



Daughters of Penelope
1909 Q Street, NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20009

Phone: 202.234.9741
Fax: 202.483.6983
Web: www.ahepa.org/dop
E-mail: dophq@ahepa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. House of Representatives Passes Resolution Commemorating 80th Anniversary of Daughters of Penelope

WASHINGTON (October 14, 2009)—The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope (DOP), a premier international women’s organization, on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, announced Grand President Elaine M. Sampanis. To view the House Session, click here: <http://www.c-spanarchives.org/program/289429-101>. House Resolution 209 is 39:05-46:50 of the House Session).

“We are deeply honored and humbled that the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution commemorating the anniversary of our founding and acknowledging the contributions of Greek-Americans to our society,” said Sampanis. “We are grateful to Congresswoman Maloney and Congressman Bilirakis for their support and leadership as well as all the co-sponsors of the legislation.”

U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-14-NY), co-founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, was the original sponsor of the legislation, H.Res.209, which was introduced March 4, 2009. With the assistance of Rep. Maloney and Hellenic Caucus Co-Chair U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-9-FL), the legislation passed with 53 bipartisan co-sponsors.

Sampanis added, “Our members are excited and thrilled. Passage of this resolution could not have been possible without their civic involvement as well as the vision set forth by Past Grand Presidents Karen Stamatiades and Barbara Stavis Wolf.”

A senate version of the resolution, S.Res.117, currently rests with the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. It was introduced by U.S. Sen. Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME) and co-sponsored by U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ).

The mission of the DOP is to promote the ancient Greek ideals of Hellenism, Education, Philanthropy, Civic Responsibility, and Family and Individual Excellence.

For more information about the Daughters of Penelope,
or any of its programs or projects, please visit www.ahepa.org/dop.

###

gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to present House Resolution 209 for consideration. This resolution recognizes the significant contribution of American citizens of Greek ancestry and the Daughters of Penelope.

At the outset, I would like to take a moment to express my deepest condolences to the sponsor of this resolution, my friend and colleague, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, on the recent loss of her beloved husband, Clifton. Please know that our thoughts and our prayers are with the Congresswoman and her entire family.

Mr. Speaker, the measure before us was introduced on March 4 by Mrs. MALONEY and favorably reported out of the Oversight Committee on July 10, 2009, by unanimous consent. Notably, this measure enjoys the support of over 50 Members of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, let us take a moment to recognize the significant contributions Greek Americans have made to the United States. Greek Americans such as Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman JOHN SARBANES of Maryland have served their communities, and Greek Americans have served in our Armed Forces in every war since World War I. Greek Americans have enhanced the art world with works by directors such as Elia Kazan and performers such as Olympia Dukakis.

Further, the resolution makes mention of the Daughters of Penelope. Founded in 1929, the Daughters of Penelope was formed by Alexandra Apostolides Sonenfeld with the help and support of her husband, Dr. Emmanuel Apostolides.

With local chapters in the United States, Canada and Greece, the Daughters of Penelope is a nonpartisan and nondenominational organization that promotes Hellenic heritage and its ideals. Notably, the organization's dedicated members are encouraged to participate in meaningful community service projects, making the Daughters of Penelope a leader in charitable and educational activities.

In its 80 years, the Daughters of Penelope has made great gains in helping women all over the world realize their dreams and leadership potential. Moreover, the Daughters of Penelope has made significant contributions here at home through the organization's commitment to philanthropy and vol-

unteerism, by supporting various charities, sponsoring affordable housing for senior citizens, and by helping spread awareness and providing financial support for medical research. The Daughters of Penelope also sponsors the Penelope Shelter Home for Battered Women, which helps women of all races and faiths during times of need.

Mr. Speaker, let's take a moment to recognize the considerable contributions of Greek Americans to the United States and celebrate the achievements of the Daughters of Penelope through the passage of House Resolution 209.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today to support House Resolution 209 recognizing the significant contributions of American citizens of Greek ancestry, philhellenes, and the Daughters of Penelope to the United States.

What began with roughly 300,000 Greek immigrants after World War I has grown to more than 3 million Greek Americans today. Throughout our Nation's history, the Greeks who came to America saw the promise and hope for their future. Once there, they have been instrumental in building a Nation from the ground up.

Greek Americans have risen to become leaders in business, government service, medicine and the arts. The State of Maryland was proud to have Paul S. Sarbanes, a Greek American, serve five terms in the United States Senate. Dr. George Papanicolaou saved millions of lives by inventing the Pap test for women, and performers such as Olympia Dukakis and Elia Kazan are but a few examples of how Greek Americans continue to fulfill the American Dream. And we as a country are all better for their many contributions.

Greek Americans have a long history of contributions through community service to the United States. In the early 1900s, they formed a number of organizations that were dedicated to the well-being of families in the communities where Greek Americans lived.

Among the groups that Greek Americans formed was the Daughters of Penelope, which was founded in 1929 in San Francisco and is an affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association. Today, the Daughters of Penelope has grown to more than 350 chapters throughout the world. The mission of the Daughters of Penelope is to create awareness of the ideals of ancient Greece such as education, civic responsibility, philanthropy and patriotism through community service.

