

"Be proud that you are an American", my father used to say, but "be proud, too, that you are a Greek!"

All four of the Brademas children were deeply conscious of the importance of our Greek background.

Here let me say how pleased I am that my cousin, Anna Bredima, General Counsel for the Union of Greek Shipowners, is here today with her two children, Evangelo and Ersiliana.

Anna, by the way, is a graduate of Pierce College.

Although my mother was not of Greek descent she was, like her father, a teacher—and that fact emphasizes another dimension of his Greek ancestry that my father used to press upon his children—the importance of learning, of knowledge, of education.

A second dimension of the history of Greece that my father and I often discussed was democracy. "We Greeks invented democracy!" my father reminded us, and said that some of us should still practice it.

Accordingly, after graduating from Harvard University and one year of postgraduate study there, I went to England, on a Rhodes Scholarship, to study at Oxford University. At Oxford, I wrote a doctoral dissertation on the anarchist movement in Spain but I like to note that although I studied anarchism, I did not practice it!

For on my return to my hometown in Indiana, I immediately plunged into politics and became a candidate for election to the Congress of the United States. Just old enough—25—under our Constitution to be a candidate, I lost my first race by half a percent. Naturally, I ran again, two years later, but lost a second time. Undaunted, I was first elected, on my third attempt, and then ten times re-elected. So I served as a Member of Congress for 22 years.

In the House of Representatives, I gave particular attention to writing legislation to support schools, colleges and universities; and the students who attend them; to measures to help libraries and museums; and the arts and the humanities, generally.

In my last four years as a Member of Congress, I was the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, an assignment that brought me every other week, with Speaker of the House of Representatives, "Tip" O'Neill of Massachusetts, and the other Democratic Leaders of the House and Senate to breakfast at the White House with President Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. All Democrats, we talked politics and policy.

It was, of course, while a Member of Congress that I became deeply involved in the issue of Cyprus, a matter that continues to preoccupy me. I worked closely then with my valued friend, also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, and the first Greek-American elected to the United States Senate, Paul S. Sarbanes. And I'm pleased to note that Paul's son, John Sarbanes, now serves in the United States House of Representatives.

As I am the son of a Greek immigrant, I am pleased to call your attention to another son of Greek immigrants, both his father and mother. I speak of Peter C. Peterson, the highly successful and highly respected American business leader and public servant. Peter G. Peterson, co-founder of Blackstone Group and former Secretary of Commerce, has just published a fascinating book, *The Education of an American Dreamer*, which I am pleased to present to President Horner for the College library. Your faculty and students will find the story of this remarkable son of Greek immigrants inspiring. I am confident.

More modestly, I am pleased also to present a book of my own to The American College of Greece, *The Politics of Education*,

in which I describe my experience as a Member of Congress in writing legislation to assist schools, colleges and universities; the students who attend them; and measures to assist libraries and museums.

I move ahead, In 1980, as a result of the landslide victory of Ronald Reagan, I lost my race for reelection to a twelfth term. Shortly thereafter, I was invited to become president of New York University, the largest private, or independent, university in the United States. In 1991 I became president emeritus, my present responsibility, so now I'm only going some twelve hours a day!

If I were to single out one dimension, of my commitment to strengthening New York University, it would be that I gave particular attention to building our programs for the study of other countries and cultures, not only through programs in New York City but centers abroad as well. Much of the responsibility of an American university president focuses on fundraising, both from the Federal government and private sources. So I pressed hard, and, I believe, effectively, to bolster the financial situation of New York University.

I must add just a word about my present initiative, another strongly shaped by my Greek origins, the establishment at NYU of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress, of Congress as a policy-making institution.

Let me explain that unlike parliamentary institutions in Europe, the Congress of the United States has great power, in addition to that of the President of the United States, to make national policy. But with 100 Senators and 435 Representatives and without the party discipline characteristic of parliamentary systems, it is not easy for even informed Americans to understand Congress. So we are, with the establishment of the John Brademas Center for the Study of Congress at New York University, creating an institution that will bring together Senators, Representatives, scholars and citizens to discuss the ways in which our national legislature makes national policy and ways of improving the system.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, from what I have told you, I hope you can see that I have inherited from my Greek father at least two dimensions of the extraordinary contributions of Hellenic civilization to today's complex world: first, respect for learning, for education; and second, respect for politics, for democracy.

