

To date, they are the only ones who recognize themselves as such.

Together with both the E.U. and the U.N., the U.S. has been a strong ally of the Republic of Cyprus, and we owe it to her to continue our steadfast support. As a Congress, we must uphold our Nation's pledge to advance the July 8th agreement that President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat reached a year ago. This agreement would begin the process of setting up bi-communal committees and working groups to address day-to-day issues facing those caught up in this conflict.

Unfortunately, Talat is not only yet to move forward with his earlier promise, but has also now gone back on his word. We must work to convince Talat that it is in his best interest, and in the best interest of Turkish Cypriots, to cooperate. They will be left behind and without a seat at the table if they choose to disregard plans for progress toward a solution.

Meanwhile, Greek Cypriots continue working toward their national commitment. The Republic of Cyprus took the initiative to demolish a portion of the fortification at Ledra Street in the capital of Nicosia. Opening up this crossing point was a confidence building step, as was demolishing a Cypriot National Guard post in Kato Pyrgos in an effort to open up another crossing point.

There are steps members of this House can take to show support for the people of the Republic of Cyprus. We can cosponsor legislation to resolve the Cyprus problem—H.R. 1456, H. Res. 405, and H. Res. 407.

H.R. 1456 enables U.S. citizens who own property in Turkish-occupied Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either current inhabitants of their land or the government of Turkey. The intent here is to ensure that property not only benefits the lawful owner, but also that it stays out of the hands of illegal squatters.

H. Res. 405 expresses the sense of Congress for the support and implementation of the July 8th agreement as a way forward for the reunification of Cyprus. And H. Res. 407 expresses the support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions of the Republic of Cyprus to open more crossing points and to reach a cease-fire.

These are all bills that I'm a cosponsor of, and I urge other members to join me in my support for these worthwhile measures.

As a Greek American and as a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I could not feel more strongly about the reunification of Cyprus. The issue is straightforward and clear: we must aid our ally, the Republic of Cyprus, in righting the wrongs of the past 33 years. I cannot think of a better day than today, on the eve of the 33rd anniversary of the Turkish invasion, to express my conviction on the matter.

Tomorrow, we must both remember the past and look to the future. In recognizing the significance of July 20th for the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus, we must recommit ourselves to the cause of restoring the island nation to its rightful inhabitants. I ask for the support of my colleagues in this worthy undertaking.

COSPONSORSHIP OF H.R. 1400, THE IRAN COUNTER-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2007

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 1400, the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007. This bill will give the United States far superior economic and political leverage against Iran's ongoing and dangerous nuclear program by significantly strengthening our sanctions package against Tehran.

The necessity for the United States and the world to negotiate a final termination to Iran's nuclear program cannot be overstated. The signals that Iran's nuclear program may not be peaceful are legion: Iran is in violation of its International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards agreement, it has yet to explain decades of deception surrounding their nuclear research and construction programs, it is pursuing a uranium enrichment program which could eventually produce weapons-grade uranium, and it is building a heavy-water nuclear reactor which will produce plutonium which could be used for weapons.

An Iranian nuclear weapon could threaten the United States, the security of the Persian Gulf, and it would certainly threaten one of our greatest allies, Israel. Iran's position in the region has unfortunately been greatly strengthened by our misadventure in Iraq, and the regime in Tehran may believe that with a nuclear bomb they could become the regional hegemon, the local strong-man. Such an outcome would be disastrous for the stability of the region, and would be deeply threatening to the United States and our allies. We must do everything we can to avoid this scenario. The Iran Counter-Proliferation Act will put stronger arrows in the diplomatic quiver of the United States through its expanded sanctions package, and it hopefully will help us find a resolution to this important issue.

Iran's development of a nuclear weapon would also be a deeply damaging blow to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and could signal the death-knell for international efforts to halt the spread of the bomb. An Iranian nuclear weapon would so dramatically alter the balance of power in the Middle East and Central Asia that other nearby countries could decide that they must pursue a weapons program as well to protect themselves from the sway of Iranian regional hegemony. In such a scenario, an Iranian bomb could spur the development of a Saudi bomb, an Egyptian bomb, or a Turkish bomb. If the cascading security implications for the region from an Iranian nuclear weapon did lead to neighboring countries also pursuing nuclear programs, the NPT may truly be shattered beyond repair.