Greek Americans, along with all Americans, can be proud of the Daughters of Penelope's commitment to education. They have provided tens of thousands of dollars annually for scholarships, education seminars, and donating children's books to libraries, schools, shelters, and churches through the "Open Books" program.

Other Daughters of Penelope achievements include being the first ethnic organization to submit oral history tapes to the Library of Congress, which provide personal experiences of first-generation Greek Americans.

Now in its 80th year, the Daughters of Penelope continues to promote its ideals and promote awareness through a number of causes, including cancer research, Alzheimer's disease, muscular dystrophy and others.

□ 1445

They also provide financial support for medical research to victims and communities affected by natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and forest fires.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing the 80th anniversary of the Daughters of Penelope and the contribution of Greek Americans to the history of the United States and the way in which their presence enriches and strengthens our country.

I support House Resolution 209 and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman from Kentucky, and we continue to reserve.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Again, Mr. Speaker, I ask that Members on both sides support Mrs. MALONEY, the lead sponsor of this resolution, H. Res. 209, honoring Greek Americans and their contribution to the United States.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 209, bipartisan legislation I introduced, with Hellenic Caucus co-chair, Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS.

This resolution recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Greek ancestry and Philhellenes, and the Daughters of Penelope to the United States.

Founded November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, California, the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the well-being of women and provide them with the opportunity to make significant contributions to American society.

Today, its mission is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.

As a cofounder and cochair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, I have had the privilege to see the significant contributions of the Daughters of Penelope in the Greek American community.

The Daughters of Penelope (DOP) is a preeminent international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), the nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage.

Over its history, the Daughters of Penelope has achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has strengthened the status of women in society, sheltered the elderly and the abused, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and raised funds for medical research.

With their strong work ethic, Greek-Americans have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts. The Daughters of Penelope has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.

I want to thank Chairman TOWNS and Ranking Member ISSA for their support of this bill and for moving it through the Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the resolution considered by the House today, H. Res. 209. This bill recognizes the numerous and wide-ranging contributions made to American society by the Daughters of Penelope, the women's affiliate of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

The Order of the Daughters of Penelope was conceived by Alexandra Apostolides Sonnenfeld and founded on November 16, 1929. In the midst of the economic collapse that led to the Great Depression, Mrs. Apostolides recognized the importance of unity, philanthropy, and education. She and 25 charter members formed the first chapter of the Daughters of Penelope, which is today a leader in philanthropic, educational and cultural activities with over 350 chapters in the U.S., Canada, Greece, Cyprus, and Australia.

H. Res. 209 highlights some of the organization's crowning achievements, including the establishment of Penelope House, a shelter for women and children that aims to help victims of domestic violence regain social and economic independence, and the Daughters of Penelope Foundation, which grants scholarships to promising students and facilitates donations of children's books to needy organizations.

Another issue of critical importance is the oral history project organized and donated to the Library of Congress by the Daughters of Penelope. This project chronicles the experiences of first-generation Greek-American women. I know this project will preserve these vital records so that future generations of Greek-Americans—like my children—will maintain an important link with their ancestors.

I am proud of my Greek heritage and of the accomplishments of the Order of the Daughters of Penelope. I think it only fitting that now, as we face our own economic crisis, we recognize the importance of those values that carry us through the most difficult times. I encourage my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 209, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING ALDINE SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR WINNING THE BROAD PRIZE FOR URBAN EDUCATION

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the reso-

lution (H. Res. 791) congratulating the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, on winning the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 791

Whereas the thousands of employees of the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, work hard to create a supportive, safe, and effective learning environment, enabling students to achieve academic success;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District uses a district-wide strategic plan, which is focused on student achievement, student behavior, and community relations;

Whereas the leadership of the Aldine Independent School District is vigilant in ensuring that all staff, departments, schools, and resources continue to focus on the district-wide strategic plan;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District, through the use of creative teaching technology, has set clear, rigorous expectations for teachers and has provided school management with increased oversight;

Whereas data from the Texas Education Agency indicates that the Aldine Independent School District consistently ranks among the high performing school districts in the State;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District ranks among the top large school districts in Texas for educating African-American students and Hispanic students, according to a recent study conducted by Texas Agricultural & Mechanical University and the University of Texas-Pan American;

Whereas between 2005 and 2008, the SAT and Advanced Placement participation rates for African-American and Hispanic students in the Aldine Independent School District increased significantly;

Whereas in 2008, African-American students in the Aldine Independent School District achieved higher proficiency rates in math at all school levels and in reading at the middle and high school levels compared with other students in Texas;

Whereas in 2008, a greater percentage of Hispanic students in the Aldine Independent School District performed at the highest achievement level on State reading and math assessments at all school levels compared to other school districts in the State;

Whereas in 2008, a greater percentage of low-income students in the Aldine Independent School District performed at the highest achievement level on State reading and math assessments at all school levels compared to other school districts in the State;

Whereas nationwide, family income level is typically a strong statistical predictor of school performance;