So even as I pay tribute to two distinguished persons you are also honoring here today, Andrew Athens, a valued friend of many years and an outstanding leader of the Greek-American community; and Mikis Theodorakis, musician, scholar, public servant, I reiterate how deeply touched I am to receive an honorary degree from The American College of Greece.

RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLEAN TRUCK PROGRAM

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the economic and environmental benefits the landmark Clean Truck Program has brought to southern California during its first year.

California is home to one of our nation's largest and most vibrant economic hubs: the

ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. Unfortunately, the ports are also home to emissions generated by the short-haul transport of goods. The neighborhoods surrounding the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are disproportionately impacted by the air pollution caused by trucks and suffer from associated health problems including emphysema, asthma, and cancer.

Successfully addressing localized air pollution and climate change will require a national strategy and a federal framework to coordinate implementation of air quality goals. Cities, local communities and local government can and should play a role in our national strategy.

As seen by the Clean Truck Program's success, local governments are already making important contributions to federal efforts to improve air quality. On October 1, 2008 the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles implemented a ban on trucks with model years prior to 1989. Today, port officials estimate that approximately 1,500–2,000 "dirty" diesel trucks have been removed from drayage operations. The new trucks that replaced them generate 90 percent fewer emissions than the old dirty diesels.

Beyond cleaning the air the Clean Truck Program has successfully stimulated local economic activity. The program's financial incentives have stimulated \$500 million in private investment. Nationwide, new truck sales are down 60 percent. In contrast, truck dealers near the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have reported a 33 percent year over year increase in sales due to the financing made available by the Clean Truck Program. These new truck sales include the sale of several liquefied natural gas trucks, which draw upon one of America's greatest energy assets.

Almost 800 trucking companies have embraced the program's financial incentives, resulting in the deployment of more than 5,000 2007 EPA compliant trucks. At the program's current pace, the ports estimate that by January 2010, more than 90 percent of the cargo transit at port terminals will be made by trucks meeting USEPA 2007 heavy duty truck emissions standards. This achievement will allow the ports to meet their 2012 goal of 80 percent emissions reductions from overall drayage operations two years ahead of schedule.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles Clean Truck Program has been a tremendous success and has brought economic and environmental benefits to the Area. I congratulate the ports on the first year of an innovative solution, and I optimistically look forward to the results of the program next year.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CLINICAL TRIALS THAT FOCUSED ON WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, people of color, both women and men, have historically been underrepresented in the medical profession, biomedical and biotechnology research, and clinical trials in the United States. As we move toward an era of personalized medicine,

we realize that small differences between people become critically important in devising more effective, tailored treatments to improve and extend quality of life while helping doctors and patients better prevent and treat disease. Language and cultural barriers, stigma about participating in studies, and a historical lack of diverse community involvement in clinical trials by industry must be overcome so that all of our communities can be assured that they equally participate in the future of medicine.

To address this problem, we need more studies that reflect the changing face of the HIV/AIDS and other epidemics, both on effective messaging and education campaigns for the diverse group of affected individuals and on possible vaccines. One notable example of this kind of effort is the Gender Race and Clinical Experience (GRACE) study conducted by Tibotec Therapeutics, part of the Johnson & Johnson family of companies. The GRACE study, findings from which were recently presented at the International AIDS Society conference in South Africa, is the largest study to date to examine gender and race differences in response to an HIV therapy. In addition, the trial was designed to help overcome some of the barriers, identified by the advisors, which have historically deterred women and people of color from participating in clinical studies, including stigma, lack of child care, transportation and personal support systems. Based upon advisor and community input, study participants could obtain assistance to cover costs associated with their participation in the study, including funds for travel and childcare, as well as food vouchers. Through innovative strategies like these, the GRACE study was able to enroll seventy percent women, sixty percent African Americans and twenty-two percent Latinos. I believe that the GRACE study is significant for reasons beyond just its clinical results. Studies like this, which are designed to overcome the barriers to participation and engage affected communities and providers show that with greater industry effort, meaningful numbers of women and racial and ethnic minorities can be enrolled in important clinical trials.

