

diplomatic relations, and in their efforts to improve the lives of all their citizens.

Fortunately, recent history between our two countries has been resoundingly positive. But in the decades following our countries' declarations of independence, disagreements and conflict were far more commonplace than the diplomacy and cooperation we are accustomed to today. One of these disagreements led to full-scale war, the effects of which have influenced the geography and culture of North America to this day. This war, the Mexican-American War of 1846–48, was characterized by fierce battles, tense stand-offs, and from both countries, overwhelming national pride.

In 1847, in Mulegé, there was one such conflict that today is honored as the embodiment of Mexican national pride. Shortly after the beginning of the war, United States forces set out to isolate Baja Mexico from the mainland and to make the pueblos neutral in order to pacify the populace and prepare them for eventual U.S. rule. Mulegé was one such targeted pueblo. When hearing of the U.S. encroachment into the Baja, government officials in Mexico City dispatched a group of officers led by Captain Manuel Pineda to establish a military presence in the region. Captain Pineda arrived in Mulegé by September of 1847, and set to work assembling a group of Baja locals to help him resist the advancing U.S. forces. In response to Pineda's mobilization, the U.S. military officials sent the sloop Dale to Mulegé, under the command of Thomas Selfridge. Once arrived, Selfridge sent ashore a letter to Pineda and his men warning against any agitation. Pineda, undeterred, responded that he would defend his country to the end.

On October 2nd, 1847, Commander Selfridge sent some 75 sailors and marines ashore to attack the defenders of Mulegé. Outnumbered and outgunned, Pineda and his men exchanged fire with the advancing Americans from opposite banks of the creek leading up to the pueblo. Although neither side suffered casualties, the intensity of the firefight was enough to repel Selfridge's men, marking the first military success for the Mexican Army in the war. Pineda's success began a swelling of public support, and he and his men would go on to fight many more battles until his capture in March of 1848, at the very end of the war. Pineda had many successes during his military career, but none were as courageous and inspiring as his stand at Mulegé.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge not only this historical event, but also the shared history of the United States of America and Mexico. Many good men from both countries have fought and died in the name of patriotism, and today, both countries are stronger for it. Through times of peace and war, our countries now find themselves more closely allied than ever before. I am sure the future will serve to strengthen that bond.

HONORING AIR FORCE MAJOR
JAMES G. CUSIC III

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Air Force Major James G. Cusic III, a constituent of mine from Fairview Heights, Illinois.

Major Cusic is receiving a Certificate of Merit from the American Red Cross for his actions on September 11, 2001. This is the highest award the organization gives for someone who saves or sustains a life with skills that were learned in an American Red Cross safety course.

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 made this perhaps the most tragic day in our nation's history. However, the day could have been even more catastrophic if it were not for the efforts of men and women such as Major Cusic.

On the morning of September 11, Major Cusic saw the news of the attacks on the World Trade Center from his Pentagon office. As he watched, he began to feel the floor shake below him, and the television reported that a third plane had been used as a weapon. This time, the target was the Pentagon. A voice came on the Pentagon intercom with a message to evacuate the building.

As the news came that a second hijacked plane might be headed toward Washington, Major Cusic cleared all the rooms in his area of the building to make sure everyone had exited. Next, he assisted five of the approximately 65 patients that were being treated at the Air Force Pararescue triage site.

Major Cusic volunteered to reenter the building as one of five leaders of a 20-person team to provide medical treatment for survivors in the building. He was responsible for providing treatment for life threatening injuries. Major Cusic aided one man who had a severe scalp laceration and a spinal injury. He assisted another man who suffered from severe burns on his face and neck and was experiencing difficulty breathing.

Later in the evening, Major Cusic's heroic actions were needed once again. A firefighter that had entered the building as part of the rescue effort collapsed from heat exhaustion and an erratic pulse. Once again, Major Cusic provided the treatment necessary under extreme circumstances.

Major Cusic maintained clarity of mind throughout the day on September 11 and should be commended for his actions in the face of adversity. At the end of the day, he was directly involved in saving three lives and in caring for two more people with severe injuries. In addition, he provided invaluable encouragement to other survivors and those involved with the rescue effort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Major Cusic and to wish him all the best in the future for him and his family.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
TAMI LONGABERGER

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Tami Longaberger, president and chief executive officer of The Longaberger Company, has been selected to attend the Helsinki Women Business Leaders Summit in Helsinki, Finland; and

Whereas, Tami Longaberger has also been chosen to serve as chairwoman of the U.S. executive committee during the Helsinki Summit; and

Whereas, Tami Longaberger time and again has proven herself to be a remarkable business leader and role model; and

Whereas, Tami Longaberger is to be commended for her tireless efforts, dedication and devotion to the cause of bridging cultural differences and building business cooperation across the globe.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in recognizing Tami Longaberger for her leadership role at the Helsinki Women Business Leaders Summit.

COMMEMORATING THE 42D ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, we commemorated the 42d anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. In 1960, Cyrus claimed sovereignty over its territory following 80 years of British colonial rule, and since that time, it has been a close friend of the United States.

Cyprus now stands as the leading candidate country for membership in the European Union (EU). On September 30th 2002, the EU's Enlargement Commissioner stated that Cyprus complies with all political and economic conditions required for membership. The Government-controlled areas of Cyprus enjoy an atmosphere of economic prosperity and political freedom, allowing its people to enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Unfortunately, the northern portions of the island have been occupied by Turkish troops for more than 28 years, and an illegitimate government was set up there to rule an illegitimate state that only Turkey has recognized. As many as 35,000 Turkish troops remain to keep this government viable.

The United States must maintain pressure on the Turkish side to end its illegal occupation of Cyprus and allow the people of that island to resolve the problem without outside interference. Too often, Turkey seeks to use its occupation as a veto over the legitimate aspirations of the Cyprus government, including its bid to join the EU.

EU accession will have immeasurable benefits for the people of Cyprus, both Greek and Turkish, and will serve as a catalyst for peaceful resolution of the conflict. Unfortunately, not everyone believes that the accession of Cyprus to the EU is a good idea. In fact, Turkey and its illegitimate child, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, have opposed Cyprus'

membership in the EU on the grounds that this would allow Cyprus in turn to veto Turkey's EU membership bid. It is my belief that the reunification of Cyprus would serve the interests of all parties. The EU has rightfully stated that a resolution to the division of Cyprus is by no means a precondition to its ac-

cession to the EU, and I am proud that the United States has taken the same position.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to commemorate the 42d anniversary of the Independence of Cyprus and to work for the peaceful resolution of the division of the island and its successful accession to the EU.