Yaacov Kaploun and Executive Vice President Yehuda Kaploun, the Foundation has been able to establish 27 physical fitness and therapy centers and has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions.

In conjunction with Downtown Film Productions, The Moses and Aaron Foundation produced ''Chazak—A Testament of Strength,'' an award winning documentary highlighting the effect of music on special children. This monumental documentary serves as a vehicle to sensitize and educate the entire community on the needs of its special and outstanding citizens.

On Saturday night, August 9th, 2003, at the Monticello Raceway in Monticello, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation under the Honorary Chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Eli Weisel, will sponsor its seventh Summer ''Chazak—Strength'' concert paying tribute to special children. The guests of honor will be the special and outstanding children, some of whom will perform with the entertainers on stage.

The corporate and individual sponsors of the Moses and Aaron Foundation include Metropolitan Lumber, Bally Total Fitness, Cohen's & General Vision Services, CD Inc, Mr. David Buntzman, Mr. Jonathan Fleisig, Mr. Robert Gans, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gans, Mr. Avi and Dr. Laura Greenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. David Hirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rennert, Mr. Charles Rosenay, Mr. Eli Rothman, Mr. Mark Selden, and Mr. and Mrs. Neil Cohen. I recognize Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Stowe and Mr. and Mrs. Jules Cohen for their support for the Foundation, improving the quality of life of special children.

I also recognize the support given to the Moses and Aaron Foundation by Steve and Shirley Slesinger, who have brought a literary treasure into millions of young American hearts by bringing Winnie the Pooh and other characters to the screen and printed world, with particular credit to Shirley Slesinger Lasswell and Patti Slesinger for bringing to life one of the most adored bears in history.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation, an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in American society.

THE 29TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in the Hellenic Caucus in remembering the 29th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, which took place on July 20, 1974.

On that day, in clear violation of international law, Turkish forces invaded northern Cyprus expelling 200,000 Greek-Cypriots from their homes. Many of these Greek-Cypriots literally had to flee for their lives, taking what little belongings they could as paratroopers dropped from the sky.

Over 5,000 Cypriots were killed in the conflict, and to date 1,400 Greek-Cypriots are still missing. Today, Turkey occupies 37 percent of Cyprus, an island smaller than the State of Connecticut, with a force of 40,000 troops in a country of just under 1 million people.

Despite numerous United Nations General Assembly Resolutions urging Turkey to withdraw its forces, and the stationing of U.N. forces on the island, Turkey—in a further violation and disregard for international law—unilaterally declared the independence of the occupied territory of northern Cyprus in 1983. Aside from Turkey, no other country in the world has recognized the so-called ''Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.''

But in spite of the island's artificial division, Cyprus has managed to make considerable progress over the last three decades even as it continues to seek a peaceful resolution with Turkey. And now with a vibrant democracy and a robust economy, Cyprus is also poised to officially join the European Union next year and to bring the benefits of membership to all Cypriots.

Yet Turkey's intransigence continues. In November of 2002 U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan presented both Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides with a comprehensive new plan aimed at reunifying Cyprus in advance of the island's accession to the EU. Though by no means perfect, this plan was a good faith attempt to create a workable solution that was fair to both sides. Initially, negotiations based on the U.N. plan provided hope to many that the Cyprus problem could finally be resolved after 30 years, due to the personal commitment of the Secretary General.

However, it soon became clear that the leader of the Turkish-Cypriot side, Mr. Rauf Denktash, and the Turkish government were not fully invested in the negotiating process.

In a last ditch effort to salvage the negotiations prior to the signing of the EU accession treaty, Secretary General Annan requested both Mr. Denktash and the Cypriot President, Tassos Papadopoulos, to join him at the Hague last March to discuss placing the U.N. plan before the Cypriot people in a separate, simultaneous referendum. Although President Papadopoulos was ready and willing to do so, Mr. Denktash, with support from Turkey, rejected that proposal.

The international response to the rejection of a referendum by the Turkish side was clear and unanimous in its characterization of Mr. Denktash as the principal impediment to negotiating a solution that all Cypriots very much want.

The current relaxation of longstanding travel prohibitions by the Turkish-Cypriots does not make up for a strong commitment to a negotiated settlement. In many cases this has only helped to underscore the depth of feeling of many Greek and Turkish Cypriots who long for the chance to return to their homes and villages.

I hope that this will one day be possible, and I fully expect that once a settlement is concluded and Cyprus is finally re-unified, that both Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots will live together side-by-side in harmony.

But, today we stand in remembrance of those who were killed and those who were never found as a result of the illegal Turkish invasion. I hope that if Turkey is truly serious about joining Cyprus and Greece in the European Union that it immediately and unconditionally withdraws its forces and demonstrates a true commitment to a negotiated settlement.

HONORING THE PEOPLE OF LASALLE PARISH

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor the people of LaSalle Parish for their tireless efforts to bring economic development to Northern Louisiana. Since I came to Congress, I have been working with local officials to encourage the Federal Government to use an empty prison located in the Town of Jena, Louisiana, and I have been impressed by their vigorous commitment to see their community prosper.

Recently, officials from the Department of Justice and the White House toured the LaSalle Correctional Facility to study the possibility of using this vacant prison as a place to detain illegal aliens or low-security Federal inmates. I had the pleasure of accompanying these officials on this tour and was personally impressed with the state-of-the-art, recently-constructed prison and its design. Furthermore, the prison is situated near two existing Federal prisons and a short drive from the U.S. Marshal's transportation hub in Alexandria. I believe its location and its design make the prison a logical choice for use by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to draw attention to two provisions contained in the Committee Report accompanying the Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary Appropriations Bill we passed yesterday afternoon. These two provisions should benefit LaSalle Parish because they give the Federal Government the authority to use an empty private prison, such as the LaSalle Correctional Facility. One provision directs the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee to use existing state, local, and private detention space to house excess detainees; the other provision directs the Bureau of Prisons to use existing state, private, and local prison capacity to house excess BOP inmates. I want to thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. Vitter), the Vice Chairman of the Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Subcommittee for the strong support he has provided to these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague and I are working through both legislation and old-fashioned persuasion to get the LaSalle Correctional Facility back in use. This is a win-win situation for everyone involved. We can help our law enforcement agencies with their overcrowding problems and do so at a fraction of the cost it takes to build a new prison. Also, we can bring jobs and economic growth to Northern Louisiana. These provisions in the CJSJ Committee Report can really help us to re-open this facility, and I trust the two agencies will pay heed to this directive. I know my Louisiana colleagues in both the Senate and the House will join me in fighting to see that we make real progress on this issue, which is of such great importance to the honest, hard-working people of my district.