

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Anna Alice Omilanowski, a woman whose fun-loving personality, fighting spirit, incredible work ethic, and undying compassion for those around her will be sorely missed.

HONORING THOMAS KLENDER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Thomas Klender. Thomas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Thomas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Thomas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Thomas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Thomas Klender for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the dark anniversary of July 20, 1974, when Turkish military troops illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Cyprus.

In the gray pre-dawn hours, heavily armed Turkish troops began the military operation named "Operation Atilla", implementing their strategy of "clearing" the territory in northern Cyprus, a community whose population was previously 80 percent Greek Cypriot.

As a result of these attacks, violent conflict erupted and over five thousand Greek Cypriots were estimated to have been killed; an additional sixteen hundred Greek Cypriots were reported missing; and over two hundred thousand Greek Cypriots were forcefully expelled from their homes.

Unfortunately, this tragedy which began that morning of July 20 continues today, as over 43,000 Turkish military troops occupy almost 40 percent of Cyprus' territory.

That amounts to one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish-Cypriots.

During the thirty-seven years the Turkish military has occupied northern Cyprus, illegal immigrants from Turkey flood into northern Cyprus, with some reports indicating at least 800 illegal migrants each year.

In total since 1974, this influx has resulted in more than 160,000 Turkish mainland illegal immigrants settling in the occupied territory, to the extent that these settlers now outnumber indigenous Turkish-Cypriots two to one.

Many claim that these immigrants are "encouraged" to settle in Cyprus by the Turkish government as part of a cynical strategy to alter the demographic statistics on the island and gain more property in any eventual settlement.

In addition, under the Turkish occupation, hundreds of religious and cultural sites have been desecrated.

Icons, manuscripts, frescoes and mosaics have been looted from Greek Orthodox, Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Maronite and Jewish religious sites in northern Cyprus.

Over five hundred Orthodox churches or chapels have been demolished or vandalized.

Seventy-seven churches have even been converted into mosques, twenty-eight churches are being used by the Turkish military as hospitals or camps, and thirteen churches have been turned into barns.

For thirty seven years, the Cypriot people have endured conflict, division and foreign occupation.

It is long past time for their liberation.

The United Nations Security Council has passed seventy-five separate resolutions calling for Turkey to allow Greek Cypriots to return to their homes and to withdraw its troops from Cyprus.

In 1976, 1983 and again in 2009, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Turkey was illegally occupying Cyprus and must return all seized properties to their Greek Cypriot owners.

Yet, to date Turkey continues to ignore such condemnations of its actions.

Meanwhile, two generations of Cypriot youth have now grown up knowing no other reality than the division of their homeland, the segregation of their people, the militarization of part of their country by foreign troops, and the ever present threat of another outbreak of violence.

Many have, or are beginning to, abandon hope of a peaceful settlement.

Unfortunately, the limited progress achieved in the reunification talks since 2008 heightens this general sense of despair.

In fact, a few weeks ago U.N. Special Advisor for Cyprus Alexander Downer even stated, "It could not go any slower without stopping altogether. The last three months have been the worst three months we've ever had since these negotiations began."

This lack of constructive movement can be directly attributed to the behind-the-scenes interference from Ankara and the new hard-line representative from the Turkish community, Dr. Dervish Eroglu.

It is apparent that there are some both in Turkey and in the leadership of the Turkish-Cypriot community who believe that continued obstruction of the talks serves their best interests by garnering domestic political support.

I would argue that such a mercenary approach to these talks in fact prevents the Turkish-Cypriot people from attaining that which is in their long-term best interests.

Until there is the reunification of the country, the Turkish-Cypriot community cannot fully benefit from the economic and social benefits derived from Cyprus' membership in the European Union.

As a result, Turkish-Cypriots endure a far lower standard of living, reduced foreign direct investment, and other limitations on their overall development.

Therefore, I urge the representatives of the Turkish-Cypriot community to promote their

own community's interests rather than their own by working for reunification of the island.

In that regard, I was encouraged by the recent pledge by both parties, President Dimitris Christofias and Dr. Dervish Eroglu, to commit once more to the talks with the aim of making substantial progress this year.

In order for these talks to succeed however, Turkey must grant the Turkish-Cypriot community full autonomy in the reunification negotiations and to publicly commit to abiding by any terms agreed upon in a Cypriot developed reunification agreement.

That includes the full, permanent withdrawal of its troops of occupation from Cyprus.

I will continue to do what I can in my role in Congress to support such reunification efforts, until that long-awaited day when the next generation of Cypriot youth realize the hopes of their predecessors for a sovereign Cyprus— independent, unified, and at peace.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM ACT
OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1309) to extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, to achieve reforms to improve the financial integrity and stability of the program, and to increase the role of private markets in the management of flood insurance risk, and for other purposes:

Mr. REED. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express my frustration regarding the FEMA flood remapping process, an issue that will impact my district and many others.

