

At the time, Las Vegas—or rather what is now known as Las Vegas—was thriving. Indeed, in 1890 the population of Las Vegas far exceeded that of Albuquerque; Las Vegas had 5,273 people compared to Albuquerque's 3,785. It wasn't until 1910 that Albuquerque's population surpassed that of Las Vegas.

The Optic began as a weekly—its first issue published July 31, 1879. But just four months later—on Nov. 4—it began publishing daily.

From the beginning, the Optic earned a reputation for getting out local news and for providing vivid accounts of noteworthy events. Mr. Kistler and his assistant wrote firsthand articles and editorials about political rallies, school programs, church services, sports, theatre performances and many other social events. Another popular staple in the Optic's news coverage was crime—from shootings and hangings to robberies.

The stories featured in the pages of the Optic over the past 125 years capture the colorful history of Las Vegas, a history that is the stuff of legends.

There were stories of gunfights, public hangings and notorious outlaws from the "Wild West" days. Also detailed in those early issues of the Optic were the births of some of the area's most beloved and critical institutions, among them what is now known as New Mexico Highlands University, Montezuma Castle and the Las Vegas Medical Center.

And then there are the chronicles of the struggles, among them the 91-year struggle to consolidate old town and new town into municipality and the political struggle for dominance between the local Republican and Democratic Parties.

The Optic also published the comings and goings of legends such as Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday and Jesse James. In December of 1879, it noted that Jesse James had been a guest at the hot springs the previous summer.

The Optic has changed significantly over the 125 years it has been published. Ownership of the paper has changed hands nine times since its founding, but it has remained in the Beck family for 35 years.

When brothers Robert and Stuart Beck purchased the Optic in 1967, it had a circulation of 1,200. Today, its circulation is 6,000.

The Optic reached another milestone in April of 1998, when after the death of beloved Optic Publisher Stuart Beck, his widow was appointed publisher. Until Delia Romero Beck became publisher, no woman had served in that capacity.

Each publisher, editor and writer at the paper has left his or her mark on the Optic. Through the years, its pages have narrowed, the manner in which it is printed has eased, and the typewriters that once dominated its newsroom have disappeared in favor of computers. The Optic has undergone countless format changes, and the editorial style found in the paper's early editions bears little resemblance to today's.

But one thing has remained constant: The Optic's commitment to its readers and to the people and institutions it covers and its commitment to being fair and accurate in its reporting.

In the years since the Optic began publication, other newspapers have come and gone. But for more than a century, the Optic has survived and triumphed, each day capturing in its pages the stories of Las Vegas and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to rise and recognize the Las Vegas Daily Optic and the citizens of San Miguel County on this truly momentous occasion. Their commitment to community spirit represents the finest qualities of New Mexico.

HONORING TOM MCKIBBAN, CRNA, MS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding Kansan, Tom McKibban, CRNA, MS. Mr. McKibban will soon complete his year as national president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA). I am very pleased that this son of Kansas was tapped as the 2003–2004 president of this prestigious national organization.

Founded in 1931, the AANA represents more than 30,000 practicing Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs). As you may know, CRNAs administer approximately 65 percent of all anesthetics given to patients each year in the United States. They work in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered including hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms, ambulatory surgical centers, and the offices of dentists, podiatrists, and the plastic surgeons.

More importantly, CRNAs are the sole anesthesia providers in approximately two thirds of all rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services. In some states, such as Kansas, CRNAs are the sole providers in nearly 100% of the rural hospitals.

Tom earned his master's of science degree in nurse anesthesia from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas, and his bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas. He is currently a practicing nurse anesthetist and partner of the Butler County Anesthesia Services, LLC, which provides anesthesia services for Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital in El Dorado, Kansas.

Tom has held various leadership positions in the AANA as president-elect, treasurer, and regional director before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2003. In addition, Tom has served terms as president, president-elect, treasurer, and secretary for the Kansas Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

During his AANA Presidency, Mr. McKibban has testified before committees of Congress on healthcare topics including nurse anesthesia education and the importance of nurse anesthetists to the U.S. Armed Forces and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Under McKibban's leadership, the AANA opened an important, new line of communication with the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). These organizations of anesthesia professionals have not always seen eye-to-eye. The recent joint efforts of the two professional organizations would not have been possible without the initiative of Tom McKibban and his ASA counterpart.

