

It is my sincere hope that as we honor the 34th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus that we are closer to the end of the occupation than to the beginning.

HONORING MIKE WAGNER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement as the Captain of the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. Mr. Wagner will be honored at the Stanislaus Sheriff's Posse Rodeo on June 14, 2008.

Mike Wagner was born in Yuba City, California but was raised in Newman, California. In 1965 he joined the United States Air Force and served for 3 years. After leaving the Air Force, he moved back home and joined the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department. Since then, he has documented over 25,000 volunteer hours for the reserve unit. He has held an administrative position within the reserve unit for over 25 years and was the Reserve Captain for 16 years.

Mr. Wagner has contributed greatly to the Sheriff's Department through the Reserves and has received many accolades for his efforts. In 1972, Mr. Wagner was a founding member of the Sheriffs mounted unit. He has chaired the Sheriffs Posse Rodeo to raise money for the Reserve Organization. In 1980 he received commendation for water rescue and for presidential protection. He has received commendation by the Modesto Rotary, the California State Sheriffs Association Meeting for services provided, California State University, Stanislaus and was selected three times as the Stanislaus County Reserve Officer of the Year. He has been certified for mounted patrol and was sworn as a level one officer in 1996. In 1997, Mr. Wagner was selected by the California Reserve Peace Officer Association as the state Reserve Officer of the Year. He also received the 2004 Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Medal of Merit.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement from the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Wagner many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FOWLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Fowler, California on the celebration of their 100th anniversary this past June 15, 2008.

The City of Fowler owes its name to Thomas Fowler, the first businessman to ship cattle from the Central Pacific Railroad line ten miles south of the city of Fresno, California in 1872 where Fowler now exists. The city was officially incorporated on June 15, 1908.

Among the many historic highlights for this thriving community include establishing a large

irrigation canal from the Kings River and incorporating it as the Fowler Switch Canal in 1881; having the sole store owner in town, Mr. John Gentry assume the role of Postmaster in 1882 instituting the first rural delivery in the entire area, and being home to the oldest house of worship of the Armenian Apostolic Faith anywhere in the United States through St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church established in Fowler in 1908.

Relying mainly on agriculture as a significant economic base, this small town in the San Joaquin Valley is known for harvesting citrus fruits, grapes, and fresh market fruits among other crops. Fowler is also the home of processing fruit plants which are part of their thriving industrial business corridor that continues to expand.

Commonly referred to as "one of Fresno County's best kept secrets" the residents of Fowler are proud of the small-town feel to their community and the family-centered lifestyle. Fowler's local leaders praise their 'well-kept neighborhoods, attractive downtown, highly acclaimed school district and quality affordable housing' as gemstones of their community.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to congratulate the City of Fowler on their centennial celebration as I am truly honored to represent this little city in the House of Representatives. I wish the community continued success and many more years of tradition for all who already live here and those who choose to make Fowler their home in the future.

RECOGNIZING OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ANTHONY FORGIONE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today in recognition of Deputy Anthony Forgione of the Okaloosa County Sheriffs Office, who was slain in the line of duty on July 22nd. My deepest condolences go out to Deputy Forgione's family and friends as they mourn his untimely loss.

Deputy Forgione, a former Fort Walton Beach Police officer, was just two days shy of his three-year anniversary with the Okaloosa county Sheriff's office. He was killed when he and two other deputies, all members of the Special Response Team, went into a home to apprehend a suspect who had walked out of a mental health evaluation. The suspect fired at the team with a shotgun, fatally wounding Deputy Forgione. He was only 33 years old and is survived by his wife and two daughters, ages 5 and 10. Deputy Forgione's death marks the first time in the history of the Sheriff's Department a deputy was killed in the line of duty and has shocked a community proud of that history. The funeral service for Anthony Forgione is set for 2:00 p.m. on July 26th at the Niceville Assembly of God in Niceville, FL.

The Northwest Florida Daily News reported that when summarizing what happened during yesterday's early morning events and the manner in which his deputies responded to the incident, Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris said, "Sometimes, it just goes wrong.

Sometimes in doing our job, we lose people. They did their job well this morning, and they did it well. It's just gut-wrenching." When speaking of Deputy Forgione, specifically, he stated, "He was a professional, a true professional and he loved his SRT team."

