GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

- Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the annual celebration of Greek Independence Day that took place on Sunday, March 25 commemorated the independence of Greece after 400 years of oppression under the Ottoman Empire. The pages of our history books are filled with contributions that the Greeks have made to society. Our system of government, our literature, philosophy, religion, and mathematics all have their roots in Greek tradition. With the founding of the Olympic Games, the Greek people taught us that there is more to be gained through peaceful competition than armed conflict.

Perhaps the greatest contribution of the Greek people is the simple yet powerful idea that first conceived over 2,000 years ago. It is the idea that citizens possessed the power to determine the course of a nation. The Athenian republic was the world’s first democratic state, a fact respected by all free states today.

The bonds that join the United States and Greece extend back to the founding of our country. When drafting our Constitution, our forefathers recognized the ideals of the democracy of ancient Greece. Inspired by our own struggle for independence, Greece followed forty-five years later with its own struggle for independence. By celebrating this day, we pay tribute to those Greek men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the common cause of freedom. The United States has been able to proudly call Greece an ally in every major international conflict of the last century.

Those Americans that claim Greek heritage can be proud of the contributions made by their ancestors. The many Greek sons and daughters who have come to the United States have served honorably in all walks of American life. Greek culture continues to flourish in American cities, thus contributing to the rich ethnic diversity of our country. It is with great honor that I commend the celebration of Greek independence. I look forward to the continuing cooperation and lasting fellowship between the United States and Greece.

DR. JOHN R. ARMSTRONG AND THE JOHN R. ARMSTRONG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

- Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the L’Anse Creuse Public Schools and their Superintendent, Dr. John R. Armstrong, for the opening and dedication of their beautiful new middle school. The L’Anse Creuse Public Schools have appropriately chosen to name this state of the art facility the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center in recognition for all Dr. Armstrong has done to support the arts, not only his role as Superintendent of the L’Anse Creuse Public Schools. However, Doctor Armstrong’s passion for education and youth has led him to take an active role not just in the school system, but in his community. He has held leadership positions in many civic organizations and institutions dedicated to educational causes such as Director of the Kellogg Math/Science Grant Program at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. In addition, Dr. Armstrong has been a board member of the Mt. Clemens YMCA, the Mt. Clemens Art Center, the Macomb Literacy Project and the Traffic Safety Association of Macomb County.

Dr. Armstrong has worked extensively to increase funding for his school district. He has presided over several capital campaigns and bond proposals that have allowed this growing school district to provide an environment in which learning can flourish. While Dr. Armstrong has been superintendent, student achievement has soared, as evidenced by the fact that student’s in his school district have improved their test scores on the Michigan Education Assessment Program, the PSAT, SAT and ACT at a rate that has exceeded the county, state and national averages.

Just as importantly, Dr. Armstrong has worked to promote life-long learning opportunities that realize that education should not be confined within classroom walls. To that end, he has fostered cross-cultural exchanges, a cooperative art and design program with General Motors and a dialogue on issues between students and senior citizens. In addition to supporting life-long learning for others, Dr. Armstrong has led by example. Since coming to the L’Anse Creuse School District, he has earned several teacher certificates, a master’s degree and a doctorate in education.

The L’Anse Creuse School District can take pride in the opening of their new auditorium, and Dr. Armstrong can take pride in his long and honorable service to the students of not only the school district but of all Michigan. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting both the L’Anse Creuse School District and Dr. John R. Armstrong for their contributions to their community and the State of Michigan.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING COVERING CALENDAR YEAR 2000

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 19(3) of the Public Telecommunications Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-345), I transmit herewith the report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting covering calendar year 2000.

GEORGE W. BUSH

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL UNION FOR THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 15

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

March 27, 2001