This year's festivities will take place on July 15, 2001.

Under its Founder and President, Felipe Febles the parade has grown in size and splendor. It now brings together an increasing number of participants from all five New York City boroughs and beyond. I also would like to recognize all the people who, under the leadership of Director Rosa Ayala, are making sure that this year's events will be successful as in the past.

On Sunday, July 15, thousands of members and friends of the Dominican community will march from Mt. Eden and 172nd Street to East 161st Street and the Grand Concourse in celebration of their Dominican heritage and their achievements in this nation. Among other accomplishments, Dominicans have been instrumental in transforming New York City into a great bilingual city. Moreover, the parade has served as a national landmark in which people from all ethnic groups unite to commemorate our Nation's glorious immigrant history.

Mr. Speaker, the Board of Directors of the Dominican Parade of the Bronx has chosen to be their “International Godfather” and I have gladly and humbly accepted that honor. As one who has participated in the parade in the past, I can attest that the excitement it generates brings the entire City together. It is a celebration and an affirmation of life. It feels wonderful to enable so many people to have this experience—one that will change the lives of many of them.

The event will feature a wide variety of entertainment for all age groups. This year’s festival includes the performance of Merengue and Salsa bands, crafts exhibitions, and food typical of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Speaker, it is with enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this wonderful celebration of Dominican culture, which has brought much pride to the Bronx community.