

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.