While I support H.R. 1400 and am proud to cosponsor it, I am concerned that one provision of the bill may have the unintended consequence of undermining our international efforts to unify all governments around the world against Iran's dangerous and destabilizing nuclear program. This bill would remove the President's ability to waive sanctions against foreign countries and corporations if the sanctions could harm the national security interests of the United States. I share the view of the

bill's authors that such Presidential waiver authority has been utilized far too frequently—in fact, the international sanctions contained in the Iran Sanctions Act have never been utilized because they have been waived every year! However, I am concerned that by removing the waiver altogether, we will go too far in the other direction.

A number of American allies would be targeted by a universal application of the sanctions contained in H.R. 1400, and while it may be desirable in many cases to do so, leveraging such costly sanctions against our international partners could in certain circumstances make it more difficult to convince these countries to support our efforts to obtain further multilateral sanctions against Iran. No country and no corporation should get a free pass to conduct business in Iran, but at the same time we must retain the flexibility necessary to assure success at the multilateral level. For this reason, I intend to work with my colleagues to make sure that a tightly-crafted waiver authority is included in the final legislation—not to encourage its use, but to ensure that the United States retains the flexibility that we must have to be successful.

It is also very important that H.R. 1400 includes a provision clarifying that nothing in the act authorizes the use of force or the use of the United States Armed Forces against Iran. I believe that our best strategy for success against the Iranian nuclear program will be a strong combination of economic sanctions, political engagement, and multilateral pressure with a clear and persuasive package of benefits to Iran in exchange for the renunciation of their nuclear program. A successful strategy does not involve the use of force, and in fact the use of force against Tehran would most likely backfire by solidifying the domestic political support for the hard-line regime which is continually loosing the support of its people.

I believe that we can solve the Iranian nuclear issue with smart diplomacy, forceful engagement, unilateral and multilateral sanctions, and a sophisticated understanding what combination of sticks and carrots will be persuasive to the decision-makers in Tehran. While it is my opinion that most of the Bush Administration's efforts in this regard have been heavy-handed, ideologically rigid, uncreative, and ultimately counter-productive, I believe that some of their recent actions point to the slow adoption of a more sophisticated approach towards this extremely important problem. The Iran CounterProliferation Act will help strengthen this approach, and will help us ratchet up the pressure on Iran. It is yet to be seen whether the Bush Administration will be wise enough to couple this bigger stick with a bigger carrot, and I hope that they do so. Far too much hangs in the balance, and the United States strategy must be smart, adaptive, and tough.

I urge adoption of the bill.

“LANDMARKS”

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2007

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, during the July 4th holidays with my family, I heard the following inspirational sermon in Denver,

Colorado. I would like to share it with my fellow colleagues:

LANDMARKS
(By Bill Huth)

I am deeply grateful to be a citizen of the USA and I know that it is a privilege to be an American.

I love this week and the 4th of July:

Watermelons are juicy

Flags are waving from businesses and homes

Fireworks light up the night sky

Families are cooking hot dogs and dousing them with mustard and relish

Churches gather to sing patriotic hymns

Apple pies bake in the ovens

There is a sharp crack to the sound of baseball bats

We see old John Wayne movies

There are Parades and we sing "The Star Spangled Banner"

We pray for the nation and for peace

Everywhere we discover Red, White, and Blue

People and families intentionally come to the YMCA of the Rockies

These are Landmarks to mark the birthday celebration of the USA!

In ancient times, boundary stones or landmarks identified personal property. Boundaries in Israel were sacred because God owned the land. To extend ones property by moving the landmarks was a violation of the covenant and sacred oath. To move a landmark was to renege on the commitment to God's promise.

Unfortunately, moving a boundary stone was and still is a major problem—not so much in the realm of property—but those founding principles, the landmarks, the ancient boundaries on which America was founded. Those landmarks have either been forgotten or diluted in this relativistic, postmodern age when everything seems to be up for grabs, with no absolutes, and everyone interprets things the way they personally see them.

Lets talk today about some of these permanent landmarks that we should recall and revere.

A poet wrote: "We eat from orchards we did not plant. We drink from wells we did not dig. We reap from fields we did not sow. Fires we did not kindle warm us. Roofs we did not build shelter us. We are blessed by monies we did not give."

