

it celebrates its past and focuses on our future. Together, we all prosper.

FORTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE RE-
PUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, October 1, 2002, marked the 42nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. The anniversary of Cyprus' independence is a day of mixed emotions. While Cypriots celebrate the lifting of 80 years of British colonial rule, 37 percent of the island's territory remains under occupation. Since Turkish troops invaded in 1974, seizing 37 percent of the island, Turkey has expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots, moved 80,000 settlers from the Turkish mainland into their homes in an attempt to change the demographics of the area and restricted the rights of the few Greek Cypriots who remained in the north. Turkey's actions have been condemned by the United Nations Security Council and the European Commission of Human Rights as flagrant violations of international law.

Delays in negotiating a settlement only prolongs the suffering of the thousands of Cypriots on both sides who have lost their homes and are separated from their communities. The conflict has wasted political, economic, and military resources that could have gone toward economic and commercial development and increased the standard of living of inhabitants of both peoples.

Yet despite the division of the territory, the internationally-recognized government in Cyprus has made extraordinary strides toward political and economic development. And while the Turkish Cypriot leadership stalls and avoids serious negotiations, the Government of Cyprus stands to benefit greatly from membership in the European Union. Cyprus is one of only two countries that have applied for European Union membership that met all of the EU's membership criteria—all 80 thousand pages of rules and regulations. Cyprus's admission to the EU would be a boon to the island's economy, and it would add greatly to stability in the region. Neither Turkey nor the Turkish Cypriot leadership should be permitted to derail this process through political or economic blackmail.

The European Union has asserted that Cyprus's accession to the EU, expected in 2004, will proceed whether or not a settlement is reached on the island's division. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash should recognize that Turkish Cypriots would benefit greatly from a combination of national unification and EU accession, which would bring foreign investment, access to markets and jobs throughout Europe, and additional development assistance to northern Cyprus. The unification of Cyprus into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation—as called for by United Nations Security Council resolutions—is the only solution that can guarantee economic development and equal political representation for all inhabitants of the island.

The Government of Cyprus has long been a close partner of the United States, and it has

proven the strength of these ties by providing its support in our fight against global terrorism.

Immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was among the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States. Cyprus has granted blanket clearance for U.S. military aircraft to fly over Cyprus and to use its airports, and is sharing intelligence with and providing legal assistance to various U.S. agencies.

Cyprus has also introduced tough new criminal laws and regulations to deter and punish terrorists and their supporters, taken measures to freeze the assets of terrorists and increased security measures at seaports and airports and at the U.S. Embassy in the capital of Nicosia.

Cyprus has also endorsed and implemented U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) to freeze the assets of terrorists and their supporters; implemented all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the U.N. Security Council, the EU and other international organizations; and ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

And most recently, on September 18, the United States and Cyprus signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that will promote closer coordination between the two countries in the fight against global terrorism, organized crime, drug-trafficking and related violent crimes.

As an active member of both the Congressional Hellenic Issues Caucus and the Europe Subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, I have supported a number of legislative initiatives to resolve the Cyprus dispute and promote the accession of the government of Cyprus to the European Union.

I joined my congressional colleagues in writing to President Bush to urge that the United States help move the U.N.-led proximity talks toward resolution of the conflict.

I strongly support the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, whether or not a solution to the island's division has been reached beforehand. I have cosponsored legislation calling on the U.S. Government to support EU accession, and I have written to President Bush too on this matter as well.

I have co-sponsored legislation introduced in the House to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the Greek Cypriot enclaves in northern Cyprus. I personally tried to visit the enclaves during a recent trip to Cyprus so I could see for myself the condition of the Greek Cypriots living there, but I was prevented from doing so by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

I support the Administration's allocation of \$15 million each year to promote measures aimed at reunification of the island and designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities in Cyprus.

I believe it is critical that the Turkish Cypriot side provide information on the five American citizens of Greek Cypriot descent who have been missing since 1974. As a purely humanitarian matter, the Turkish side must make progress on this issue.