For example, studies in the United States and across the world are seeking an answer to the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. The epidemic is changing its face, spreading into new populations and presenting new challenges to education and outreach efforts. In the United States, women are increasingly affected by HIV/AIDS, accounting for more than one quarter of all new HIV/AIDS diagnoses, with African American and Latina women representing seventy-nine percent of women living with the disease. HIV/AIDS disproportionately impacts our African American and Latino communities, and the infection rate is rising among Asian American and Pacific Islanders as well. In my home state of California, there are almost 150,000 people living with AIDS, and Latinos represent about one-quarter of these cases. There are over 60,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the greater Los Angeles area alone. In terms of new HIV infections, Latina women are infected at a rate almost four times as high as white women. African Americans in my district are also highly impacted by HIV/AIDS.

I commend Tibotec Therapeutics, Johnson & Johnson, and all researchers and companies actively engaged in diversifying their clinical trials and creating new relationships with

affected communities. As Congress moves forward with health reform, with outcome and effectiveness-based reimbursement models, we must strongly encourage the expansion of efforts industry and academia are making to reflect the diversity of our nation in their workforce and clinical trials.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would have voted on September 15, 2009 when I was unavoidably detained as follows:

Had I voted, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 702.

GOVERNORS OF NEBRASKA, NORTH DAKOTA, NEVADA, AND RHODE ISLAND EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the RECORD the following letters from the governors of Nebraska, North Dakota, Nevada and Rhode Island:

SEPTEMBER 16, 2009.

Hon. BENJAMIN NELSON,
U.S. Senator, Hart Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHANNIS,
U.S. Senator, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR NELSON AND SENATOR JOHANNIS: I am writing to alert you that the analysis provided by the staff to the members of the NGA Health Care Reform Task Force indicates that the Chairman's Mark released by Senator Baucus this morning contains a new unfunded Medicaid mandate. Earlier this year I wrote both of you expressing my concern that this might occur as part of health care reform.

I greatly appreciate the fact that both of you have repeatedly expressed concerns about the negative impact that health care reform could have on the Federal deficit and the State budget. As former Governors you understand the impact that Medicaid has on state spending. This new unfunded federal Medicaid mandate could result in higher taxes on Nebraskans or in cutting state aid to Nebraska's school districts as well as state appropriations to our universities, state colleges and community colleges. This proposal is not in Nebraska's best interests.

As we develop more specific information, I will be providing you with our best estimates of the magnitude of the impact on Nebraska. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DAVE HEINEMAN,
Governor, Nebraska.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS,
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SEBELIUS: As Congress and the Administration work through the various versions of health care reform currently moving through the legislative process, we ask that you carefully consider the following issues.

First, having served as chief executive of a state yourself, I am sure you are mindful of the growing concern among the nation's governors about the risk to states of including unfunded mandates in national healthcare legislation. States are constitutionally mandated to balance their budgets, which means that any shortfalls caused by unfunded federal mandates could force increases in taxes, a reduction in services or both. This potential is especially troubling at a time when states are financially struggling.

We cannot be certain what form evolving legislation will take, and what the impact of that final legislation will be on state budgets. For that reason, we, along with the National Governors Association, urge extreme caution in moving forward with any plan that would commit the states, without their express participation and consent, to obligations that may financially bind them for decades into the future.

Second, it is important that any healthcare reform plan passed by Congress and signed by the President reward the states for good Medicare and Medicaid outcomes. North Dakota health care providers, for example, consistently provide low-cost, high-quality healthcare, yet have the lowest reimbursement rates in the nation. Any reform of the system must have incentives for good performance and cost-effectiveness.

Notwithstanding these issues, like Americans everywhere, we too are concerned about rising healthcare costs and the need to provide access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for our citizens. Congress and the Administration should be looking at a range of reforms that can deliver meaningful and almost immediate benefits for our healthcare system. These include measures, among others, like tort reform for medical liability; tax credits to help make insurance more affordable; providing transparency in billing; ensuring healthcare insurance portability; and limiting denials for preexisting conditions.

Clearly, healthcare reform is needed. On that matter there is no disagreement, but it needs to be done right. To that end, I do hope that you will keep in mind OUR concerns and recommendations as you consider proposals to improve America's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

JOHN HOEVEN,
Governor, North Dakota.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: It has been clear from the early days of the 111th Congress that health insurance reform will be a top priority for lawmakers this year. Comprehensive reform should lower health care costs while increasing insured populations, quality of care, and point-of service accessibility for all Nevadans.