

defiance. Late last month, EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn recommended a partial suspension of eight of the 35 policy areas included in the EU accession talks. Foreign ministers of the European Union will decide next week whether to back those recommendations.

I want to commend Commissioner Rehn for taking this action and strongly recommend that the foreign ministers approve it so that Turkey knows that the European Union is serious about living up to the promises it made before this process began.

In response to the European Union's action, Turkey came back with a proposal earlier this week that would allow ships from Cyprus into Turkey ports only if they are air carrying Cypriot goods. Turkey also demanded again, separate from the promises they made in 2005, that one of the ports in the illegally occupied north be opened for international traffic. The Cypriot Government correctly called this latest proposal a mockery of the European Union and the EU official said the proposal is not yet suitable to end the stalemate. Turkey should not simply be able to renegotiate promises they have already made.

Mr. Speaker, I am also baffled by some editorial pages here in the U.S. and around the world and some world leaders, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who have chosen to take the collective opinion that the European Union action was taken only to embarrass Turkey and to put another roadblock up in front of it, making it more difficult, if not impossible, for them to join the European Union. This thinking is dangerous.

Turkey said it would open its ports and airports to Cyprus and has yet to do it. What is the European Union supposed to do, just allow this to continue without any penalties? It is not as if the accession talks have come to a close. The talks will continue with only eight of the 35 policy areas being frozen until Turkey agrees to open its ports.

This is a fair recommendation that must be approved by foreign ministers next week. If the recommendation is rejected, Turkey will come away believing that it can get away with breaking promises in the future without any penalties, and that is dangerous for a country that still must make major strides in human rights and other areas before it meets the criteria to join the European Union.

Some world leaders seem to think that Turkey should not have to make some of the same concessions that other countries made in order to join simply because of its strategic position in the world. I reject this notion. I believe that the relationship between Cyprus and Turkey is one that must seriously be addressed by the European Union before Turkey is allowed to join.

Today, Turkey continues its 30 year illegal occupation of the northern third of Cyprus. Not one country other than Turkey recognized the occupied section as its own nation. Turkey simply will

not be able to join the European Union without finally conceding this land back to its rightful owners.

I strongly urge the European Union foreign ministers to send a strong message to Turkey that it must comply with promises it made before the accession talks began. They can do this by passing Commissioner Rehn's recommendations next week and not allowing Turkey to renegotiate issues concerning Cyprus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE LANE EVANS, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to pay special tribute to our beloved colleague from Illinois, Congressman LANE EVANS.

Truly, LANE has been a man for others throughout his entire life; a patriot, a marine, someone who began his career after serving in Vietnam as a marine as a legal aid lawyer. He was always there for others. He truly is a beloved Member of this House, probably one of our most humble Members, and yet heroic throughout his service; a very, very strong human being.

I was privileged to be elected with LANE back in 1982 as we became classmates in the 98th Congress of that year. It was quite a large class, over 60 new Members at that time. I can remember meeting him at the very beginning, another son of the working class of people who came here to make a difference.

LANE ultimately became a leader in veterans affairs, a leader in fighting for better jobs with wages and pensions that people can depend upon, and taking on causes that were close to his heart, obviously representing rural Illinois. He cochaired the Ethanol Caucus long before we had the kind of attention paid to it today.

But in his capacity on the Veterans Affairs' Committee where he served from the very beginning, he was successful in spearheading efforts to pass

legislation to compensate Vietnam veterans for diseases linked to exposure to Agent Orange.

I can remember the debate in those days back in the 1980s when the scientists would come up and say, Well, you know, we can't really prove why those cancers are caused, all these soft tissue cancers related to Agent Orange. The committee, with LANE's leadership and personal experience, came to conclude that there is a difference between doing what is morally right and what is scientifically provable, and LANE EVANS always stood for what is morally right.

Many words come to mind when I think of LANE: his honesty, his trustworthiness, his likability. He was a man of his word, a really good human being, and a good humored human being. He always had a joke. He was kind to all of us, intelligent, persevering and very, very unselfish.

He won passage of a law that delivers health and compensation benefits to children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange who were born with spinal bifida, a crippling birth defect. It represented the first time children of veterans received that benefit. And he led efforts to expand services to women veterans and pushed for increased help for veterans suffering from PTSD, posttraumatic stress disorder, and crafted legislation to direct services to the large numbers of homeless veterans.

I can remember his efforts to set up the storefront homeless centers all across our country so that homeless veterans would feel comfortable. Many of them were not going into the traditional veterans facilities. He understood that. He played a leadership role in helping us to recognize the health needs of First Gulf War Syndrome.

In 1995, he rose to become ranking member on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, and he was the chief House sponsor of legislation to ban the use of anti-personnel land mines. He knew a lot about that, having been a veteran himself.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership, Congressman EVANS in 1990 was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement, and then in 1994 he received the AMVETS Silver Helmet Award, called the Oscar of veterans honors.