As our global village becomes increasingly interdependent, societies around the world are adopting democracy, free trade, and respect for human rights. The Government of Cyprus has embraced these concepts, becoming a responsible actor on the international stage, and

its people have benefited greatly from its leadership. I sincerely hope that the Turkish Cypriot leadership decides to make the compromises necessary to end the division of Cyprus so that the entire island can enjoy the fruits of globalization.

Until that time comes, I congratulate the people of Cyprus on the 42nd anniversary of their independence.

TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND
NORMAN POTT

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Norman Pott, a retired pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. Rev. Pott died on September 1, 2002, after a two-year battle with bone marrow cancer.

Rev. Pott was a leader in fighting for the inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the leadership of the Presbyterian Church. During his eleven years at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, from 1986–1997, he promoted inclusion and acceptance of diversity within the church. While at the Church in San Rafael, Rev. Pott ran for moderator, the top job in the Presbyterian Church USA. Although he lost the election, he ran on a platform calling for ordination of lesbians and gays that brought the issue national attention.

Before coming to San Rafael, Rev. Pott was a minister at the First Presbyterian Church in Berkeley where he worked for the rights of migrant farm workers, supported the work of Martin Luther King Jr. and counseled students at the University of California Berkeley during the Free Speech Movement on campus. After leaving Berkeley, Rev. Pott worked in Davis with Cesar Chavez for the rights of farm workers and was also a vocal leader for women's rights.

Norman Pott was born in Summit, New Jersey. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois where he married his wife, Enid, on graduation day in 1954. He was drafted to the National Basketball Association from Wheaton, but rejected the offer in order to fulfill his dream of becoming a minister. He received a master's degree in divinity in 1957 from Princeton Theological Seminary and a doctorate in philosophy in 1960 at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Norman Pott for his many contributions to the community and the Church. His vision for the Presbyterian Church will continue to inspire both the Church and the communities in which he served.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FIRE
PREVENTION WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Fire Prevention Week, and I

urge all Americans to take steps to protect their families and loved-ones by installing and checking smoke detectors, practicing home escape plans, and identifying home hazards.

In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, National Fire Prevention Week has been observed during the beginning of October. No doubt, this act has roots that draw from the tragic fire that raged through Chicago in early October 1871, killing more than 250 people and leaving more than 100,000 others homeless.

The message of National Fire Prevention Week—to install and check smoke detectors, practice home escape plans, and identify home hazards—hits particularly close to home. During a warm July night earlier this year, a faulty electric wire breathed life into a fire that quickly engulfed a bedroom in my home. My young granddaughter was sleeping in this room at the time, when a smoke detector roused her from her sleep. Fortunately, the smoke detector also aroused my wife, who was able to evacuate my home and call the fire department before anyone was hurt.

That smoke detector saved the lives of my family. And yet, thousands of Americans die from fires each year. In fact, every 18 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in this country.

It only takes a few moments to install a smoke detector or ensure that one is working properly. Moreover, practicing an escape plan and checking around your home for hidden fire hazards can not only prevent considerable heartache for you and your family, it can reduce the number of fires our brave firefighters have to respond to each year.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to recognize National Fire Prevention Week. And I also ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their local police, fire, and rescue squads for their unceasing commitment to keeping our families and loved-ones safe.

WORLD SPACE WEEK 2002—SPACE AND DAILY LIFE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations commemorates the beginning of the Space Age by celebrating World Space Week this October 4th through the 10th. Celebrated in nearly fifty nations, this week is designated to recognize the progress of technology, anticipate new economic opportunities and find new means for transforming life in space and on Earth to improve the lives of people around the world. The theme for Space Week 2002 is "Space and Daily Life".

The benefits of community participation in World Space Week are far reaching. It is a proactive way to demonstrate public support for space programs, encourage youth to learn about space and the possibilities of the future, promote institutions around the world that are involved in space and to foster international cooperation in space outreach and education.

I am proud to say that the 5th District of Maryland has a variety of dynamic activities that will allow community members to participate in Space Week.