Even with his demanding schedule as a practicing nurse anesthetist, Tom has found

time over the years to volunteer in his community. He has served as president and vice president of the Board of Education for Unified School District 490, and has been an active member of the board of education since 1999. He has also served as a member of the Endowment Board of Butler County Community College and board member for the American Red Cross Bluestem Chapter too.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Mr. Tom McKibban, CRNA, MS, for his notable career and outstanding achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES EXPORT REFORM ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing The Controlled Substances Export Reform Act, legislation to create and maintain U.S. jobs by reforming our Nation's outdated pharmaceutical export control laws.

Current law allows U.S. companies to export most controlled substances only to the immediate country where the products will be consumed. Shipment to central sites for further distribution across national boundaries is prohibited.

Mr. Speaker, foreign competitors labor under no such restrictions and can readily move approved medical products between international drug control treaty countries without limit or restriction. The exclusive prohibitions imposed by U.S. law on American manufacturers place them at significant disadvantage in international markets, creating powerful incentives for domestic companies to move production overseas, damaging local economies and costing U.S. jobs.

The legislation I have introduced today, along with a bipartisan group of my colleagues, authorizes the Attorney General to permit carefully regulated pharmaceutical exports to our international drug convention partner countries.

The bill retains full Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) authority over all shipments of controlled substances and establishes strict procedures to ensure these products are used solely for legitimate medical purposes. While the DEA's authority over exports is undiminished, by creating new parity for U.S. companies with their international competitors, the legislation encourages domestic production and job growth.

The Controlled Substances Export Reform Act supports American jobs and protects U.S. interests. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important legislation.

MAINTAINING THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today on the tiny Mediterranean island of Cyprus,

Turkish and Greek Cypriots mark the anniversary of momentous events that have shaped the last 30 years of the island's history. The events of July 1974 have been the subject of much debate, controversy, and unfortunately, distortion. The United States has worked long and hard to help bring peace to Cyprus, and as both sides of this divided island struggle to achieve a stable and prosperous future for all Cypriots, it is important for this House to put history in its proper perspective, to separate fact from propaganda, and to create a fair and balanced understanding of the issues that divide the island's two constituent peoples (the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots).

It is easy to assume that the history of the Cyprus conflict starts in 1974, but this is far from the truth. The origins of the Cyprus conflict can be traced back to the Greek Cypriot drive for Union with Greece (enosis), a movement with roots that can be traced as far back as the later days of the Ottoman Empire. The modern history of the conflict, however, stems from the 1950s and 1960s.

From 1878 to 1960, Cyprus was ruled by the British. When the island achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1960, it was with constitutional guarantees for power sharing on the basis of political equality. The constitution foresaw (and still foresees) a bi-communal structure, and the peaceful co-existence of Greek and Turkish communities side by side. The president was to be Greek, and the vice-president to be from the Turkish community, each with the power of veto.

Unfortunately, differences in language, culture, religion, and national traditions, ended this vision by late 1963 when a political crisis and inter-communal violence broke out. In November 1963, Makarios, the first president of Cyprus—a Greek Cypriot—submitted a plan aimed at amending the constitution. However, the changes proposed removed most of the checks and balances which had been built into the constitution to ensure the safety and equal status of the Turkish community.

Matters came to a head on in December of that year, when armed Greeks attacked a suburb in Nicosia, killing or capturing those Turkish Cypriots who were unable to escape. Armed conflict spread, with the Turkish Cypriots withdrawing into enclaves to defend themselves. A buffer zone was set up and manned by British troops in a largely unsuccessful attempt to stop the fighting. These were later replaced by United Nations troops in March 1964, troops which are still there to this day. For the next ten years, the enosis campaign of the Greek Cypriots cost the Turkish Cypriots many lives and untold suffering, as well as their partnership position in the Cyprus government.

Former United States Undersecretary of State, George Ball, who, among others, as actively dealing with the crisis at the time, remarked in his memoirs entitled *The Past Has Another Pattern*, that Makarios has turned: "This beautiful little island into his private abattoir" (P. 341). Ball went on further to say that: "Makarios' central interest was to block off Turkish intervention so that he and his Greek

Cypriots could go on happily massacring the Turkish Cypriots" (p. 345).

