FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GUARINI INTRODUCES ELLIS ISLAND COMMEMORATIVE LEGISLATION

Representative Frank J. Guarini (D-NJ) introduced a Joint
Resolution in the House of Representatives today to officially
designate January 1st as "National Ellis Island Day." Over one
hundred Members of Congress joined Guarini as original co-
sponsors as we near the Ellis Island Centennial in 1992.

Guarini said, "Over forty percent of Americans today can trace
their roots to an ancestor who passed through the doorway that
was Ellis Island. It is here that 'the tired, poor, huddled
masses' of immigrants took their first steps on American soil -
steps toward their dream of a better life for themselves and
their families. In a world wrought with war, tyranny, and hatred,
Ellis Island stands as a reminder to the hope and promise which
America offered to the world then, and continues to offer now.

"This is the year to start the celebration! January 1, 1992
marks the hundredth year since Ellis Island admitted its first
immigrants. Completed in 1990, Ellis Island is also the site of
the largest historical restoration in American history. Since
its opening last September, over half a million Americans have
visited the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, walking through the
same halls travelled by 12 million hopeful immigrants since
January 1st, 1892. The Ellis Island Immigration Museum will
stand as one of this country's greatest national landmarks.

"While our nation is in a state of war, setting aside a day
to honor Ellis Island serves to remind us of what we are fighting
for."