As Sheriff Morris and the rest of the local law enforcement community deal with the loss of one of 'their own', he said, "It just gets in the deepest part of your stomach and turns it upside down". As a former Deputy Sheriff myself, I can attest to the pain the whole department is feeling at this time and my heart goes out to them.

Madam Speaker, the communities of Okaloosa County have reason to be proud of Deputy Forgione and I am humbled to have the honor of representing those people. Vicki and I will keep Anthony's entire family, especially his wife, Jessica and his young daughters, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our Nation do the same. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the unheralded bravery of Deputy Anthony Forgione and wish to honor his exemplary service to the Okaloosa County community. May God bless Deputy Forgione and all those who serve in law enforcement to protect our communities.

INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recognizing increased dialogue between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriots, and Turkey's support for a peaceful resolution on Cyprus, it is encouraging to see positive steps being taken to reunify the island.

A recent Washington Times editorial outlines the importance of building on progress being made and explains how the U.S. can contribute to this process.

NEEDING AN EXCUSE FOR SUCCESS

[From the Washington Times, July 22, 2008]

The divided island of Cyprus confirms the axiom that political leaders occasionally need excuses for success. The United States should give newly elected Greek Cypriot President Demetris Christofias an excuse to negotiate the reunification of the island with Turkish Cypriot President Mehmet Ali Talat by breaking the international embargo on the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) through direct transportation, trade, telecommunications and sporting links.

Cyprus fractured between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot de facto sovereignties in 1963 following the demise of the 1960 constitution. Since then, Greek Cypriot leaders have lacked any political incentive to compromise from a position of domination because the Greek Cypriot south has enjoyed exclusive international recognition while Turkish Cypriots have suffered from political isolation and economic strangulation. The Greek Cypriot south is represented at the United Nations. It enjoys diplomatic relations with every nation but the Republic of Turkey. It represents the entire island at international sporting or cultural events. Greek Cypriot intransigence has carried no penalty. Indeed, stubbornness has been rewarded by the international community

through the continuing global embargo of the Turkish Cypriots but for Turkey. Turkish Cypriot youth, straining in a economy under perpetual duress, have had to flee the island in search of opportunity. Time has allowed the embargo to weaken Turkish Cypriot resistance to the Greek Cypriot ambition to reduce them to vassalage. In this favorable international context for the Greek Cypriot south, any Greek Cypriot leader who would have yielded anything to Turkish Cypriots would have been committing political suicide.

At its birth from British colonial rule in 1960, Cyprus sported a single sovereignty with single citizenship under a finely balanced constitution. To opine on responsibility for the destruction of the constitutional order in 1963 and the necessity for Turkish troops to rescue Turkish Cypriots from violence in 1974 would imperil ongoing reunification talks. It is sufficient to note that through Greek and Greek Cypriot lobbying and a western prejudice favoring Christians over Muslims, the international community has severed virtually all government and private connections to Turkish Cypriots for nearly 45 years. That isolation was not required by national or international laws. It was the result of cynical political or economic calculations of governments and private enterprise. Intermittent negotiations over reunification with separate constituent states predictably stagnated for three decades. Greek Cypriots generally demanded supremacy, while Turkish Cypriots generally demanded equality.

Then came the 2004 "Annan Plan." United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan fashioned a Nobel Prize-like breakthrough to reunify Cyprus through a bold scheme of federalism that accommodated both Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot aspirations while reciprocally quelling their fears. Dual referendums on the "Annan Plan" were held in April that year. Turkish Cypriots voted overwhelmingly in favor. The United States and the European Union had lured them into affirmative votes by promising to end the strict embargo on the TRNC if the unexpected happened and Greek Cypriots balked. They did, but the embargo has remained. Neither the United States nor the EU has honored their respective promises to open direct links to the TRNC. Their international credibility has plunged and diminished their ability to facilitate reconciliation elsewhere through a combination of promised carrots and sticks. To add insult to injury to the Turkish Cypriots, who had voted in favor of peace and unity, the European Union proceeded to admit solely the Greek Cypriot south as a new member, theoretically representing all of Cyprus on the heels of its shipwreck of reunification.

