Olympiad in Athens.

Therefore, all Americans celebrate Greek Independence Day, for it is the commemoration of all that we believe in, and all that our forefathers fought for—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Greek Independence Day. One hundred and eighty years ago Greece began the struggle against the Ottoman empire that would lead to their independence. Americans have celebrated our connection with Greece throughout our history. Thomas Jefferson once said, ". . . To the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves [American colonists] out of Gothic darkness."

Our nations have a common democratic bond that have led us to look to one another for examples for our governing bodies. It is of course the philosophies of the ancient Greeks that inspired our founding fathers to pursue freedom through the Declaration of Independence. In turn it is this same document that the Greeks used to declare their freedom from the Ottoman Empire.

It is not only our form of government that we have learned from the Greeks. One only has to look around our nation's capital to see how we have been influenced by Greek art. From the Capitol building to the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, we have incorporated their styles. In addition, a large part of our culture has been shaped by ancient Greek philosophy and their approach to science. In recent history Greece has been 1 of only 3 nation's that have allied with the United States in every major international conflict. During World War II, 600,000 Greeks gave their lives in the fight for freedom.

The contributions that Greek-Americans have made in communities around the United States are to be commended. Greek-Americans commonly establish groups that form ties to maintain appreciation of their cultural heritage, provide opportunities for social interaction, while preserving traditions and the Greek language for future generations. Additionally, the contributions that Greek-Americans have made in the business community are unsurpassed. Through the utilization of the American tradition of small, family owned businesses the Greek-American community has prospered.

Madam Speaker, the eighth congressional district of Maryland, which I represent, has the 17th largest population of Greek-Americans in the United States. I am proud of the contributions that these community leaders have made to Montgomery County and our nation. I join with them in celebrating Greek Independence Day and urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the achievements of Greek-Americans.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join in marking the 180th anniversary of the

independence of Greece today. The winning of independence almost two centuries ago marked the culmination of struggle of the Greek people to restore the ideals of democracy established by their ancestors.

In 1821, under the leadership of Alexandros Ypsilantis, the Greek people fought together to establish Greek sovereignty. The courageous efforts of Ypsilantis planted a seed in the hearts of the Greek people. This seed grew into a flourishing movement that led to religious freedom, a reinvigorated sense of cultural and national identity, and the long awaited return to the democratic ideals born in Ancient Greece.

Madam Speaker, while we are here today to pay tribute to the anniversary of Greek Independence, I want also to pay tribute to the Greek-American community, which offers us a cultural bridge between our two countries. This community justly takes pride that Greek ideals contributed to America's revolution even before the Greeks themselves had the opportunity to succeed in their campaign for freedom. It is important for us to commemorate this day together to reaffirm our common democratic heritage.

The Founding Fathers of our nation were inspired and motivated by the Athenian model of democracy. In 370 B.C., Plato wrote in *The Republic*, "Democracy is a charming form of government, full of variety and disorder, and dispensing a kind of equality to equals and unequals alike." As participants in a representative democracy, those of us in this Congress recognize our great debt to the ancient Greek philosophers who provided much of the foundation of American democracy.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in observing Greek Independence Day. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I take this opportunity to salute the Greek people for their historic achievement of independence nearly two centuries ago, and I recommit myself to work for closer ties between the people of the United States and the people of Greece.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Greek Independence Day. March 25, 2001 marks the 180th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire—a struggle that would last without relief for eight years.

For nearly 400 years, Greece remained under the control of this oppressive regime. During this time, they were stripped of all civil rights. Their schools were closed down, their young boys were kidnapped and raised as Muslims to serve in the Turkish army, and millions of their people were executed as the Ottoman Empire sought to maintain control.

But the people of Greece persevered. They began secretly educating their children in churches and chapels across the country. By the early 1800's, the Greeks' desire for independence was fueled by this continued education. They became deeply interested in their ancient past and their folk culture. In 1814, Greek merchants in Odessa, Russia, formed the Friendly Society which eventually organized a movement against the Ottoman Turks that led to a Greek revolt. Fighting with what was once described as "suicidal courage despite meager resources", the Greeks won their

independence after eight years of all-out war and four centuries of oppression.

In their fight for independence, the Greeks looked to the American Revolution as their ideal, even translating the Declaration of Independence and using it as their own. In an 1821 address, Greek Commander in Chief Petros Mavromichalis said to American citizens, ". . . it is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode . . . trusting that in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you . . ."

