

HONORING IOANNIS
IOANNOPOULOS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the important mark that Ioannis Ioannopoulos had on American society, as the original founder of one of the oldest known wooden school houses in the country. In order to fully understand the cultural motivation to establish this historic treasure, one must examine Ioannopoulos's early life. A carpenter by trade, Ioannis Ioannopoulos was the son of George and Maria-Canelas and hailed from the Petalidi area in Messinia that was then known as "Koroni" (the village of Skoutari, Mani). He was known by the Spanish as Juan Genopoly. Ioannopoulos—at the age of 13—was one of a group of indentured laborers brought to the New World by Andrew Turnbull to work an indigo plantation at New Smyrna. This group of 1,403 Minorcans, Greeks and Italians suffered mistreatment, starvation and overextended servitudes at Turnbull's plantation. The people were reduced to slavery, and treated with great cruelty by Trumbull, whose partner in the enterprise was the English Governor of the territory, who kept the colonists in subjection with English troops. This slavery lasted nine years, during which time nearly two-thirds of these colonists perished; but large crops of indigo were raised for the company—one year 30,000 lbs. it is stated.

In 1776, a new Governor having arrived, the petitions of these people for relief were listened to, and they were released from the tyranny of their master. One year later six hundred refugees, led by Ioannis Ioannopoulos, Francisco Pellicer and Antonio Llambias, walked to St Augustine and were granted asylum by Governor Tonym. They became the largest group of immigrants to settle in America in one group at one time. Collectively called "Minorcans", they were an important part of the fabric of St. Augustine history. It was on Saint George Street where the survivors of the New Smyrna Colony first settled after their escape. Since that time, this area of Old St. Augustine has been called "the Greek Quarter" and alternately "the Minorcan Quarter."

Ioannis Giannopoulos built a little house out of red cedar and cypress and put it together with wooden pegs and handmade nails, sometime around 1800. This building was a home first but, as early as 1811, members of the Genopoly family taught the children of other Minorcan families in the first floor "school-room" of this building. As the story goes, Genopoly, in typical Greek fashion, was worried his children would grow up without an education. Genopoly and his daughter Maria Manuela Barbara "Mary" Genopoly Darling were the first teachers. Then Genopoly hired a school teacher, and generations of children from St. Augustine went to school in this building. Juan Genopoly died in 1820.

Today, this preserved building is recognized as one of the oldest schoolhouses in North America. It has become the symbol of their

hard work and perseverance. It's now the main attraction of the historical precinct in St. George Street, Saint Augustine, Florida. John Giannopoulos left a deep imprint in the educational history of St. Augustine by establishing a school in his house. Now restored, it stands as one of the oldest school buildings in the United States.

2017 WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD
WINNER—AMANDA WALSH

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Amanda Walsh of Davis, California, who embodies the values of a great teacher, educator, and mentor, and displays unparalleled dedication to her work. For Ms. Walsh, teaching is not just a job, but a calling. As an educator at Pioneer Elementary school, she has a positive and lasting impact on the children she teaches every day. Ms. Walsh is dedicated to the overall wellbeing of all students, ensuring that they are safe, fed, and taken care of. She can frequently be found working late to keep parents up to date and involved in their children's education.

Beyond her work in the classroom, Ms. Walsh finds many ways to serve her community. Over the years, she has been actively involved with the Parent Teacher Association and coordinated fundraising efforts for local schools. Ms. Walsh has volunteered her time for the Davis Little League and Davis Legacy Soccer Club.

A mother of three boys, Amanda is always busy, staying involved in her sons' education, music, and sports activities. Between her roles as a mother and a teacher, Amanda is dedicated to the wellbeing and success of children.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
PATRICK J. CHRIST, U.S. ARMY
(RETIRED)

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Patrick J. Christ, U.S. Army, Retired, from Harker Heights, Texas, for his dedication to our country while serving over two decades in the Army. LTC Christ exemplifies what it means to commit his life to his country and community; he is a deserving recipient of a Congressional Veteran Commendation.

LTC Christ has shown sincere dedication throughout his 23 years in the Army. His commitment to serving his country can be seen through his extensive list of medals, including the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. In addition to his superb work defending our nation, LTC Christ held important leadership positions in the Mili-

tary Officers Association of America and the Association of the United States Army.

After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1992, LTC Christ continued to dedicate his time to worthy causes. He has served as a city council member in the city of Harker Heights, on the Board of Directors for Hill Country Transit, and the Chamber of Commerce. LTC Christ lives a life dedicated to other veterans in his area by working closely with the Area Veterans Advisory Committee and by founding the Harker Heights Veterans' Council. LTC Christ is thoroughly involved in many sports organizations in his area, namely the Tri-County Soccer Club and the T.J. Zimmerman Soccer Tournament which he holds leadership positions in, as well as many other soccer associations. LTC Christ has logged hundreds of volunteer hours in many organizations, including as Admiral of the Texas Navy for Governor Rick Perry. Community activists like him make Central Texas a great place to live and work.

I commend LTC Christ for his service to his community and country. I join his family and friends in saluting his dedication to our country, and being an embodiment of Central Texas values.

TRIBUTE TO NEWARK BETH
ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER FOR
PERFORMING ITS 1,000TH HEART
TRANSPLANT

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I rise to pay tribute to the Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center for performing its 1,000th heart transplant.

Founded in 1901, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center is a regional care, teaching hospital that provides comprehensive health care services to local communities. Beth Israel is an important referral and treatment center for patients throughout northern New Jersey, and it is one of only two hospitals certified to perform heart transplants in the state. Staffed with more than 800 physicians, 3,200 employees, and 150 volunteers, the hospital serves over 3 million patients each year.

Newark Beth Israel Medical Center has long been a leader in cardiac care. It performed the first heart transplant in New Jersey in 1986. It was the first New Jersey hospital to use extracorporeal membrane oxygenation for babies awaiting transplants, and it pioneered the use of Left Ventricular Assist Devices for heart-transplant patients.

In August, Beth Israel's Heart Failure Treatment and Transplant Program performed its 1,000th heart transplant. Only eleven other centers in the United States have reached this milestone. Newark Beth Israel Medical Center deserves to be recognized for its achievement. I am proud and honored to have this medical center investing in the health care of my constituents and the citizens of the State of New Jersey.