

to Federal charges of embezzlement. Under Les's leadership, the county made great progress in correcting the problems of the past. Sheriff Stiles helped restore public trust and once again brought honor to the position of sheriff. He restored fiscal restraint and helped stabilize funding for a department that otherwise would have lost significant public services this past year.

Today I illustrate but a few of the tremendous successes Sheriff Stiles achieved over a long and distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me in thanking Sheriff Stiles for all he's done on behalf of the people of Deschutes County, the Second Congressional District and the great State of Oregon. I wish him and his wife, Carol, many good days ahead with their family, complete with many hours of good fishing for the sheriff.

RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLERGY CONSULTATION SERVICE ON ABORTION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion on May 21st, 2007, and the many fine clergy women and men of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice who continue this tradition of service. At the time the Clergy Service was founded, hundreds, if not thousands, of women died each year because of unsafe, illegal abortions. Many of the women suffering the health hazards of an illegal abortion were the most vulnerable, including women of color and low-income women.

The heroic clergy who came together to form the Clergy Consultation Service felt a moral responsibility to help women in need. The Clergy Service provided comfort, hope, and access to doctors who performed safe abortions and treated women with dignity and respect. Participating ministers and rabbis risked public censure and criminal prosecution to provide compassionate counseling and spiritual support to women with an unintended pregnancy. Today, the tradition of support for women has continued through the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice and the Clergy for Choice Network.

Over one million American women sought illegal abortions annually at the time the Clergy Consultation Service on Abortion was established. In 1965 alone, 17 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths were due to illegal abortions. The largest percentage of abortion deaths was among women ages 35–39 with five or six children.

In my home State of New York in 1967, the only legal reason for performing an abortion was to save the life of the woman. Senior minister of the Judson Memorial Church in New York City, Reverend Howard R. Moody, along with social justice activist Arlene Carmen, recognized that women needed reliable information on how and where to obtain safe, albeit illegal, abortions. With a small group of ministers and rabbis, Reverend Moody founded the Clergy Service. The New York Times ran the statement announcing the service.

“Confronted with a difficult decision and means of implementing it, women today are forced by ignorance, misinformation and desperation into courses of action that require humane concern on the part of religious leaders.”

The statement continued:

“We believe that it is our pastoral responsibility and religious duty to give aid and assistance to all women with problem pregnancies. To that end we are establishing a Clergymen's Consultation Service on Abortion which will include referral to the best available medical advice and aid to women in need.”

Following the announcement, the Clergy Service was inundated with calls and visitors from around the country seeking assistance. From its inception until 1970 the service grew from 26 ministers and rabbis in New York to 2,000 clergy in 25 States referring almost 100,000 women to doctors.

I commend Reverend Moody and the clergy men and women who joined the service over the years. Their selfless service is an inspiration to all who honor women as moral decision-makers and all who seek dignity and justice for women.

COMMEMORATING THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Battle of Crete, the historic battle that contributed to the Allies' victory of World War II.

Because of its strategic location as part of the lifeline to India and its proximity to both Palestine and Egypt, both the Allies and Nazis wanted Crete. At that time the British controlled the island.

On May 20, 1941, the Nazi invasion force, including thousands of German paratroopers and glider troops began landing on Crete. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, “France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?”

During the 11-day invasion of Crete, more than 6,000 German troopers were listed as killed, wounded, or missing in action. The losses to the elite seventh parachute division marked the end of the German military's large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion while other underground movements did not begin until a year or more after being invaded.

Young boys, old men, and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending Crete. Because German soldiers were not accustomed to facing women in battle, they would tear the dress from the shoulders of suspected Cretan women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. On July 28, 1941, The Times (London) reported that “five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island.”

The German soldiers who invaded Crete also faced the heroic resistance of the clergy.

A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme.

This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The Cretans paid a heavy price for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces with thousands of civilians executed, starved, or imprisoned. The Germans burned and destroyed entire communities as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for 4 years.

The Battle of Crete changed history by delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The 2-month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter. The Russian snowstorms and the subzero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

We must always remember and honor this significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people. Democracy came from Greece, and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

To honor these heroes, I have introduced H. Res. 148, which recognizes and appreciates the historical significance and the heroic human endeavor and sacrifice of the people of Crete during World War II and commends the PanCretan Association of America.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people are seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York which are located in Astoria, Queens.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece, and the diaspora.

HONORING ROGER AND DIANA SENECHAL

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger and Diana Senechal of Auburn, MA for their many years of dedicated community service and volunteerism.

Roger Senechal and Diana (Sullivan) Senechal dedicated their lives to religion at an early age. They met while volunteering their services for families in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and were married in 1978.

The Senechals moved to New Hampshire, where they continued their lives of service. Diana volunteered extensively and Roger served as the Executive Director for the American Cancer Society. After their son Gerald was born, Roger was received into the Episcopal Church and the family moved to Auburn, Massachusetts, where Roger became a priest at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Roger and Diana have contributed their time to countless organizations. Their record of volunteerism is astounding.

Roger has served the town of Auburn as President of the Auburn Clergy Association,