While the Greeks may have looked to the American Revolution as a blueprint for their own revolution, it is us, the citizens of the United States, who will forever be in debt to the Greeks. For it is they who forged the very notion of democracy. And without that notion, the United States may have never come to be what it is today. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, ". . . to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness . . ."

It is my hope that the relationship between the people of Greece and the people of America will continue to advance our understanding of democracy and that the hardships experienced by those in both countries will offer hope to all nations struggling for justice today.

I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending those of Greek heritage for all they have overcome and for all they have contributed in the hope of making the world around them better for everyone.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the great nation of Greece and celebrate with its citizens 180 years of independence from the Ottoman Empire.

When we think about democracy in Greece, inevitably our thoughts drift to the country's venerable ancients: Solon, the lawmaker who framed Athens' constitution; the philosopher Socrates and his disciple Plato; Pericles, the leader of democratic politics in Athens. These men helped shape our concepts of philosophy, art, science and drama. Their writings and teachings influenced generations of great thinkers and are still in use at colleges and universities around the world today. They provided the basis for our founding fathers' essays and treaties on life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

However, despite the fact that these men helped develop the ideals of democracy that we Americans hold so dear, it was not until 1821 that the Greek people declared independence and moved from beneath the thumb of the Ottoman Empire. This movement marked the beginning of true democratic freedom within the modern nation of Greece, and it is this courageous action that we honor today.

The rebellion began in March 1821 when Alexandros Ypsilantis, the leader of the revolutionary Philiki Etaireia crossed the Prut River into Turkish-held Moldavia with a small force of troops. Although Ypsilantis was defeated, his actions sparked a number of revolts against the Turks on March 25, 1821, the traditional date of Greek independence.

The Greeks' struggle for freedom inspired many Americans, who left our country to fight for Greece's Independence. Our great Congress also sent money and supplies to assist

in Greece's struggle for autonomy. And over the years, we have worked side-by-side with Greek leaders to oppose tyranny and oppression and advance the cause of democracy worldwide.

But our ties with Greece do not end with this shared commitment to the principles of democracy. Indeed, today more than 1 million people of Greek descent live in the United States. These men and women have made innumerable contributions to our society and way of life, and for this we thank them.

Colleagues, please join me in saluting the people of Greece for their tremendous commitment to democracy and the principles that helped to found our nation.

Mrs. CAPPAS. Madam Speaker, as a member of the Hellenic Caucus I am pleased to address the House in recognition of the 180th anniversary of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. This Sunday, on March 25th, people of Greek heritage all over the world will celebrate Greek Independence Day.

In 1821, the Greeks rose up against the oppressive Ottoman Empire, which had occupied Greece for nearly four centuries. This was the beginning of a successful struggle for freedom and independence. The Greek people sought the right to govern themselves and to determine their own destiny.

It is important that we recognize this day not only because the Greek people are a vibrant community which has made lasting contributions to the United States, but also because the ancient Greeks forged the notion of democracy. They believed in the right of self-governance—one of the pillars of our great nation. In fact, when forming a fledgling democracy, our Founding Fathers relied heavily on the political wisdom of the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson once called ancient Greece "the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness."

This day is doubly significant for many in Greece and for Greek-Americans, because it was on this day in the Orthodox calendar that the archangel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced that she was pregnant with the divine child. Churches in Greece celebrate the Festival of the Annunciation with pomp and circumstance, and Greek Independence Day is celebrated with parades and celebrations in cities across Greece and the United States.

Greek Independence Day is historically significant in other ways as well. It marks the first major war of liberation after the American Revolution. It was also the first successful struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that we have taken time out today to recognize this very important day in Greek history.

Mr. GEKAS. Madam Speaker, three years before Prince Ypsilantis and Archbishop Germanos embarked on their crusades to liberate Greece from the Ottomans, the English poet Lord Byron released the fourth canto of his work *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. Two lines from that work resonate powerfully with me on this the 180th Greek Independence Day:

"Yet Freedom, yet thy banner, torn, but flying,
Streams like the thunder-storm against the wind."

Of course, Bryon was a passionate philhellene who tirelessly promoted the cause of Greek independence. In fact, few may actually know, but the renowned romantic poet was named commander-in-chief of the Greek Army of Independence in January of 1824 in recognition of his enormous contributions to the cause of freedom and liberty for all Greeks.

