

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House at the time of votes on two measures. Had I been present, my vote on H.R. 861, to make technical amendments to section 10 of title 9 of the United States Code would have been "aye." In addition, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 721, the Made In American Information Act.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA CORNWALL LYSSARIDES, AUTHOR OF MY OLD ACQUAINTANCE: YESTERDAY IN CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara Cornwall Lyssarides, a Cypriot-American journalist whose recently published book, *My Old Acquaintance: Yesterday in Cyprus*, details the recent history of the island of Cyprus. Ms. Lyssarides will be honored on the evening of March 7, 2001 by Cyprus's Consulate General to the United States, Mr. Vasilis Philippou, at a book signing presentation at the Consulate General's office in New York.

Ms. Lyssarides is an accomplished journalist whose previous books include a first-hand account of guerrilla warfare in the Portuguese colonies of Africa, which was published in New York and London. When the National Organization of Cypriot Struggle (EOKA) launched a rebellion for independence from British rule on October 1, 1960, Ms. Lyssarides covered it as a young staff reporter and feature writer for the daily *Times of Cyprus*.

Ms. Lyssarides has spent much of her life living abroad, mostly in Cyprus. She was born in Detroit, Michigan and received her degree in history from Wayne State University, where she also studied journalism. Throughout her career, Ms. Lyssarides has traveled all over the world, serving as a reporter for numerous foreign newspapers.

In her introduction to *My Old Acquaintance*, Ms. Lyssarides writes:

Over the millennia, Cyprus has been sold, colonized, inherited, borrowed, lent, defeated, delivered, neglected, isolated, annexed, mis-ruled, sometimes well-governed, often betrayed . . . To me, it is astonishing that its people have survived at all, not only physically but with religion intact for almost 2,000 years, language even longer, and with customs and beliefs little changed after centuries of foreign impact.

Mr. Speaker, the nation of Cyprus has been beset by instability for too long. Barbara Cornwall Lyssarides eloquently describes her own relationship with this troubled island and I salute her for her admirable efforts to bring attention to her adopted homeland and this extremely important international issue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from Alaska who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Justin Gonka of Anchorage has just been named one of Alaska's top honorees in The 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Gonka is being recognized for his dedication and continuous support of the Special Olympics. Justin has assumed numerous roles within the Special Olympics and hopes to one day become a coach. Besides being a great student, Justin has also helped to recruit other young people get involved and volunteer for the Special Olympics.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young man has made. People of all ages need to think about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and next door neighbors. Young volunteers like Mr. Gonka are an inspiration to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all young volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past six years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Mr. Gonka should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Mr. Gonka for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can, and do, play an important role in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA TOWNSEND WHEAT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute one of the Inland Empire's own, Yolanda Townsend Wheat.

A Board Member of the National Credit Union Administration, and native of the 42nd Congressional District of California, Yolanda will be visiting the area this month, making a number of presentations to schools, businesses, and academia.

We feel in our hearts great pride for Yolanda's achievements, and hope she will inspire a new generation of young people in our area. Yolanda truly embodies the American dream that if you work hard, if you persevere, there is nothing you cannot achieve. I hope the children in the Inland Empire will look to her as a role model and mentor.

I offer my best wishes to Yolanda, her husband, Alan Wheat, former Congressman from Missouri, and their two children. I know they are proud of all she has attained.

Yolanda's achievements are remarkable for their great breadth and depth. An attorney specializing in corporate finance, President Bill Clinton named her to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Board in April 1996. She served as NCUA chairwoman for a short time in early 2001.

The three-person NCUA Board is responsible for overseeing more than 10,000 federally insured credit unions with assets totaling over \$400 billion. The NCUA is the independent federal agency that insures the deposits of more than 76 million credit union members in the nation's federal credit unions and most state-chartered credit unions.

During her tenure on the NCUA Board, Yolanda has been a champion for the interests of consumers, focusing on such issues as access to financial services, privacy and predatory lending practices. She has been instrumental in developing incentives that help credit unions expand their membership base so that as many consumers as possible have access to credit union services. She has worked to empower credit unions to provide more services in the financial marketplace in order to remain competitive and thrive in the 21st Century.

Yolanda was raised in a multicultural household in California. Her mother, (the former Mary Sanchez) worked in a law firm and was the inspiration of Yolanda's desire to pursue law as a career. Her father, Art Townsend, was the founder and publisher of *The Precinct Reporter*, a weekly African American newspaper in my district.

As an attorney, Yolanda has nearly ten years of specialized experience in real estate and corporate law. She represented commercial lending and financial institutions at several law firms. She worked in both the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices of the law firm of Morrison and Foerster from 1986 to 1992. She practiced law from 1993 to 1995 with the former law firm of Smith, Gill, Fisher & Butts in Kansas City, Missouri.

A native of San Bernardino, California, Yolanda holds a J.D. for Harvard Law School and graduated with distinction from Stanford University with an A.B. in International Relations. She is a member of the bars of California, Maryland and Missouri.

All of this adds up to a truly remarkable record of achievement and public service. And so, as Yolanda visits the people of the Inland Empire, we wish her God's blessings, good wishes, and our proudest thoughts.

THE SMALL BUSINESS
PAPERWORK RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today we consider H.R. 327, the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act, which will reduce paperwork for America's hardworking small business owners. As the son of a small business owner, I support efforts to reduce paperwork for small businesses and protect them from unnecessary and onerous regulatory requirements.

This measure, while similar to legislation approved by the House in the last two Congresses, excludes controversial language that would have waived civil fines on small businesses for first-time paperwork violations. However, I maintain significant reservations about voting on a small business bill that was never considered by the Small Business Committee on which I proudly serve.