Whereas in the Aldine Independent School District, poverty does not appear to be statistically related to achievement at any school level or in math or reading, despite a high enrollment of students considered to be low-income;

Whereas between 2005 and 2008, the Aldine Independent School District narrowed the income achievement gaps in reading at all school levels and in math at the elementary and middle school levels;

Whereas the "Broad Prize for Urban Education", the largest education award for school districts in the United States, was established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation;

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District has been a finalist four times for the "Broad Prize for Urban Education";

Whereas in 2008, the Aldine Independent School District outperformed other Texas school districts that serve students with similar family incomes in reading and math at all school levels, according to the Broad Prize methodology; and

Whereas the Aldine Independent School District was selected from among 100 of the largest school districts in the country to win the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, for the outstanding achievement of winning the 2009 "Broad Prize for Urban Education", the largest education award for school districts in the United States; and

(2) congratulates the entire Aldine Independent School District community on the hard work and dedication the community has demonstrated toward student achievement, particularly the efforts of the community toward reducing the achievement gaps among ethnic groups and between high- and low-income students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on House Resolution 791 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands?

There was no objection.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 791, which recognizes and congratulates the Aldine Independent School District in Harris County, Texas, for winning the 2009 Broad Prize for Urban Education.

Aldine's commitment to academic achievement, its high expectations for its students, and its dedication to narrowing the racial and income achievement gaps make it a most deserving recipient of this prestigious award.

Established in 2002 by the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, the Broad Prize for Urban Education is the largest education award for school districts in the United States.

After finishing as a finalist for the prize 3 years previously, the Aldine Independent School District this year was chosen from among 100 of the largest school districts in the country to receive the \$1 million award. The Aldine School District has shown some of the most consistent student achievement gains nationally in the last decade.

Nationwide, family income levels generally are a strong indicator of students' school performance, but the Aldine School District, where four out of

SPEECH OF
HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

- Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to congratulate the Daughters of Penelope on their 80th anniversary. I want to thank Representative *Maloney*, my Hellenic Caucus co-chair for introducing this meaningful measure of which I am a proud original cosponsor. The Daughters of Penelope is a premier international women's organization and affiliate organization of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, the Nation's leading association of American citizens of Greek heritage and countless Philhellenes.
- Founded November 16, 1929, in San Francisco, California, the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the well-being of women and provide them with the opportunity to make significant contributions to American society. Today its mission is to promote the ideals of ancient Greece, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism.
- Over its history, the Daughters of Penelope have achieved remarkable accomplishments. It has strengthened the status of women in society, sheltered the elderly and the abused, educated our youth, promoted Hellenic heritage, and raised funds for medical research.
- One project adopted by the Daughters of Penelope over the years that is near and dear to my heart is St. Basil Academy, a Greek Orthodox Archdiocese home for children in need. Beginning in 1954, the Daughters of Penelope have been providing charitable aid to St. Basil Academy when it embarked on a Christmas Seal Campaign to raise funds to build the new water works for the academy. Since then, the Daughters of Penelope contributed to the furnishing of new buildings that have been built on campus, built a heated outdoor swimming pool for the children, and has provided funds for ongoing maintenance and renovations to the academy for such items as replacing outdated appliances and worn-out roofs.
- Finally, Daughters of Penelope members exemplify the American dream. With their strong work ethic, Greek-American women have risen to become leaders in their respective professions, from government to business to the arts. I am honored to have a longtime member of the Daughters working in my district office. My dear friend, Sonja Stefanadis, has been a member of the Daughters of Penelope for 48 years and served as its national president in the early 80's. So, I know first hand the extraordinary work this wonderful organization does. It has been a vehicle through which this advancement has occurred in our society.
- Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope. I look forward to many, many years of working together with them.

SPEECH OF
HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY
OF NEVADA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2009

- Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud daughter of Greece, and as a cosponsor of this resolution, to join my colleagues in honoring the Daughters of Penelope, an organization of women who exemplify Hellenic values and ideals, both within the United States and across the globe. Over the past 80 years, the efforts of the Daughters of Penelope have had a significant impact on the welfare of those in need. From assistance to battered women and children, to support for cancer research and funding for schools, the work of these women is deserving of our wholehearted recognition and praise.
- I want to draw special attention to the contributions that the Daughters of Penelope have made in the fight against breast cancer. Not only has the organization participated in a variety of fundraisers for breast cancer research, the Daughters of Penelope have engaged members of different ethnic communities in countries across the world by preparing and distributing awareness pamphlets that they translated into several languages. Raising awareness is a vital method of fighting breast cancer and I commend the efforts of these women in educating underserved communities about this disease.
- Another notable accomplishment of the Daughters of Penelope is the Greek Immigrant Oral History Study, recordings that document the history of Greek women, like my grandmother and great-grandmother, who immigrated to the United States. This project marked the first time that an ethnic organization had submitted its oral history to the Library of Congress, paving the way for other ethnic communities to share their own stories as well.
- With great appreciation and admiration, I recognize the invaluable contributions the Daughters of Penelope have made in the spirit of Hellenism. I join in supporting this resolution and urge my colleagues to support it as well.