

IN HONOR OF THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Greece on its triumphant 180th anniversary of winning independence. Throughout its glorious history, Greece has proven to be an inspiration to the United States.

The birthplace and cradle of democracy, Greece's long history of promoting the ideals of justice and freedom now serves as a stand against which we measure all other nations. The legacy of antiquity is still felt throughout the streets of Athens today. It was the ancient Greeks who first realized that the right of self-governance was an essential foundation of any civilized society. Although such principles seem elementary today, their ideas were revolutionary in their own time. We cannot discount the influence that ancient Greece has had on our nation.

In the founding of our nation, Greece served as a model by which the framers of the constitution structured our government. The political and philosophical influence of Greece can be felt throughout the institutions of our government. After helping to author our Constitution, Thomas Jefferson referred to Greece as "the light which led ourselves out of Gothic darkness." That same light, still shining from the distant memories of ancient Greece, guides our nation today.

Every year, the people of Greece come together to celebrate Greek Independence Day. Much like our own Fourth of July, Greek independence Day is a time for people to put aside difference and celebrate the vision which they share. It is a time to honor all people who join in the struggle for freedom. This year, it is important for all Americans to remember the history of independence and to remember where the roots of our nation originate.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the nation of Greece, on the 180th anniversary of their independence.

IN HONOR OF HEATHER MEURER

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2001*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Heather Courtney Meurer, a young woman who recently and suddenly passed away at the age of 32. Heather was the daughter of my good friend, and a dedicated public servant, Fred Meurer, and her loss was felt immediately.

Born in Seoul, Korea, Heather was raised in Salinas, California, and graduated from Salinas High School in 1987. Since her high school graduation, Heather had been working at St. Agnes Medical Center while pursuing her education. She had completed an accounting degree at Fresno State University,

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and was earning a master's degree in speech therapy at the time of her unfortunate death.

Heather's death, a young 32, is especially tragic because she had so much ahead of her, including exciting new opportunities through her upcoming speech therapy degree. She will be missed by her mother, Judi Albright Meurer and father Fred Meurer, both of Salinas, CA.; two sisters, Ashley Lafayette of Marina, CA., and Marie Barfuss of Utah; three brothers, David Meurer of Salinas, CA., and Steven and John Farnsworth of Utah; and her Korean birth mother, Monica Tedrowe. I sympathize with the Meurer family and their loss, and I can only hope that the love and support of their friends and community are helping them through this difficult time.

INTERNET APPRECIATION DAY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2001*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to report that the Internet economy is alive and well.

In the past year, a perceived lack of public confidence has hampered an industry, which has limitless potential. Despite the negativity reported in the media, let it be known that 350 million Internet users worldwide truly enjoy this incredible medium. And that while the media has reported that almost 300 dotcoms have closed their doors since January 2000, more than 7,500 Internet-related companies have been funded by venture capital alone in the past 5 years. The Internet economy itself has created some 3 million jobs worldwide. In light of premature pessimism, industry leaders are calling on the 350 million Internet users worldwide to remember why they embraced the Internet in the first place by participating in "Internet Appreciation Day", on April 3d, with the launch of the 'Back the Net' campaign.

On April 3d, Internet users are being asked to show their support by donating to an online charity, purchasing something online or investing in their favorite online business. ICONOLAST, the San Francisco based company spearheading this effort is asking Internet users to alert at least 10 friends or their customer lists by sending a 'Back the Net' letter at [www.iconocast.com/crusade](http://www.iconocast.com/crusade).

The Internet has become a vital tool in our information society. It has grown exponentially through the 1990's and into the 21st century. This growth has fueled the economic prosperity of the last decade while giving businesses, consumers and more importantly the American family access to an unprecedented amount of information. More Americans are going online to conduct such day-to-day activities as education, business transactions, personal correspondence, research and information-gathering, and job searches. Each year, being digitally connected becomes ever more critical to economic and educational advancement as well as community participation. The family friendly Internet has brought happiness to America's families by increasing and enhancing communication across the country and across generations.

For these reasons friends of the Internet declare April 3d, 2001 "Internet Appreciation

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Day" to once again help restore public confidence in and respect for the Internet.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROB PORTMAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2001*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, because I attended the Conference of the Speakers of the G-8 Parliaments with House Speaker DENNIS HASTERT in Rome, Italy, I missed the following Rollcall votes on March 22, 2001; Rollcall vote No. 56, on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." On Rollcall No. 57, passage of H. Res. 93, I would have voted "yea." On Rollcall No. 58, passage of H.R. 1099, I would have voted "yea." on Rollcall No. 59, passage of H.R. 802, I would have voted "yea." On Rollcall No. 60, the Traficant amendment to H.R. 247, I would have voted "aye." On Rollcall No. 61, passage of H.R. 247, I would have voted "aye."

CLEAN SMOKESTACKS ACT OF 2001

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 27, 2001*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am again joining with Representative BOEHLERT in introducing the Clean Smokestacks Act of 2001. This important legislation will finally cleanup the nation's dirty, antiquated powerplants.

When I originally introduced the Clean Smokestacks Act with Representative BOEHLERT in the last Congress, we had a modest beginning. I think we had a total of 15 cosponsors and little attention. But by the end of last year, the bill's supporters had grown to over 120 House Members.

This year, the Senate is joining in our effort. Senators JEFFORDS and LIEBERMAN have introduced a companion bill in the Senate, entitled the Clean Power Act. I am hopeful that together we can get the job done.

Electricity generation is our nation's single largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Nationally, power plants are responsible for about 40 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 64 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 26 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions and 33 percent of mercury emissions.

These four pollutants are the major cause of some of the most serious environmental problems the nation faces, including acid rain, smog, respiratory illness, mercury contamination, and global warming. If we are going to improve air quality and reduce global warming, we must curb the emissions from these powerplants.

President Bush was right when he promised during the campaign to support legislation that would reduce all four powerplant pollutants. The Clean Smokestacks Act and the Clean Power Act embody this sensible approach. In fact, prior to the president's surprising reversal last week, I had hoped we could win the