

IN TRIBUTE TO GREEK  
INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 185th Anniversary of Greek Independence Day and in doing so, join millions of my fellow Americans in commemorating the rebellion of the Greek people against the Ottoman Empire and celebrate their declaration of independence on March 25, 1821.

The strong and invaluable friendship between the United States and Greece leads me to recognize Greek Independence Day, a day in which we celebrate the Hellenic people's long, but heroic revolt against 400 years of oppressive rule by the Ottomans. Their struggle for independence demonstrates the strong commitment of the Greek people to achieving freedom from tyranny and oppression. We can see this through Greece's steadfast support of the United States in every major struggle for freedom and democracy, including our global fight against terror. The strength of our great friendship with and the contributions to our nation made by the Hellenic community make me proud to honor such an important day in Greek history.

Our two nations are committed to the shared values of democracy, justice and freedom. Greek ideals of democracy and freedom inspired our nation's founders and helped shape the very fabric of our democratic government. Greek immigrants have been welcomed to the shores of America for generations, and we are grateful for how they have enhanced our collective culture and contributed to our country. I stand proudly with the many Hellenic-Americans in the 9th District of New Jersey and salute them and their ancestors' struggle for freedom on the anniversary of Greek Independence Day.

I welcome this opportunity to celebrate the 185th Greek Independence Day with the Hellenic community. On this day let us remember more than just Greece's independence, but also celebrate Greece as an invaluable ally and longstanding friend of all freedom-loving peoples.

TRIBUTE TO HARRIET TUBMAN  
AND THE 2006 HARRIET TUBMAN  
SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significance of the Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards, created to honor women of New York State who have perpetuated Tubman's legacy and her humanitarian accomplishments and to praise the 15 women chosen to be recipients of such a prestigious honor. Harriet Ross Tubman was a great liberator who was a monument to courage and determination in the fight for freedom and human rights for slaves in bondage.

Harriet Tubman was called the "Moses" of her people. She was born on a plantation in

Maryland, in or around 1820, and escaped from slavery in 1849. Upon gaining her freedom, Harriet Tubman settled in Philadelphia where she met William Still, the Philadelphia "Stationmaster" of the "Underground Railroad." In 1850, Harriet Tubman became a "conductor" on the Underground Railroad and eventually became the most influential of all the "conductors" by returning to the South 19 times through the Underground Railroad, freeing 300 slaves.

In the mid-1850's, Harriet Tubman made the acquaintance of United States Senator, Secretary of State and former New York State Governor William H. Seward and his wife, Frances, in Auburn, New York. In 1857, the Swards provided a home for Harriet Tubman in Auburn, which she later purchased and used as new headquarters for the Underground Railroad. Since 1995, New York State has assisted with efforts to recognize Harriet Tubman's legacy. In 1999, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) helped to document and list Tubman's historic brick home, her church and her gravesite in the Fort Hill Cemetery to the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

In February 2001, Governor Pataki announced the creation of a \$1.4 million Underground Railroad Heritage Trail Grant Program to enhance heritage tourism and support site improvements at historic sites and interpretive centers commemorating the Underground Railroad across New York State. In addition, the Governor committed more than \$280,000 in Bond Act funds to restore Harriet Tubman's home in Auburn. An additional \$100,000 was provided in 2002 to help restore the Harriet Tubman Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, also in Auburn, New York.

In 2003, Governor George E. Pataki proclaimed March 10th as "Harriet Tubman Day". He then officially signed into law a bill designating the day as a day of commemoration in New York State for the life and heroic contributions of Harriet Ross Tubman. Governor Pataki chose March 10th because it is the day Harriet Tubman died in 1913 at the age of 93. As part of the State's tribute, the second annual New York State Governor's Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards were presented to 15 women, whose accomplishments strongly embraced the spirit of Harriet Tubman.

The 15 honorees have shown through their tireless efforts significant contributions to the culture and well being of New York and have paved the way for future leaders in the ongoing fight for human rights. All of these women, like Harriet Tubman, possess a pioneering spirit of excellence.

The 2006 Harriet Tubman Spirit Award recipients were: Zenaida Chape', NYC Humanitarian and Community Advocate; Sarah Curry-Cobb, Pioneer and Civil Rights Advocate from Albany; Dr. Joan O. Dawson, NYC Educator and Youth Advocate; Patricia A. Devine, Youth Advocate from Albany; Maria Ginter, Diversity and Community Advocate from Albany; Mona Golub, Pioneer and Cultural Arts Advocate from Schenectady; Alvania Hill, Educator from Albany; Sharon Jordan Holley, Educator and Historian from Buffalo; Reverend Carolyn Peterson-Vaccaro, Women and Family Advocate from Albany; Frances Ethel Powell Pratt, Civil Rights Advocate from Nyack; Ruth Russell, Health and Community Advocate from Rensselaer; Dr. Cecilia Sanz, Children and Family Advocate from Albany; Rose Stuart,

Pioneer and Family Advocate from Albany; Meilin Tan, NYC Humanitarian and Entrepreneur and Benita Zahn, Health and Media Advocate from Albany.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this stellar award and the very deserving recipients during the 2nd anniversary month of the New York State Governor's Harriet Tubman Spirit Awards.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that on rollcall vote No. 69, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I inadvertently voted "nay." I would like the RECORD to reflect that I intended to vote "yea."

TOM MCDANIEL: A HARD-WORKING  
PUBLIC SERVANT WHO WILL BE  
MISSED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2006, Williamson County lost a hard working friend of the community with the untimely passing of Williamson County Commissioner S. Thomas McDaniel. Tom was an effective, grassroots politician. A close friend and advisor, I had the honor of swearing Tom into office as Williamson County Commissioner for Precinct 3 on November 2, 2004.

Well-respected by his colleagues, Tom brought a new perspective to Williamson County politics. In some areas he probably stepped on a few toes and in other areas he was a breath of fresh air. Commissioner McDaniel was a steward of the communities in Williamson County's Third Precinct, continually working to improve the region's infrastructure. He continually encouraged efficient, effective operations at the county level. During his service as Commissioner, construction began on the City of Georgetown Public Library and the Williamson County Courthouse Restoration began, among other successes.

Born in Terrell, Texas, on April 1, 1944, Tom is a third generation Texan. Tom is survived by his lovely wife of 32 years, Linda, and his son, Ryan.

Tom was a really fine man, and I am going to miss him terribly. He will be missed by me, my family, and all of Williamson County.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER  
CHARLES L. STUPPARD

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2006*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Commander Charles L. Stuppard, United States Navy, for his outstanding and brilliant performance as Commanding Officer of the United States Ship