We have recently debated and accepted multiple amendments and voted on H.R. 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011. While I supported this bill and am grateful for all it does to help our constituents navigate through this very complex issue, I think we need to continue to examine the root of the problem, which is the flood mapping process that determines these areas require constituents to purchase flood insurance in the first place.

I understand the importance of the FEMA flood maps. It is vital that we are able to identify flood risk areas and make sure people living in those areas are protected from catastrophic flooding. However, with these new maps, due to be completed in the near future, FEMA has changed the standards which affect more than 100,000 miles of levees across the United States.

As a result, many of my constituents who have never had any issues with major flooding could be forced to purchase mandatory flood insurance costing thousands of dollars a year. This is despite the fact that these constituents enjoy the protection, in the case of a major flood, of a sound levee system.

It may not be the exact protection that FEMA has begun demanding, but it is adequate as constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers following the flooding caused by Hurricane Agnes.

Yet the new regulation requires these hard-working family homeowners to find a way to

pay for completely unnecessary flood insurance for a flood they will never see. It's a classic example of a concept which looks good on a white board in some Washington office but that has unintended negative consequences in the real world.

While H.R. 1309 helps to alleviate some of these issues, we must get to the heart of the matter. I believe Mr. WALBERG's amendment to H.R. 1390 was an excellent step towards doing so and I was very pleased to lend my support to it.

The Walberg amendment placed a moratorium on new updated maps until a Technical Mapping Advisory Council submits new mapping standards to FEMA and Congress, which allows for map revision and updates with local input. I also supported Mr. MCGOVERN's amendment to gain reimbursement for communities when they rightfully challenge FEMA on its mapping errors.

I am determined and will continue working for a long-term solution to the root of the problem, which is that these maps simply don't accurately reflect actual flood risks. The proposed maps certainly don't accurately reflect the flood risks, or lack thereof, in my district.

HONORING LOGAN CHEVALIER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Logan Chevalier. Logan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Logan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Logan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Logan has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Logan Chevalier for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEQUANNOCK TOWNSHIP FIRST AID AND RESCUE SQUAD INC.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad located in Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate the organization's 60th anniversary.

Founded in 1951, the original members of the squad were concerned with providing ambulance services to the people of Pequannock. The squad was established as a

not-for-profit corporation and was built upon the commitment of selfless volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to training and protecting their community. Their membership has grown over the years, and with an ever expanding community, the time came for the squad's headquarters to grow as well.

With only a basic four walled building to house their two ambulances, members had to remove the vehicles in order to hold meetings. In 1968, they expanded the building to include a meeting room, kitchen and bathrooms. A second expansion came in 2002, with the addition of a new garage and second story. With a final renovation of the original structure in 2008, the squad was now equipped to better train their members and prepare them for aiding the community.

In addition to handling the many emergency calls, the squad also provides standby coverage at various sporting events and fundraisers, and works with other township organizations in educating the public through CPR/First Aid training and an anti-drunk driving program.

It is important to honor the select few in our communities who give of their time to help others. The past and present members of the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad have provided an irreplaceable service to their community; one that I am sure will continue to grow for many more years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Pequannock Township First Aid and Rescue Squad on the celebration of their 60th anniversary.

HONORING MATTHEW APPLEBURY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Applebury. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Applebury for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE MOORE FAMILY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary Colorado family: Nelson

and Cruz Moore and their children, Rachel and Jacob. I would like to express my gratitude to the Moore family for their service to the State of Colorado. They have taken upon themselves to care for and preserve a culturally and historically significant Jewish gravesite in Cotopaxi, Colorado.

Cotopaxi, Colorado is the site of the unsuccessful Jewish agricultural resettlement effort of 1882–1884. It was the first Jewish American agricultural colony sponsored as part of the American Jewish aid movement through the Hebrew Emigrant Aide Society. The Jewish settlers endured difficult circumstances as they sought to establish themselves as farmers in Cotopaxi. Despite assistance from the local Christian community, the Jewish agricultural community still failed due to the harsh Colorado winters, unsuitable terrain, and the lack of promised housing and provisions by their local sponsor. Today, all that is left of the colony is the small graveyard of three Jewish children that lost their lives during the first winter of the attempted settlement. A historic marker has been erected by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation telling the story of the colony, helping preserve its memory, and highlighting the friendship of the two groups, united as Americans.

At the Cotopaxi grave site, Moore cleared the overgrown grasses and stabilized the area. He placed decorative stones around the three Jewish graves taken from a local silver mine that some of the Jewish men worked in. He also created and arranged the stones in the shape of the Star of David in the middle of the three graves. The Moore family is continuing their Christian friendship for the Jewish people, even though it has been 130 years since the Jewish settlers first arrived in Cotopaxi. The memory of these immigrants is honored and carried on through the Moore family's efforts to preserve the history of Colorado and America.

I am honored to acknowledge and to thank them publicly for their exemplary dedication and Christian friendship with the Jewish people.

HONORING MATTHEW DREILING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Dreiling. Matthew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Matthew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Matthew has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Dreiling for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.