The issue remained dormant for four years until the 2008 election of Greek Cypriot President Christofias on a platform that included a renewal of negotiations with President Talat. Face-to-face talks began early in the year. After a meeting on May 23, the two leaders committed themselves to achieving "a bicommunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as defined by relevant [United Nations] Security Council resolutions." The envisioned partnership dispensation would comprise a federal government with a single international personality along with a Turkish Cypriot constituent state and a Greek Cypriot constituent state bearing equal status.

President Christofias and President Talat met again on July 1, when they agreed in principle on a single sovereignty and single citizenship. A scheduled meeting on July 25 is expected to conclude with an agreement to begin discussions in September on a comprehensive final settlement. Working groups

and technical committees have already been addressing core political questions and day-to-day issues such as education, road safety, health and the environment.

Despite contrary expectations from world leaders, Greek Cypriots nixed the "Annan Plan" because they perceived that the international embargo of the TRNC put time on their side. The United States can reverse that perception by immediately initiating transportation, telecommunications, trade and sporting ties with the TRNC conditioned on a certification by the secretary of state that Turkish Cypriots are negotiating in good faith for reunification on just and equitable terms. That opening is exactly what President Christofias needs to sell an equal partnership single Cypriot state to his compatriots.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 34th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemorate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people.

The 34th commemoration of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus serves to remind all freedom-loving people to solemnly remember the 1974 Turkish military invasion of the island of Cyprus, to mourn those who lost their lives in the invasion, and to condemn the ongoing Turkish occupation. For the past 34 years, Cyprus has endured the illegal military occupation of more than one third of its territory by the Turkish armed forces, in violation of a number of U.N. Security Council resolutions. However, both the U.S. and the Cypriot governments remain committed to achieving a peaceful resolution of this dispute through diplomatic negotiations.

However, the strong U.S.-Cyprus relationship is not just based on a shared interest in ending the Turkish occupation of Cyprus, but also on the fact that the U.S. and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. The U.S. and the rest of the international community have a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the Turkish military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicommunal and bizonal federation that will protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots, but also implement a prompt withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. Cypriot President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating a just, viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979, as well as the values and principles on which the European Union was founded.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to take note of the 34-year anniversary of the violent invasion that brutally divided the island nation of Cyprus, and to encourage Turkish Cypriot leaders to negotiate in good faith with their Greek Cypriot counterparts, settle this dispute, and develop a plan for reunification that addresses the serious concerns of all

Cypriots. The reunification of the island nation remains a priority for this Congress and for the international community. On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, we mourn the deaths of those killed in the invasion and the lost opportunities for reunification over the years, and we look forward to a future of a reunited and peaceful Cyprus.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Thursday July 17, 2008, I was unavoidably detained due to a family emergency and had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 511: "yes." On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6515.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RICHARD GARABEDIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the life of an industrious and generous man in the agricultural community of California, Richard Garabedian of Fowler, California. Richard recently passed away after a valiant battle with cancer at the age of 76 years old. He leaves behind his loving wife of 45 years Eleanor, three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Garabedian was born on June 13, 1932 at his family's 24 by 24 farmhouse in Fowler, California. His parents, having escaped Ottoman Turkey in 1912, immigrated to the U.S. where they first settled in Massachusetts. The family moved to Wisconsin where they soon realized the snow didn't suit them well. The warm climate of the Central Valley of California beckoned them and they settled in Fowler, California. Richard attended Del Rey Grammar School and graduated from Selma High School. After graduating from high school Richard attended Fresno State College. During the Korean War, Richard served with the U.S. Army for two years.

Richard's strong work ethic and his ability to foster action put him at center stage within the California raisin industry. Richard was well known for his strident advocacy on behalf of the raisin industry and raisin growers in particular. He served as chairman of the Raisin Administrative Committee and on the Raisin Bargaining Association Board for 26 years. Through his travels on behalf of the raisin industry, Richard was able to accumulate a broader grasp of the complexities of culture and economics as they relate to the raisin industry both locally and nationally, and abroad. Though Richard's efforts were not always in line with the thinking of others in the industry, all acknowledge that Richard's ardent efforts stemmed from his deep desire that all raisin growers receive the best monetary return due them for their earnest efforts. His tireless efforts on behalf of raisin growers continued until the day he passed away.