LANE is the son of a firefighter and a nurse and has been a tireless advocate and champion of the rights and needs of working Americans, from fighting for higher minimum wage, to seeking affordable health care for all Americans, to protecting good jobs at good wages in Illinois and throughout our country. Throughout our two decades here, that has been a monumental struggle, and he never let up on his persevering efforts.

I want to thank the people of Illinois tonight for sending such a great human being to this Congress.

Eight years ago, LANE EVANS contracted Parkinson's disease. As he has served with us and we have sat by him and worked with him, he never complained once. We watched him as it became more difficult for him to smile and to lift his arms and to come here to the floor, and he has done that through his 24th year.

I can remember when he started the basketball games over at Georgetown to raise money for philanthropic causes here in the Capitol for the needy. He was always helping others, and he did not pay that much attention to himself. In fighting Parkinson's disease, which he is still fighting, he became a model to all of us on what the words "Semper Fidelis" mean.

So, LANE EVANS, I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Ohio and on behalf of your colleagues here in the House. You truly have been a worthy servant and it has been an honor to serve by your side. We wish you God-speed, and we thank you so very much for making us better by knowing you.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the distinguished career of my good friend and colleague, Congressman LANE EVANS. LANE is retiring at the end of this Congress, and the House of Representatives will miss his leadership and untiring support of our nation's veterans.

LANE has devoted most of his entire professional life to service to the United States of America. He grew up in the heart of the district he represents, entering the Marines out of high school and serving in Vietnam. When he returned, he went to college and earned his law degree at Georgetown, and was elected to Congress in 1982.

Since then, he has made a tremendous impact on issues of national importance, such as agent orange compensation for affected veterans, investigating Gulf War illness, and the effort to ban land mines. While never seeking the spotlight, our veterans, military retirees and active duty service personnel know they have not had a greater advocate in Congress than LANE EVANS. LANE was awarded the Vietnam Veterans of America's first annual President's Award for Outstanding Achievement in 1990 and he received the AMVET's Silver Helmet Award in 1994, known as the "Oscar" of veterans honors.

At the same time, LANE has always defended the rights of working men and women, protecting the ability to collectively bargain while opposing unfair trade deals that have sent good paying jobs overseas. He has been a leader on environmental issues and a friend of the family farmer. Above all, LANE has been a steady presence for the issues he believes in and the constituents he represents.

Over the last several years, LANE also gained prominence for his ongoing battle with Parkinson's disease. The dignity with which he has faced this disease has inspired many, and helped educate the public about the disease. Not many people know how painful the disease can be, and you would never know it from LANE, as he has faced this ordeal with the same courage and determination he went to war and served in Congress.

Madam Speaker, what I appreciate most about LANE is his consistency. Whenever LANE was needed, he was there. His service to our

country has been profound and I wish him the best as he prepares for this next chapter in his life. I am honored to call him my friend.

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in joining my colleagues tonight in recognizing the service of LANE EVANS. LANE is one of those people who came to Congress willing to work and not very interested in getting much attention or claiming much credit. All the work he did demonstrated his beliefs that we are here not to make a name for ourselves, but to make life better for the people who make this country strong. He was an advocate for the American worker and an advocate for the American Veteran. Since 1995 when LANE became Ranking Member of the House Committee Veterans Affairs, no one has tried harder to honor our obligations to those who have served our Country in uniform. Like the lighthouses on the Great Lakes, LANE has been a beacon of wisdom. When you follow LANE EVANS, you know you are going in the right direction.

In addition, he is just a first rate human being. I wish him well and offer my sincere gratitude for his service.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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TRIBUTE TO LANE EVANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my colleague from Illinois, LANE EVANS, and recognize his long, distinguished career in public service.

From his time in the U.S. Marine Corps to nearly a quarter century in the House of Representatives, LANE has always put his country first, and now with his retirement at the end of the 109th Congress I join my colleagues in thanking LANE for his great service to his district, the State of Illinois and our Nation.

LANE Evans bravely served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. His experience in the military and his firsthand knowledge of veterans' issues led LANE to become a leading advocate for veterans during his time in Congress. On issues critical to veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, the effects of Agent Orange, and home-

lessness to veterans, LANE Evans was consistently a leader in crafting real policy solutions. LANE's leadership on veterans' issues was formally recognized in 1995 when he was named ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

In addition to his great work on veterans' issues, LANE has always dutifully served his constituents and the State of Illinois. He has been a strong advocate for working Americans and was one of the first to see the need for renewable energies, especially for ethanol.

My own experience in the hallowed halls of Congress began more than 20 years ago when I worked as an intern in LANE Evans' office. I will never forget how he was a great example to me. He showed how to be a truly compassionate and effective leader in the House.

LANE Evans' legacy will certainly reflect his commitment to our great Nation. His insight, passion and presence will be deeply missed by all of us.

I wish LANE all the best in his retirement, and we are all truly grateful for his dedicated service, and we will truly miss the man and his dedication and the friend that he was to so many in this chamber.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. SEKULA GIBBS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. SEKULA GIBBS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HEFLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. COSTELLO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)