

it celebrates its past and focuses on our future. Together, we all prosper.

FORTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE RE-
PUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, October 1, 2002, marked the 42nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. The anniversary of Cyprus' independence is a day of mixed emotions. While Cypriots celebrate the lifting of 80 years of British colonial rule, 37 percent of the island's territory remains under occupation. Since Turkish troops invaded in 1974, seizing 37 percent of the island, Turkey has expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots, moved 80,000 settlers from the Turkish mainland into their homes in an attempt to change the demographics of the area and restricted the rights of the few Greek Cypriots who remained in the north. Turkey's actions have been condemned by the United Nations Security Council and the European Commission of Human Rights as flagrant violations of international law.

Delays in negotiating a settlement only prolongs the suffering of the thousands of Cypriots on both sides who have lost their homes and are separated from their communities. The conflict has wasted political, economic, and military resources that could have gone toward economic and commercial development and increased the standard of living of inhabitants of both peoples.

Yet despite the division of the territory, the internationally-recognized government in Cyprus has made extraordinary strides toward political and economic development. And while the Turkish Cypriot leadership stalls and avoids serious negotiations, the Government of Cyprus stands to benefit greatly from membership in the European Union. Cyprus is one of only two countries that have applied for European Union membership that met all of the EU's membership criteria—all 80 thousand pages of rules and regulations. Cyprus's admission to the EU would be a boon to the island's economy, and it would add greatly to stability in the region. Neither Turkey nor the Turkish Cypriot leadership should be permitted to derail this process through political or economic blackmail.

The European Union has asserted that Cyprus's accession to the EU, expected in 2004, will proceed whether or not a settlement is reached on the island's division. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş should recognize that Turkish Cypriots would benefit greatly from a combination of national unification and EU accession, which would bring foreign investment, access to markets and jobs throughout Europe, and additional development assistance to northern Cyprus. The unification of Cyprus into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation—as called for by United Nations Security Council resolutions—is the only solution that can guarantee economic development and equal political representation for all inhabitants of the island.

The Government of Cyprus has long been a close partner of the United States, and it has

proven the strength of these ties by providing its support in our fight against global terrorism.

Immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was among the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States. Cyprus has granted blanket clearance for U.S. military aircraft to fly over Cyprus and to use its airports, and is sharing intelligence with and providing legal assistance to various U.S. agencies.

Cyprus has also introduced tough new criminal laws and regulations to deter and punish terrorists and their supporters, taken measures to freeze the assets of terrorists and increased security measures at seaports and airports and at the U.S. Embassy in the capital of Nicosia.

Cyprus has also endorsed and implemented U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) to freeze the assets of terrorists and their supporters; implemented all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the U.N. Security Council, the EU and other international organizations; and ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

And most recently, on September 18, the United States and Cyprus signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that will promote closer coordination between the two countries in the fight against global terrorism, organized crime, drug-trafficking and related violent crimes.

As an active member of both the Congressional Hellenic Issues Caucus and the Europe Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, I have supported a number of legislative initiatives to resolve the Cyprus dispute and promote the accession of the government of Cyprus to the European Union.

I joined my congressional colleagues in writing to President Bush to urge that the United States help move the U.N.-led proximity talks toward resolution of the conflict.

I strongly support the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, whether or not a solution to the island's division has been reached beforehand. I have cosponsored legislation calling on the U.S. Government to support EU accession, and I have written to President Bush too on this matter as well.

I have co-sponsored legislation introduced in the House to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the Greek Cypriot enclaves in northern Cyprus. I personally tried to visit the enclaves during a recent trip to Cyprus so I could see for myself the condition of the Greek Cypriots living there, but I was prevented from doing so by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

I support the Administration's allocation of \$15 million each year to promote measures aimed at reunification of the island and designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities in Cyprus.

I believe it is critical that the Turkish Cypriot side provide information on the five American citizens of Greek Cypriot descent who have been missing since 1974. As a purely humanitarian matter, the Turkish side must make progress on this issue.

As our global village becomes increasingly interdependent, societies around the world are adopting democracy, free trade, and respect for human rights. The Government of Cyprus has embraced these concepts, becoming a responsible actor on the international stage, and

its people have benefited greatly from its leadership. I sincerely hope that the Turkish Cypriot leadership decides to make the compromises necessary to end the division of Cyprus so that the entire island can enjoy the fruits of globalization.

Until that time comes, I congratulate the people of Cyprus on the 42nd anniversary of their independence.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
NORMAN POTT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Norman Pott, a retired pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. Rev. Pott died on September 1, 2002, after a two-year battle with bone marrow cancer.

Rev. Pott was a leader in fighting for the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the leadership of the Presbyterian Church. During his eleven years at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, from 1986–1997, he promoted inclusion and acceptance of diversity within the church. While at the Church in San Rafael, Rev. Pott ran for moderator, the top job in the Presbyterian Church USA. Although he lost the election, he ran on a platform calling for ordination of lesbians and gays that brought the issue national attention.

Before coming to San Rafael, Rev. Pott was a minister at the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley where he worked for the rights of migrant farm workers, supported the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and counseled students at the University of California Berkeley during the Free Speech Movement on campus. After leaving Berkeley, Rev. Pott worked in Davis with Cesar Chavez for the rights of farm workers and was also a vocal leader for women's rights.

Norman Pott was born in Summit, New Jersey. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois where he married his wife, Enid, on graduation day in 1954. He was drafted to the National Basketball Association from Wheaton, but rejected the offer in order to fulfill his dream of becoming a minister. He received a master's degree in divinity in 1957 from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate in philosophy in 1960 at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Norman Pott for his many contributions to the community and the Church. His vision for the Presbyterian Church will continue to inspire both the Church and the communities in which he served.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Fire Prevention Week, and I