Byron eloquently conveyed the undying yearning for liberty that beat in the breast of every Greek two centuries ago. Like a call to arms, the words of his poems inflamed the spirit of Freedom within patriots throughout the Balkans. And, Byron's ability to recruit a regiment of liberation troops, and fund many others, served to take these emboldened men to victory. By 1829, the Ottoman sultan had been forced to sign the Treaty of Adrianople liberating Greece and insuring that the birthplace of democracy would be set on a path of democratic renewal herself.

On this day every year, Greeks celebrate the momentous acts that led to the birth of the Hellenic Republic. Over one million Greek Americans join in that celebration. I am proud to do so this year, as well.

Yet, I want to take this moment to thank and celebrate those Americans, Britons and others who adopted the cause of Greece as their own. While Lord Byron lost his life in the cause of Greek Independence, succumbing to an illness he recklessly disregarded earlier to join the Greek crusade, he was not the only philhellene to sacrifice greatly that the Greek people may live free of foreign tyranny. Without all of them, Greece would not have returned to the fold of free nations. Without them the land that birthed democracy, in a very real sense, would have died under the weight of foreign oppression.

So on this joyful day, let me say thank you to the philhellenes, as a Greek American, and as one who cherishes the inalienable right of all men to live free.

Madam Speaker, I submit a recitation of another poem. A poem the late Lord Byron wrote in lament of an enslaved Greece. Could the Commander in Chief have truly known how profoundly thankful generations to come would be for his words and deeds?

THE ISLES OF GREECE

(By Lord Byron)

“The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece!
Where burning Sappho loved and sung,
Where grew the arts of war and peace,
Where Delos rose and Phoebus sprung!
Eternal summer gilds them yet,
But all, except their sun, is set.

The Scian and the Teian muse,
The hero's harp, the lover's lute,
Have found the fame your shores refuse:
Their place of birth alone is mute
To sounds which echo further west
Then your sires' 'Islands of the Blest.' ”

The mountains look on Marathon—
And Marathon looks on to sea;
And musing there an hour alone,
I dream'd that Greece might still be free;
For standing on the Persians' grave,
I could not deem myself a slave.

A king sate on the rocky brow
Which looks o'er the sea-born Salamis;
And ships, by thousands, lay below,
And men in nations;—all were his!
He counted them at break of day—
And when the sun set where were they?

And where are they? and where are thou,
My country? On thy voiceless shore
The heroic lay is tuneless now—
The heroic bosom beats no more!
And must thy lyre, so long divine,
Degenerate into hands like mine?

'Tis something, in the dearth of fame,
Though link'd among a fetter'd race,
To feel at least a patriot's shame,
Even as I sing, suffuse my face;
For what is left the poet here?
For Greeks a blush—For Greece a tear.

Must we but weep o'er days more blest?
Must we but blush?—Our fathers bled.
Earth! render back from out thy breast
A remnant of our Spartan dead!
Of the three hundred grant but three,
To make a new Thermopylae!

What, silent still? and silent all?
Ah! no;—the voices of the dead
Sound like a distant torrent's fall,
And answer, 'Let one living head,
But one arise,—we come, we come!'
'Tis but the living who are dumb.

In vain—in vain: strike other chords;
Fill high the cup with Samian wine!
Leave battles to the Turkish hordes,
And shed the blood of Scio's vine!
Hark! rising to the ignoble call—
How answers each bold Bacchanal!

You have the Pyrrhic dance as yet;
Where is the Pyrrhic phalanx gone?
Of two such lessons, why forget
The nobler and the manlier one?
You have the letters Cadmus gave—
Think ye he meant them for a slave?

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
We will not think of themes like these!
It made Anacreon's song divine:
He served—but served Polycrates—
A tyrant; but our masters then
Were still, at least, our countrymen.

The tyrant of the Chersonese
Was freedom's best and bravest friend;
That tyrant was Miltiades!
Oh! that the present hour would lend
Another despot of the kind!
Such chains as his were sure to bind.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
On Suli's rock, and Parga's shore,
Exists the remnant of a line
Such as the Doric mothers bore;
And there, perhaps, some seed is sown,
The Heraclidean blood might own.

Trust not for freedom to the Franks—
They have a king who buys and sells;
In native swords, and native ranks,
The only hope of courage dwells:
But Turkish force, and Lation fraud,
Would break your shield, however broad.