One concern I would have liked to address in the committee is the need to balance the reduction in paperwork with the prevention of willful mistakes and worker safety hazards. It is our responsibility to ensure that the workplace remains safe. Further, we need to maintain our ability to sanction those small numbers of businesses that are undercutting their competition by willingly circumventing or ignoring the law.

Small businesses are the backbone of Rhode Island's economy and account for more than 95 percent of the job market in the state. They create new businesses and jobs; bring new and innovative services and products to the marketplace; and provide business ownership opportunities to diverse and traditionally underrepresented groups. I remain committed to the small business community of Rhode Island and will support the Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act, but I strongly urge my colleagues to continue to examine this issue through the appropriate legislative process.

IN HONOR OF KRIKOS ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ANNUAL DINNER, AND THEIR HONOREE MR. COSTAS ATHANASIADIS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Hellenic organization KRIKOS and Mr. Costas Athanasiades, who the organization will honor at their annual dinner on March 11, 2001. KRIKOS was founded in 1974 to foster and promote cooperation and fellowship among Hellenes and phil-Hellenes throughout the world. KRIKOS also aims to preserve and enrich Hellenic heritage.

In their attempts to spread the understanding of Hellenic issues, KRIKOS has organized more than forty conferences throughout the world and frequently publishes reports of their proceedings. Among the subjects various conferences have examined include: the Phila-

delphia conference on biotechnology, the Athens conference on telecommunications, and the New York conferences focusing on issues such as the impact of globalism and the Greek response to the Yugoslavian Civil Wars.

KRIKOS has provided guidance to college and college-bound Hellenic youth in the United States and elsewhere in the world. Additionally, KRIKOS has made it possible for students to visit abroad through a world-study program. In keeping with its dedication to scholarship, KRIKOS donated five thousand (5,000) books to the Polytechnic University in Athens.

KRIKOS was instrumental in documenting the artistic and historic treasures located in St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai. For hundreds of years St. Catherine's has been a prime destination for pilgrims to the Holy Land and KRIKOS helped computerize its properties.

Costas Athanasiades was born in Kalavassos, Cyprus on March 3, 1921, and studied in Italy where he received a degree as an agriculturalist. In 1938, he returned to his native Cyprus and spearheaded the effort to organize farmers into economically potent cooperatives. He undertook similar initiatives with the formation and development of trade unions. Mr. Athanasiades served valiantly with British Commander Montgomery's Cypriot troops during the second World War. His dream of freedom and "Enosis" (union with motherland Greece) was looked upon as subversive and revolutionary by the British colonial authorities.

Accordingly, a British military court condemned Mr. Athanasiades to a two-year detainment at a barb-wire prison camp in Egypt. In 1949, he emigrated to Australia and in 1958 he married the former Maria Pavlidou, his wife of 43 years. During his years in Australia, he nurtured and developed Hellenic institutions of his new homeland, much as he did in his native Cyprus. In 1959, he came to America, where he briefly was employed by the National Herald, a Greek American daily newspaper. Mr. Athanasiades purchased the Campana Newspaper in 1961. In conjunction with his Campana newspaper, Mr. Athanasiades has authored more than a dozen books expounding social, political, and economic commentary. He has been cited and acknowledged by many prestigious institutions, including the National Library of Congress and the United Nations, for his insights and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the wonderful work of Costas Athanasiades, a philologist, author, and contemporary voice of Hellenism in the United States.

SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS
PROTECTION ACT

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

The bill corrects an injustice under the Social Security Act which affects beneficiaries' families. Under current law, no Social Security

benefit is paid for the month in which a recipient dies. A person could live until the last day of the month and still would not be entitled to the Social Security benefits for the month.

The Social Security Benefits Protection Act corrects that injustice. Under the Act, benefits would be paid for the final month of a recipient's life. Regardless of when the person died, they would be entitled to the Social Security payment for the month in which they died.

This small correction will provide a small benefit for the deceased person's survivors. Having lost a loved one, they should not lose the Social Security benefit for that person's last month of life.

I urge my colleagues to join in cosponsoring the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

MRS. ORA MAE HARN

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Ora Mae Harn, a resident of the town of Marana, Arizona for the past forty-one years. Ora Mae is being honored on the occasion of her retirement last year from the Marana Health Center.

After arriving in Marana, Ora Mae worked for the Marana Unified School District from 1962–74 as a bus driver, a cafeteria cook and a warehouse assistant. Subsequently, she spent a quarter century at the Marana Health Center, serving as director of community relations (1975–79), social services director (1979–91), and finally as director until her retirement last year.

Starting in 1985, Ora Mae was a member of the Marana Town Council, and served as Marana's first female Mayor from 1990–95 and again from 1997–99. Her constant work to cultivate lasting professional relationships with regional, state and federal officials benefited Marana in many ways.

She has served as president of the Arizona Women in Municipal Government, as a member of the Pima Council on Aging (1983–87), as an active representative to the Pima Association of Governments as early as 1990 (including serving as its Chair in 1999) and has represented Marana in the League of Arizona Cities and Towns as early as 1992.

Ora Mae has been the major force in bringing floor control projects to Marana and starting the Pima County Santa Cruz Bank Protection Project. She also played a role in the levee project, which was completed and dedicated last year, and she was instrumental in bringing a federally funded housing program to Marana, earning her several awards from the Community Development Block Grant Program for her outstanding leadership and community involvement.

Ora Mae has been involved with a large number of community projects such as Marana's Founders' Day Committee, the Sister Cities Program, Yoem Pueblo Rehabilitation Project, the Lot Beautification Program, The Great American Smokeout, and The Graffiti Abatement Program. She founded the Marana Food Bank in 1985 and is currently its volunteer director. And she continues to be extremely involved with her community by volunteering for projects as varied as reading to