

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOSELYN LLOYD BELL, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn Lloyd Bell, Jr., Congressional Liaison Officer, Army House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, who will retire September 30, 2008. I wish to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Bell upon his retirement after twenty years of distinguished military service to our Nation.

I came to know Lieutenant Colonel Bell over the last year while he served as an Army legislative liaison officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. A steadfast dedication to Soldiers, their families, the Army, and our Nation has been the hallmark of his remarkable military career during which he has distinguished himself as both a soldier and leader.

Colonel Bell's assignment to the Army's House Liaison Office was the culmination of an outstanding military career. Prior to assuming this position, Colonel Bell served as a Defense Collection Manager at the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon, and later at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center in Washington, DC, where he worked with the Intelligence Community to ensure intelligence assets were properly postured to answer the Nation's most demanding and urgent needs.

A military intelligence officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bell received his commission through the Army ROTC program at the University of Central Arkansas. A series of command and staff positions followed. His first assignment was as a Surveillance Platoon leader and later Company Executive Officer in the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division (Motorized) at Fort Lewis, Washington. He went to war in August 1991, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, serving as a Platoon Leader and Interrogator in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Following the Persian Gulf War, Colonel Bell held several military intelligence assignments in positions of increasing responsibility. In 2001, Colonel Bell was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, he participated in the development of combat plans and orders for Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom.

In 2003, he went to war again as the Chief of the 3rd Infantry Division's Analysis and Control Element directing intelligence operations and producing intelligence in support of the invasion that destroyed the Iraqi Armed Forces and removed the Iraqi Regime.

After his tour of combat, he returned to Fort Stewart as the Executive Officer of the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, quickly resetting the Battalion for a second deployment to Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College.

His outstanding service has been recognized with numerous awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meri-

torious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Services Achievement Medal, and Army Achievement Medal. He proudly wears the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell's selfless service, dedication to duty, leadership, and loyalty represent the highest traditions of military service. He is a true soldier and scholar.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn Lloyd Bell, Jr. for his service to our Army and our Nation. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to his wife, Amy, and five children—Shelby, Jordan, Chalci, Tanner and Sydnee—for their many sacrifices and for their service to the Nation alongside their Soldier. We have all benefited from the service of such a man and such a family. I wish him and his family all the best in a well deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROBBIE "GRAN" JUANITA
SEPOLEN

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the wonderful and full life of Robbie "Gran" Juanita Sepolen.

In her 105 years on this Earth, Gran was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a foster parent, a student, a teacher, an activist, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, and even a great-great-great-grandmother, and most importantly, she was a devoted Christian. Her accomplishments are innumerable and the lives that she touched along the way are countless.

Growing up in Brownwood, Texas, Gran was part of the first graduating class from Brownwood Colored High School in 1918, later named the Rufus F. Hardin High School. After college, during a time of great bigotry against the African American race, Gran overcame those boundaries and shared her love of learning with others as a teacher and librarian in the Brownwood School District.

A true public servant, Gran used her rights as a voting citizen to help others find their voice by helping them register to vote. She was active in the senior citizen ministry as well, sharing her love of the arts in senior citizen centers throughout the county.

Gran never tired of meeting new people or learning new things, participating in numerous cultural events, and was even crowned the 2001 Cowboy of Color Rodeo Queen in Houston, Texas.

While we mourn the loss of such a unique and wonderful woman, we must also celebrate a life well lived and move forward knowing that Gran left footprints on the hearts of all that crossed her path.

It is my honor to not only have represented Gran here in Congress, but also to continue to represent all those she inspired during her long life; they are Gran's legacy to Texas.

THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today marks the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and I want to remind all of my colleagues of the ongoing Turkish occupation.

We cannot let the passage of time diminish the events of 1974, nor can we ignore the human rights violations by Turkey that continue today. For more than 34 years the United States and United Nations, as well as European nations, have lamented Turkey's 1974 invasion and subsequent occupation of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey's poor treatment of Greek-Cypriots living in the occupied area, and its desecration of Christian churches, is without justification.

In July, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in complete violation of international law and is currently occupying approximately 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes, making them refugees in their own country. A large portion of those homes were unlawfully given over to thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey, whom are still there today.

During the Turkish invasion, Cyprus's main town in Famagusta was bombarded and the entire population was forced to flee their homes in fear, never to return again. The Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences and this is how it remains today. Since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the General Assembly, calling for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots.

Since 1974, U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as resolutions adopted by numerous other international organizations, and resolutions we in Congress have passed, reflect the universal condemnation of Turkey's invasion and all subsequent acts of aggression against Cyprus.

The United States and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, and human rights. The international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicomunal and bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating in good faith in order to achieve a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, and the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 and the values and principles on which the EU is founded.