Fill high the bowl with Samian wine!
Our virgins dance beneath the shade—
I see their glorious black eyes shine;
But gazing on each glowing maid,
My own the burning tear-drop laves,
To think such breasts must suckle slaves.

Place me on Sunium's marbled steep,
Where nothing, saves the waves and I,
May hear our mutual murmurs sweep;
There, swan-like, let me sing and die:
A land of slaves shall ne'er be mine—
Dash down yon cup of Samian wine.”

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take a moment to observe the 180th anniversary of Greek Independence Day. March 25th, 1821, marked the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire. Indeed, today should be a international celebration not just of Greek freedom and independence, but it should be a celebration democracy throughout the world.

History tells us that it was the ancient Greeks who developed the concept of democracy. In itself, democracy was a revolutionary ideal, placing the power to govern in the hands of the people. After 2,500 years, mankind is only beginning to grasp the magnitude of what the ancient Greeks achieved. Through dozens of generations, through the rise and fall of great empires, through wars and plagues, through depressions and economic revolutions, through the triumphs and travails of human affairs, one thing has endured: the dream of democracy.

Greek-Americans have enriched our country enormously, in every profession, in every region, in every walk of life. Cities across America take their names from such places as Athens and Corinth and Delphi and Sparta.

And of course, our country would not exist if the ancient Greek city-states had not developed the world's most revolutionary idea—democracy. Our founding fathers studied history closely and revered deeply the works of the ancient Greeks. Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, once observed, “Greece was the first of civilized nations, presenting examples of what man should be.”

Although democracy is a significant common value that strengthens the bond between the United States and Greece, we must realize there is more to this relationship. Greece's major role in World War II provided tremendous setbacks to the Axis offensive. Furthermore, Greece remained an important ally throughout the Cold War and the struggle to promote our democratic values around the globe.

Today, the United States and Greece are leaders in the pursuit to promote democracy, human rights, freedom, and peace. President Clinton referred to Greece as “a beacon of democracy, a regional leader for stability, prosperity and freedom.”

Greece has been a friend and ally for more than the last century and we will stand by her to peacefully resolve the situation in Cyprus and other challenges that the twenty-first century may bring.

So today, I am proud to join with Greek Americans and the Greek people in celebration of Greek Independence Day, reaffirming the democratic principles from which our two nations were born and which have shaped our world. America and Greece have special responsibilities in this quest—the United States as the world's strongest democracy, Greece as the world's first. But if we engage fully in the changing world beyond our borders, we can build a future in which all nations enjoy prosperity, democracy, and peace.

Mr. COYNE. Madam Speaker, I am honored today to join in this special order commemorating the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence from the Ottoman Empire.

180 years ago, in 1831, Greek patriots rose up against their Ottoman overlords in a long and bloody revolution that lasted nearly eight years. The cause of Greek independence required great courage, perseverance and sacrifice. The Greek people experienced frequent adversity and hardships, but their struggle continued. Many brave men and women lost their lives in this fight, and freedom was not won without considerable cost. In the end,

however, the Greek people never wavered in their struggle for freedom, and the land that was once the cradle of democracy was again free.

This day is very special to the people of America because Greece and the United States have much in common. Our shared democratic ideals have formed a basis for a strong and sustained friendship. Furthermore, the writings of early Greek philosophers like Plato and Polybius were adopted by many patriots of the American Revolution, who used their words as inspiration. Even today, Greece remains one of our most loyal partners and democratic allies in the global community.

In recognition of this historic event, the House has repeatedly observed this annual commemoration of Greek independence. Recently, the Senate passed a resolution designating March 25, 2001, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy".

Madam Speaker, it is only appropriate that we recognize these Greek patriots who shed blood for the same principles of freedom and self-government that inspired the patriots of our own revolution here in America. Consequently, it is appropriate that all of us, as Americans, share in the celebration of this momentous occasion. I am honored to join my colleagues in commemorating the 180th anniversary of Greek independence.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 180th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day. The annual celebration commemorates the day the Greek people took up arms against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. And today, it stands as the defining moment in the establishment and preservation of modern democratic ideals espoused by Greek society.

The Greek and American people share a common heritage that cannot be overlooked. The foundation of America's democracy is based on the democratic principles established by the ancient Greeks. The political and philosophical beliefs of the ancient Greeks enabled our Founding Fathers to craft a Constitution and to establish a government that holds high the ideals of equality and justice. During its struggle for independence, Greece looked to the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution for inspiration.

