

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE CITY OF CLUTE, TEXAS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Clute, Texas, which will be celebrated on June 2, 2002. Clute is a city of just over 10,000 citizens in Brazoria County on the coast of Texas. Clute has a very rich heritage and played an important role in the development of the proud state of Texas.

The City of Clute began as land deeded to Alexander Calvit by Stephen F. Austin when holdings were parceled out to the "Old 300," the first settlers in Texas. These settlers had to be tough as living on the Texas coastland in the early days was not for the weak or faint of heart.

Though the living was hard these early settlers contributed many things to the advancement of our state. The first milled lumber plantation house was built in Clute. Bricks used to build homes and buildings all over the coast of Texas were made from the high grade clay that was found only in Clute. That clay was used to make structures at Ft. Velasco, where in 1832, the Brazoria Militia staged the first battle for Texas Independence.

Now, many years later, Clute is still growing and achieving. Citizens raise their families in quiet and serene neighborhoods while contributing to some of the greatest chemical and industrial achievements in modern America.

The face of Clute has changed but the people are still the same brave, hardworking Texans that helped mold the Republic.

I am pleased to extend my best wishes to the people of Clute as the town celebrates its 50th birthday of incorporation and over 170 years after habitation by the original settlers of Texas. I am sure all my colleagues join me in extending congratulations and wishes for many more years of progress to the community of Clute, Texas.

INDEPENDENCE OF EAST TIMOR

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 405, legislation commemorating the independence of East Timor and expressing the sense of Congress that the President should establish diplomatic relations with East Timor.

Independence for East Timor has been a long time coming. It was ruled by the Portuguese for 400 years and then more recently experienced 25 years of Indonesian occupation.

Unfortunately, many East Timorese suffered during the path to independence, particularly when Indonesian military backed militias went on a murderous rampage in 1999, after the people of East Timor voted for independence.

Thousands of innocent East Timorese were killed and hundreds of thousands became refugees because of the violence carried out against the East Timorese who were only seeking freedom.

Fortunately, the East Timorese have benefited from having solid leaders. I met many of these people when I visited East Timor in 1997—people such as Roman Catholic Bishop Belo, bishop of Dili.

Bishop Belo was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his invaluable work on behalf of peace and justice in East Timor. Representative TONY HALL and I nominated Bishop Belo for this award of which he so deservedly was presented several years ago.

I met with many other outstanding East Timorese volunteers, local leaders, NGO staff and religious leaders who also helped forge the way for a peaceful movement of independence. All are to be commended for their contributions that have led to East Timor's independence.

Recently elected President Jose Alexandre Gusmao also appears to be a leader who will serve his new country well.

He is emphasizing reconciliation rather than revenge for the sufferings and atrocities the people suffered at the hands of the pro-Indonesian militias in 1999.

I am hopeful that the new country of East Timor will be a reliable and worthy addition to the international community.

I want to congratulate the people of East Timor, President Gusmao, Bishop Belo, Jose Ramos Horta, and the many other East Timorese who brought their people and their nation to this historic point.

I also want to commend President Bush for his action yesterday recognizing East Timor as a nation and establishing diplomatic relations.

Lastly, I want to thank Representative SMITH for sponsoring this important legislation and for all of his work in this Congress not only on East Timor, but for human rights and religious freedom.

IN RECOGNITION OF A TRUE HERO

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a true American hero, William Arthur Wood of Opelika, Alabama.

At this very special time of the year when we honor those who have so bravely fought for our country, I want to pay special tribute to this valiant soldier who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was a POW for 18 months. It is difficult to imagine what he must have had to endure during this time.

Mr. Wood's great niece and her family are bringing Mr. Wood and his wife to Washington, D.C. during this Memorial Day holiday. He is now 81 years of age and totally disabled but continues to be so proud of our country and to have fought to preserve our freedoms during World War II. I salute Mr. Wood for his service to our country.

A DOCUMENTARY RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ROLE OF TURKISH DIPLOMATS DURING WORLD WAR II

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, since September 11, our newspapers and airwaves have been filled with stories about heroes and ordinary men and women who have performed courageously in times of great peril. We are night to celebrate them and to acknowledge their heroism.

On Monday, May 20, 2002, an extraordinary film was shown in the U.S. Capitol to Members of Congress and their staffers that celebrates heroes of the past. The film, "Desperate Hours," chronicles the heroic efforts of World War II Turkish diplomats who saved hundreds of Jewish people from almost certain death by providing them with the documentation and support necessary to leave Nazi-occupied Europe and enter Turkey safely.

This dramatic hour-long documentary included interviews with Turkish officials who intervened on behalf of the threatened Turkish Jewish community in Europe and those individuals that received the help of these brave diplomats. In their own words, these incredible individuals who survived Nazi persecution continue to tell a moving and uplifting tale of their struggle for freedom and the selfless acts of assistance they received from Turkish diplomats.

Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important that we acknowledge the heroes of today. However, it is equally important that we acknowledge and remember individuals like those Turkish diplomats who had the greatest respect for human life and dignity and acted as heroes during a period of great darkness. The movie "Desperate Hours" justly recognizes the heroism of these brave individuals who saved the lives of thousand of Turkish Jews.

TRIBUTE TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF BELLEVILLE

HON. BILL PASCARELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Belleville, New Jersey.

It is only fitting we recognize this organization, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth, for it has a long history of caring, leadership, and commitment to its community.

Since receiving its charter from the Rotary International on April 22, 1922, the Rotary Club of Belleville has been an effective coalition of civic leaders, business professionals, and regular citizens dedicated to their neighbors.

The Club has personified its time honored mottos, "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," by sponsoring projects to aid children, the elderly, and the poor, and by sponsoring literacy programs.