

There have been isolated studies looking at suspected environmental links to breast cancer. But overall, the issue of what causes breast cancer, and the association between the environment and breast cancer requires a collaborative, comprehensive, national strategy to study these issues. This bill makes that mission possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and enact it this year so that we can get closer to a day when no woman need worry about breast cancer again.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF OPA-  
LOCKA, FLORIDA

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the 80th anniversary of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida, which I am proud to represent in the United States Congress.

Home to more than 15,000 residents in Northwest Miami-Dade County, "The Great City" of Opa-Locka has had a long and colorful history, from its founding in the mid-1920s, rapid expansion prior to and during World War II and its recent efforts at revitalization.

The name Opa-Locka is a contraction of the Native American name for the area, "Opatisha-woka-locka", meaning a dry place in the swamp with trees. The area was developed in the early 1920s by aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss and was based on the Arabian Nights theme with streets that have names like Sultan Avenue, Ali Baba Avenue, and Sesame Street. The Arabian Nights style is also reflected in the city's architecture, which features 105 original buildings with an array of domes, elaborate minarets and outside staircases in brightly painted colors built between 1925–28 during Florida's land boom. Officially incorporated in 1926, Opa-Locka today maintains the largest collection of Moorish architecture in the Western hemisphere and 20 sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Opa-Locka Airport also has a long and colorful history. In 1918, the Navy relocated a blimp hangar to Opa-Locka from Key West. In the early 1930s, a Naval Reserve Training Base was established here. Commissioned NAS Miami in August 1940, training in fighter,

dive-bombing and torpedo bombing skills took place at various times during the history of the base. In addition to serving as headquarters for the 7th Naval District, the station supported a naval air gunnery school, a Marine Corps Air Station, a Coast Guard Station, and a small craft-training center. The peak complement, reached in 1945, consisted of 7,200 officers and men and 3,100 civilians. During the early days of World War II, Opa-Locka's pivotal role in training pilots resulting in the airport having the unique distinction of supporting more take-offs and landings than any other airport in the world.

Opa-Locka today is a working community that is looking to the future and working hard to revitalize its economic and cultural base while maintaining its small town, close knit sense of community. City Hall, the old Opa-Locka Hotel and the original Opa-Locka Train Station have recently been renovated. Additionally, a new State of Florida Services Building and a variety of new business have located in the City in recent years, and recent interest in Opa-Locka airport holds promise for the future.

As the city begins its ninth decade, I congratulate its leaders and citizens and look forward to working with the government, businesses and people of Opa-Locka in building an even stronger, more vibrant community in the coming years.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF  
KEMAL ATATURK, FOUNDER OF  
MODERN TURKEY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 19, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, May 19, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the birth of the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, a post-World War I revolutionary leader who demonstrated that Islam and modernity are fully compatible. His example provides instruction and hope for our own era.

Ataturk died at the young age of 57 in 1938. Yet, in a short period of time starting with the end of World War I, Ataturk was able to build a nation from the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, establish secular rule, and lay the groundwork for democratic development. His vision for his overwhelmingly Muslim nation

was dominated by two concepts: secularism and progress. In his words, "In an age when inventions and the wonders of science are bringing change after change in the conditions of life, nations cannot maintain their existence by age-old mentalities and tradition-worshipping."

Mr. Speaker, Ataturk's reforms covered virtually every area of public life—political, cultural, legal, educational, and economic—all geared toward bringing the new Turkish nation to the level of what Ataturk called "contemporary civilization." Some of the changes were monumental, such as abolishing the caliphate, recognizing equal rights for men and women, discarding the Arabic alphabet in favor of Latin letters, and adopting secular law. Others were seemingly minor, such as reforming traditional styles of dress and mandating surnames.

His leadership style was epitomized by the alphabet reform. A language commission he appointed endorsed the reform in 1928 and urged that it be phased in over fifteen years. Ataturk had a different time-frame in mind. He phased it in over six months, punctuating his decision with trips around the country in which he personally gave public instruction in the new alphabet. This reform has wrought a fundamental change in Turkey's outlook, as millions of Turks, schooled in the Latin alphabet, have turned westward for their second languages and the learning to which those languages are the key.

As a champion of women's rights, Mr. Speaker, Ataturk encouraged women to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, scientists, writers, and politicians. His credo in this regard was stated as a simple equation in a speech in 1926: "If a society of men and women is content to apply progress and education to one-half of itself, such a society is weakened by half." It is unfortunate that, to this very day, too many nations in the Middle East cannot grasp that easy math.

When I met Pakistani President Musharraf four years ago, I gave him a copy of Andrew Mango's authoritative biography of Ataturk. "Follow Ataturk's vision," I urged him, "and you will put Pakistan on the path to progress."

Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that this is the right advice for the leaders of every Muslim nation. With forward-looking vision, leadership, and determination in the mold of Ataturk, the entire region could expect a future of secularism, tolerance, democracy, and material progress.