The initiatives taken by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, the Office of Space Science Sun-Earth Connection Education Forum, the Living with Star Initiative, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation and Maryland Space Business Roundtable have made it possible for every public high school and middle school in Maryland to receive information on World Space Week.

In today's increasingly technological world, it is vital to the future advancement of our country to encourage our youth to take an active learning interest in academic fields and career paths such as space, science and math.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, which is a school in Maryland's Fifth Congressional District that I represent, has responded to this need by organizing a panel discussion about space in conjunction with Goddard Space Center. This event is a testament to their dedication to academic excellence. Roosevelt High School has even been honored as a 2002 National School of Character, which recognizes their outstanding efforts to encourage the social, ethical and academic development of students through character education.

I would also like to commend the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland for its contributions to the exploration and peaceful use of outer space. The cutting-edge technologies they have developed have played a large role in attracting scientists, engineers and technicians who create next-generation spacecraft, sensor and instrument technologies which are used to benefit Maryland, our society and the international community.

Goddard is the lead center for the Living with a Star Initiative, a multi-year program that will eventually produce new systems, spacecraft and technology to study the effects of the sun on the Earth. In fiscal year 2002 I worked to help secure \$25 million for the program and I will continue to work to obtain such resources to help ensure the success of such projects in the future.

World Space Week 2002 serves as a positive voice in recognizing past and future accomplishments and innovations in exploration, development and use of space and space education for the benefit of all humankind and I am proud of the role that Maryland's Fifth Congressional District plays in promoting this week each year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK MASCARA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, on October 2, 2002, I was absent for personal reasons and missed rollcall votes Nos. 427 through 436. For the record, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on 427, "yea" on 428, "nay" on 429, "yea" on 430, "yea" on 431, "yea" on 432, "nay" on 433, "nay" on 434, "nay" on 435, and "nay" on 436.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 I joined with the students, teachers, administrators and parents of the Idle Hour Elementary School in Oakdale for a profound commemoration of those lost in the attacks on America. I know that our colleagues will be as moved as I was to hear the essays of three sixth graders: Emily Pertz, Justin Rigas and April LaValle. I am honored to share them with the entire Congress today:

SEPTEMBER 11

(By Emily Pertz)

September 11 was a painful and tragic event. It changed the lives of millions forever.

I don't know anybody who died in my family because of the attack, but knowing that a lot of kids became parentless that day is enough to make my family and I upset. Whenever we go over the bridge I see many buildings and then a big gap where the towers once stood. To me it is very upsetting to see. My family is more cautious than ever.

I think the attacks have changed both our country and our world. The United States became more united. The world together is fighting terrorism. But on the other hand, many people lost loved ones, and the world's tallest towers were destroyed. Many people are still mourning and are still heartbroken.

Our school has done many great things to remember the victims. We raised a lot of money to plant a memorial garden to honor the lives lost from our neighborhood. We made red, white and blue chains that connected every classroom to show we are united. Each student colored in two flags, one to take home and one to hang up in school. The day after the attack our school had a moment of silence. It really made me think and made me a little depressed.

The United States went through a lot, but no matter what we will always be united.

AMERICA CHANGES

(By Justin Rigas)

The terrorist attack made by Osama Bin Ladin and the Taliban on the Twin Towers, landmarks of our New York City Skyline, was a great tragedy. Thousands of innocent people died terribly as the buildings melted and crumbled to the ground. Children are left without their mothers and fathers, families without sisters, brothers, dear friends. Families are left without jobs, without their income, possibly unable to pay their bills and keep their house.

But America has stood together strong. In this moment of sadness and tragedy millions have come together with help and support. People all over our country, not just New York have sent donations of food, money and clothing to help those families that have lost those dear to them.

The events of September 11, 2001 have changed the attitudes of my family as well as millions of Americans. We all miss those we know and loved that are gone. The Americans innocence may never again be the same, not able to totally trust the safety we've somehow always felt. Many people hesitate to travel on airplanes which means less people are visiting places where the people there count on them to spend their money. It could hurt business in hotels, restaurants and stores.

We always need to be on guard that something terrible could happen again. Our government cannot sleep, it must always be searching for the next thing to happen.