

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 bicomunal, 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 bicomunal 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.

It goes without saying that Mr. Garabedian's dedicated involvement in the raisin industry gained him a respected reputation and enormous appreciation from the Central Valley raisin farmers. Richard worked hard and seemed to expect nothing in return. This same generous spirit was evident in Richard's love for his family. I am honored and humbled to join his family today in celebrating the life of this amazing man. His presence will be dearly missed in our community for many years to come.

FREEDOM FOR LEONARDO MIGUEL
BRUZON AVILA

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of our colleagues and denounce the unjustified arrest of Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Bruzon's commitment to liberty and freedom of expression has characterized the life of that Cuban patriot. On February 23, 2002, he was arrested by the regime's thugs in order to prevent him from participating in demonstrations commemorating the sixth anniversary of the Cuban dictatorship's Air Force's shoot down, on February 24th 1996, of two Brothers to the Rescue airplanes, when four unarmed civilians were murdered.

Mr. Bruzon, acting as president of the "Movimiento Pro Derechos Humanos 24 de Febrero" (the 24 of February Human Rights Movement), sought to commemorate and denounce the murder on that infamous day in 1996 of three American citizens and a US resident. After being arrested in 2002, Mr. Bruzon spent the following two years in the tyranny's gulags without ever having had even a farcical trial or formal "charges" filed against him.

During his imprisonment, Mr. Bruzon participated in several hunger strikes protesting his continued brutal and unjustified detention without trial. As reported by Amnesty International, his continued hunger strikes led to poor health and serious medical complications. Despite his poor health, the totalitarian regime denied him medical attention.

In 2003 Bruzon was offered release from the gulag on the condition that he make statements beneficial to the regime in the controlled Cuban "media". Mr. Bruzon valiantly refused to do so, and he remained imprisoned until June, 2004.

In April of 2008, regime thugs again arrested Mr. Bruzon for hosting a prayer group where worshippers proclaimed support for freedom for Cuban political prisoners and prisoners of conscience. A day later, Mr. Bruzon Avila was released, after being subjected to repeated brutal interrogations.

On July 3, 2008, Mr. Bruzon was one of thirty-six pro-democracy activists arrested by Cuban regime thugs in order to prevent them from participating in activities commemorating the Independence of the United States of America. According to various reports, Mr. Bruzon remains detained.

The Cuban regime has embarked upon a "new tactic" of intimidation of the internal op-

position. Pro-democracy activists are routinely picked up, psychologically and often even physically tortured, and then placed back in the streets.

Madam Speaker, the arrest and torture of Mr. Bruzon Avila is yet another example of the gangster-like nature of the Cubans dictatorship; a regime of gangsters, by gangsters and for gangsters, directed by a gangster-in-chief. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Leonardo Miguel Bruzon Avila and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

TRIBUTE TO WENDELL H. STEPP,
DOTHAN HISTORIAN AND WIRE-
GRASS VETERANS' ADVOCATE

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend who passed away Monday, July 21, at the age of 84. Wendell Stepp was a dedicated supporter of veterans and a well known historian for his adopted hometown of Dothan, Alabama, in my congressional district.

As commander of the Wiregrass Veterans Alliance, Wendell was an unmatched advocate for our former military, never failing to call for their improved access to quality VA health care and benefits.

In the days after I was first sworn in to Congress, Wendell came to me to voice strong support for a Wiregrass based VA outpatient clinic. In 1996, with his encouragement, we were able to secure one of the first such VA outpatient clinics in the nation in Dothan. Today, the Dothan VA Clinic serves 6,000 area veterans and in March a second Wiregrass VA clinic was opened at nearby Fort Rucker.

There is another Wendell Stepp; a local historian and author who in 1984 illustrated the transformation of Dothan with the publication of "Dothan: A Pictorial History." He was also the force behind the successful movement to create the popular historic murals that grace the walls of downtown Dothan.

Wendell Stepp was proud to call Dothan home even though he moved to the Wiregrass from Ohio in 1966. His four decades of service to Dothan will guarantee him a rightful place in our history. I extend my condolences to his wife, Winifred, and his family at this time of personal loss. Dothan has lost one of its biggest friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 512 (H.R. 6493—The Aviation Safety Enhancement Act), 513 (H. Res. 1311—Expressing Support for the Designation of National GEAR UP Day), and 514 (H. Res. 1202—Supporting the goals and ideals of a National Guard Youth Challenge Day), I was unfortunately unable to vote due to flight difficulties en route to the Capitol.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

IN TRIBUTE TO STEWART R. MOTT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure of being Co-Chair of the 74-Member Congressional Progressive Caucus in this, the 110th Congress. It is with a deep sense of sadness that I pay tribute to the passing of Stewart R. Mott, founder of the Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust and the Fund for Constitutional Government and a great progressive leader. Stewart died on June 12th after a year-long battle with cancer, and a memorial service in his honor was held last week in New York City.

In a few weeks, I am publishing a memoir that I titled *A Renegade for Peace and Justice*. I am also reminded that Stewart Mott was truly a giant renegade for peace and justice. Born to a life of wealth and privilege, he took a different path and led a remarkable life of passionate commitment to exploration, discovery, and social change. He also put his good fortune literally and figuratively to remarkably good use, providing essential funding to countless progressive organizations and electoral and issue campaigns dedicated to improving the lot of the downtrodden, promoting peace, and zealously defending the civil rights and civil liberties endowed to each of us in our precious U.S. Constitution.

Stewart Mott lived the philosophy of the Mott family crest, *Spectemur Agendo*, which translates "Let us be known by our deeds." As many of his friends and associates have noted, he will also be remembered for his great sense of humor, his great generosity, his deeds as a pioneering philanthropist, and his undaunted commitment to building a better democracy.

America is hungry for change and I am saddened that Stewart Mott did not live long enough to witness a resurgent progressive movement deliver many of the 21st century changes that will be required to move our country and our world toward more peace and justice. But without his resolve and extraordinary generosity, prospects for lasting progress toward a more perfect Union in America would be far dimmer, as is underscored by the following obituary for Stewart Mott that appeared in the *New York Times* on June 14, 2008:

[From the *New York Times*, Jun. 14, 2008]

STEWART R. MOTT, 70, OFFBEAT
PHILANTHROPIST, DIES

(By Douglas Martin)

Stewart R. Mott, a philanthropist whose gifts to progressive and sometimes offbeat causes were often upstaged by his eccentricities, like cultivating a farm with 460 plant species (including 17 types of radishes), a chicken coop and a compost pile, atop his Manhattan penthouse, died Thursday night. He was 70 and had homes in North Salem, N.Y. and Bermuda.

His death was confirmed Friday morning by Conrad Martin, executive director of the Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust. He said Mr. Mott had been ill with cancer for some time and died in the emergency room of