For example, in March 1964, well armed Greek forces attempted to crush the Turks at Erenkoy on the north coast, in order to interrupt the alleged flow of munitions from the Turkish mainland: they would undoubtedly have succeeded had not the Turkish air force intervened. This act added a new dimension to the conflict. Fear of Turkish intervention sobered the Greek Cypriots somewhat, and they settled down to a systematic economic blockade of the Turkish enclaves. Further armed conflict in 1967 provoked Turkey to threaten military intervention, but with the takeover of Greece by a Military Junta, and an economic boom occurring on Cyprus, enosis seemed less attractive and the violence subsided.

However, intervention finally came in 1974. During the presidential elections of 1974,

Makarios clearly announced the cause of enosis, and was re-elected. He subsequently ordered the withdrawal of mainland Greek officers from the Island, whereupon the National Guard, which was under the command of those same mainland Greek officers loyal to the Junta, stormed the presidential palace in Nicosia, although President Makarios escaped. In the face of this bloody coup, which brought the island to the brink of political extinction and a humanitarian tragedy, Turkey, which was treaty-bound to act as a Guarantor State, was forced to undertake action. As a result of this legitimate and timely action, Turkish Cypriots were saved from imminent destruction, bloodshed among the Greek Cypriots was ended and the independence of Cyprus was protected.

U.N.-led direct talks between the two sides to reach a comprehensive settlement to the division of the island began in early 2002, and reached a culmination when simultaneous referenda were held on each side on April 24, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable that, after all they have gone through, the Turkish Cypriots have continued to demonstrate a genuine desire to settle their differences with their Greek neighbors in a peaceful and amicable way through negotiations. In the referendum of April 24th, the Turkish Cypriots voted 65 percent to approve the U.N. plan for reunification of the island. In contrast, the Greek Cypriots gave the plan a resounding no by a 3 to 1 margin, effectively leaving all settlement efforts in limbo. Yet, in an ironic twist of events, it was the Greek Cypriots who were allowed to enter the European Union in May while the Turkish Cypriots, like their counterparts in Turkey, continue to be left out in the cold.

Under the circumstances, I agree with U.N. Secretary-General Annan when he cited in his latest report on the situation in Cyprus, that there is no justification for keeping the Turkish Cypriots in isolation from the rest of the international community. The restrictions that have been imposed on their economic, political and cultural activity internationally should be lifted. Turkish Cypriots must be allowed to enjoy the benefits—benefits they were guaranteed under the 1960 independence agreement, which any peaceful, democratic society deserves.

Fair and equal treatment of the Turkish Cypriots can only benefit the island as a whole and further facilitate the achievement of a negotiated settlement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KARL KRAMER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to an expert firefighter investigator from Monte Vista, Colorado. Karl Kramer risks his life on the job every day to help people in need in his community and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous sacrifices before this body of Congress and this nation.

Karl has served the Monte Vista Volunteer Fire Department for more than two decades and currently serves as the president of the Colorado State Firefighters Association. Recently Karl turned his fire investigating role into a full-time career, when he opened his own Fire investigation business called Southern Peaks Investigation. Many different organizations depend upon his sound judgment and risk to his health in determining the cause of a fire. Karl maintains that he began working as a fire investigator because he really wanted to do something for his community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Karl Karamer for his many years of dedicated service to the Monte Vista community. Karl's risk to his own safety and health have taken him away from his friends and family on many occasions, and I am grateful for the selflessness he has demonstrated to aid others. I am proud to recognize his efforts before this body of Congress and this nation, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING TECRO REPRESENTATIVE C.J. CHEN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, during the past 4 years, relations between the United States and the 23 million people on the Island of Taiwan have remained strong. One of the reasons our ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan have endured has been due to the excellent diplomatic skills of C.J. Chen, Taiwan's Representative at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office ("TECRO") in the United States. TECRO is Taiwan's unofficial embassy here and Representative Chen—or C.J. as he is known to his many friends on Capitol Hill—is Taiwan's unofficial ambassador.