The annual Greek Independence Day parade will be held on Sunday, March 25, 2001. On that day, the streets of New York City will overflow with the pride and passion of the Greek-American community. Greek Independence Day is not only significant because it marks the beginning of the liberation of Greece from Ottoman rule, but also because it presents an opportunity for all Greek-Americans to reflect on the important economic and cultural contributions their community has made to American society.

It is especially comforting to see the support and guidance that the National Coordinated Effort of Helenes and the Federation of Hellenic Societies, as well as other Greek-American organizations provide their community members—ensuring that past accomplishments are celebrated and commemorated, while also ensuring future success by providing opportunities for advancement in education and the workplace.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Greek Independence Day and the

common democratic heritage of Greeks and Americans.

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in celebrating 180 years of Greek Independence.

March 25, the official Greek independence day, is a proud day for Greeks across the world. It is a powerful reminder of the strength and determination inspired by the ideals of freedom and self governance, and an important opportunity for Congress to rise and recognize the shared values and goals between Greece and the United States.

Greece is a remarkable country with an exceptional past and a tremendous future. Its proud heritage as the ancient founder of democracy has evolved with great accomplishments like the war of independence, membership in NATO, and partnership in the European Union.

I join my colleagues in recognition of this special occasion and the strong U.S.-Greece relationship. The ties between our two countries are underscored by strategic economic, military, and diplomatic ties, and are continually enhanced by the activism of vibrant Hellenic-American communities across the United States.

HONORING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIERNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today and join my colleagues who spoke just prior to me in honor of the 180th anniversary of the Greek independence. As a Member of the congressional caucus on Hellenic issues, I once again join those colleagues and others in paying tribute to the nation of Greece and its people.

As we all know, as was so eloquently put forth by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), ancient Greece was the fountain of democratic ideals and values for the rest of the world, and her modern counterpart has been steadfast in ensuring that the philosophic traditions of the past are actively practiced.

Today, we celebrate the triumph of the ideal of self-government in recognizing the achievements of the Greeks who so valiantly fought for independence. We also recognize the debt of gratitude that the citizens of the United States and many other nations owe for the ideals upon which the American democratic experiment is based.

Greece, at the juncture between continents, continues to be actively involved in the international community, maintaining excellent relations with the United States, Europe and other nations. We all remember the recent response to the devastating earthquake in Turkey as an example of the commitment of goodwill that the Greek people continually demonstrate.

It is my hope that this spirit of rising above differences will serve to inspire other nations as we move forward into the 21st century.

On behalf of the people of the 6th Congressional District of Massachusetts, I wish to extend congratulations to the people of Greece and all of the people of Greek heritage in the United States on this important holiday.

I am honored to have been selected to be an honorary grand marshal in this year's independence day parade in Boston. I look forward to sharing in the celebration once again with my constituents. It is my hope that the new millennium will bring forth many more years of positive and productive relations between the United States and Greece.

LESSONS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I stand here today in a Chamber that has for centuries witnessed on a daily basis the dreams and the fruits of American independence. Today, we remember that it was March 25, 1821, that the Greeks rose up to seek their independence. As has always been the case, the price of that independence was high.

Greek independence is a matter of special interest to me because of my family and, in particular, my wife, Heidi. My wife, Heidi, is the great, great granddaughter of a young 4-year-old survivor of the Battle of Missolongi. For those of my colleagues who recall those events, it was Missolongi that rose up against Ottoman rule. It was Missolongi that captured the attention of Lord Byron, and it was Missolongi where some of the harshest battles of Greek independence were fought.

When Missolongi finally fell, the survivors numbered only a few thousand women and children, one of them the 4-year-old great, great grandmother of my wife, Catherine, or Haidine, "the forsaken one," as she was known. She was impressed into the household of an Egyptian admiral and relocated to Alexandria, Egypt, where 3 years later, at the age of 7, she came to the attention of a British diplomat. The British diplomat offered to buy her out of slavery, but the offer was refused, until a few months later, she became sick, at which point the offer was accepted and the sick little girl was delivered to the diplomat's family. He and his wife nursed her back to health, they relocated to England where she was adopted, educated, raised up, and eventually married to the son of an admiral. They relocated to Canada and eventually to the United States.

So, Madam Speaker, the story of Greek independence is also the story of