

way." Despite all his accomplishments he is a down-to-earth guy, whose company is downright enjoyable.

It is our great pleasure and honor to ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to our good friend, Morgan Chu, the worthy recipient of 2003's Learned Hand Award.

HONORING THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of Crete by introducing this House Resolution which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance of the people of Crete during World War II.

This is a historic event with direct significance to the allies' victory of World War II. On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete.

Both the allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location. At that time the British controlled the island.

It was a very strong point on the lifeline to India and protected both Palestine and Egypt.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?"

The invasion of Crete took 11 days. It resulted in more than 6,000 German troopers listed as killed, wounded or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division were felt so hard by the German Military it signified the end of large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion. In contrast of the European underground movements that took a year or more after being invaded to activate.

Young boys, old men and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending their Crete. German soldiers never got used to Cretan women fighting them. They would tear the dress from the shoulder of suspected women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death.

The Times (London) July 28, 1941 report that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated.

At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme to write history.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The price paid by the Cretans for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces was high. Thousands of civilians died from random executions, starvation, and imprisonment. Entire communities were burned and destroyed by

the Germans as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for four years.

The battle of Crete was to change the final outcome of World War II. The Battle of Crete significantly contributed in delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia.

The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter.

The Russian snow storms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

This significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people must always be remembered and honored.

Democracy came from Greece and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people is seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which is located in Astoria, Queens.

I congratulate the newly elected officials and look forward to working with them.

I request my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

H. RES.—

Whereas 2003 marks the 62nd anniversary of the heroic Battle of Crete, which took place on the Greek island of Crete during World War II between Nazi German forces and the people of Crete assisted by the Allied armies;

Whereas the people of Crete fought tenaciously during the Battle of Crete, delaying for two months the Nazi German invasion of Russia;

Whereas this delay forced Nazi German forces to invade Russia in the face of the brutal Russian winter, changing the final outcome of World War II and leading to the defeat of fascism;

Whereas many historians agree that the Battle of Crete was one of the most significant battles of World War II;

Whereas the Battle of Crete contributed to saving the free world from Nazi German occupation, thus preserving democracy, freedom, and human dignity;

Whereas the Cretan Resistance Movement was organized to fight the Nazi German occupation of the island of Crete;

Whereas for 4 years, the Cretan Resistance Movement inflicted heavy casualties up Nazi German forces, including kidnaping a heavily-guarded Nazi German General, setting an example for all of the people of Europe to follow;

Whereas the people of Crete suffered savage reprisals for their heroic resistance when the Nazi German invaders randomly executed thousands of civilians and burned and destroyed entire communities;

Whereas many participants in the Battle of Crete and the Cretan Resistance Movement later emigrated to the United States and became American citizens; and

Whereas many of these citizens became members of the PanCretan Association of America, an organization comprised of Greek Americans with ancestry from the island of Crete and committed to preserving and promoting the rich culture and proud history of Crete: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) observes the memory of the fallen heroes of the Battle of Crete;

(2) honors the living men and women of Crete who, during World War II, fought an

oppressive invader to preserve the ideals of freedom, democracy, and the pursuit of happiness; and

(3) commends the PanCretan Association of America for preserving and promoting the history of Crete and its people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2003

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Rural Healthcare Access Improvement Act of 2003.

Our rural Medicare providers need help. For too long they have suffered the consequences of inadequate Medicare reimbursements that hurt physicians, hurt hospitals and most of all hurt patients. My constituents in East Texas have shared their concerns with me and I know full-well that we don't finally start acting to change this, our Nation's healthcare delivery system and our Nation's fellow citizens will suffer irreparably.

Last week Senator GRASSLEY bravely stood up during the Tax bill debate and offered an amendment that would help our rural providers. It passed in an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 86-12 in the United States Senate. I applaud his efforts and the support from his colleagues in making the unique needs of our rural communities a priority.

We should not waste any more time in the House of Representatives in meeting the needs of our rural providers. Today, I offer the Rural Healthcare Access Improvement Act of 2003. This bill, similar in scope to Senator GRASSLEY's amendment offers real opportunities to assist our rural health care providers. As my colleagues know, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services uses a reimbursement formula that favors urban areas over rural areas. This formula is deeply flawed though and fails to allow our providers to even break even on many of their expenses. My legislation will directly assist our hospitals by equalizing Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments, by equalizing urban and rural "standardized payment" levels, by assisting Critical Access Hospitals, and by establishing a floor on the geographic adjustments of payments for doctors' services. It will also improve reimbursement for home health services, ground ambulance services and hospital outpatient procedures.

We can not wait any longer. Our rural communities are desperately in need of help and we must answer their call.

MERCURY IN MEDICINE REPORT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following report prepared by the staff of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, Committee on Government Reform. This report is the result of a three-year investigation initiated in the Committee on Government Reform.