A landmark will always be that of Sacrifice and Liberty, and we cannot fudge on our own commitment to tend the tree of Liberty by our own acts of self sacrifice and service. If we do, then we stand to lose one of our great American traditions—July 4th!

Someone has said, "The temptation is to enjoy the fruits of citizenship without tending the tree of liberty." Many of us have not personally earned the freedoms we enjoy. We did not go to Germany, North Africa, France, Iwo Jima, Hawaii, Italy—we did not find ourselves on beaches named Omaha, Salerno, or Sword. We, you and me, have not shed our blood or not given an arm or leg or not sacrificed our lives for our Freedom.

John Adams, as he said as he signed the Declaration of Independence, "Whether we

live or die, sink or swim, succeed or fail, I stand behind this document. And if God wills it, I am ready to die in order that this country might experience freedom!" That is patriotism which led men, armed with little more than hunting rifles, to engage in battle with, what was then the most powerful nation on earth. Many of our forefathers paid a terrible price in the Revolutionary war, but finally they won the victory so that you and I might be citizens of this "land of the free and the home of the brave."

Because of them a landmark has been established and my responsibility is to tend the Tree of Liberty.

Another landmark is our commitment to Religious Freedom. In the early days of the country, it was made clear that Congress would not establish a state religion, that Americans would be free to worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. That is our freedom, to worship, or not.

Peter Marshall prayed before the U.S. Senate, "Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life, hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty, Lord, is too precious to be buried in books, costs too much to be hoarded."

French writer Alexis de Toqueville, after visiting America in 1831 wrote, "I sought for the greatness of the U.S. in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile field, and boundless forests . . . and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in the institutions of higher learning . . . but it was not there. I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flames with righteousness and I understood the secret of her genius and power: America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

The final landmark is very sacred and special to each one of us. Our Constitution ends with "In the year of our Lord." Our National Motto is "In God we trust." The Pledge of Allegiance states "One nation, under God." The landmark is our faith in God, the Divine Creator.

Patrick Henry, first governor of Virginia and member of the Continental Congress stated, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians . . . not on religious, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

We all received the news that a Federal Appeals court in San Francisco decided that the Pledge of Allegiance, when recited in schools, represents an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. The ruling overturned a 1954 act of Congress that inserted the phrase, under God, in the pledge.

On every coin, on every dollar we find "In God We Trust" which reminds everyone of us and this nation, that the business and economy of the nation is based on our faith and trust in the Almighty.

The pledge and the motto remind us of the founding principle that this is a nation under the care of God.

A warning from Deuteronomy 8:7-14: "The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land . . . brook of water, fountains and springs, a land of plenty, vines and trees, a land in which you will plenty to eat and lack nothing. A land that will provide you the tools. Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his statutes. You shall remember the Lord God for it is He who gives you power . . . Lest you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them . . . on that day you will perish because you would not obey the voice of the Lord."

When, as a nation, our courts and leaders want to remove the sacred Scriptures, the Ten Commandments, the prayers, no Bibles, the Motto . . . what is next? Will there be censorship of the pulpits of the land? Out of this pulpit to achieve political correctness?

It is fascinating and inspirational to know that:

Twelve of the original thirteen colonies incorporated the entire 10 commandments into their civil and criminal codes.

George Washington said, "It is impossible to govern the world without God and the Bible."

That we have heard so much talk of the "separation of church and state" when we find that the phrase does not appear in the constitution. It was coined from a letter that was penned by Thomas Jefferson to the Danbury Baptist Association assuring them that he would keep the Government out of the Church, and not the church out of government.

When our Presidents take the oath of office, they place their hand on the Bible and concludes the oath of office by affirming "so help me God."

The constitutions of all states mention God.

Abraham Lincoln, the besieged 16th President, said this over a nation on the brink of the Civil War, "We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven, but we have forgotten God and his gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us."

Presidents Roosevelt, Wilson, and Coolidge all spoke about our dependence on God.

Franklin Roosevelt prayed this prayer on national radio on D-Day, June 6, 1944: Almighty God, with Thy blessing we shall prevail over the unholy forces of our enemy. Help us to conquer the apostles of greed and racial arrogance. Lead us to the saving of our country. They will be done, Almighty God."

President Ronald Reagan, "If we ever forget that we are 'one nation under God,' then we will be one nation gone under."

Landmarks are there for you and me, from the past, for the future . . . and with your help and the strength of the Lord our God they shall not be moved.