

TRIBUTE TO LARY BURGETT

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lary Burgett for receiving the 2006 Isaac M. Cline Award from the National Weather Service. The Cline Award is the highest honor the National Weather Service can bestow upon its employees. Mr. Burgett is the third local recipient of this award since the Huntsville Weather Forecasting Office was established in 2003.

The Isaac M. Cline Award is presented each year to individuals and teams that have made significant contributions in support of the National Weather Service's strategic and operational plans. Mr. Burgett was awarded the Cline Award for maintaining a high level of performance in North Alabama throughout the year.

Madam Speaker, the Tennessee Valley has a weather pattern much different from the rest of the nation. In 2002, the National Weather Service established a Weather Forecasting Office in Huntsville in order to track and predict this region's volatile weather systems. Mr. Burgett is one of the original employees of Huntsville's WFO who also worked at the previous Huntsville Weather Service Office. His knowledge and experience was critical during the transition and start-up of our WFO. He has continued his level of professionalism for over twenty-nine years.

Madam Speaker, the employees of the Huntsville Weather Forecasting Office are gathering today to recognize and celebrate Mr. Burgett for receiving the 2006 Isaac M. Cline Award. I rise today to join in their celebration and to congratulate Lary Burgett on this honor.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF MURRAY COUNTY

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Murray County, Minnesota on its sesquicentennial anniversary and to commemorate the celebration that will be taking place July 27–29, 2007 to recognize the 150th anniversary of the founding of Murray County.

Murray County was founded in 1857 and named after William Pitt Murray, a political leader in Minnesota at the time. However, the roots of Murray County go back to 1833, when the American Fur Company built a trading post on the edge of Bear Lake.

This trading post was the first settlement in what would become Murray County. It was soon joined by the county's first bank, hotel, store, and post office. And even more impressive is that everyone of these buildings were constructed on the plains of western Minnesota before one single building was built on the future sites of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Throughout its 150-year history, Murray County has been an outstanding example of the innovation and sense of community that its founders brought to the Minnesota prairie. I

congratulate the residents of Murray County on 150 years of success and wish them a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO THE CROATIAN SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union for reaching a momentous milestone, its 100th Anniversary. As is their annual tradition, the lodge will take this opportunity to celebrate with a Golden Member banquet, which will take place on Sunday, August 12, 2007.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration includes a ceremonial appreciation of the Union's Golden Members, those individuals who have achieved 50 years of membership. This year's Golden Members include: Judith Marie Brefeld, Geraldine Brklevich, Shirley Bronikowski, Esther M. Fadell, Antone J. Giorgi, Joseph L. Haralovich, Madelin Kazmier, Juliana H. King, George Kirincic, Michael Kuchaes, Jr., Judith Kathleen Lavery, Frank Joseph Mosca, Sr., William Pulford, Elizabeth J. Sedey, Stevan J. Trtan, Phyllis M. Vician, Dean J. Wantland, Joseph Winkler, and Angela A. Yelusich.

These faithful and devoted individuals share this esteemed tribute with over 400 other Golden Members who have previously attained this prestigious designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at the Croatian Center's gazebo with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The Saint George Tamburitians from Cokeburg, Pennsylvania will perform at the mass, which will be followed by a gala event and formal dinner featuring the DUNAV Orchestra.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge President Betty Morgavan and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170 for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in elevating the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring happiness, good health, and success for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, during consideration of the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3043), I incorrectly voted no on the Pence Amendment. During the rapidity of voting on the series of 13 amendments to this bill, I mistakenly voted against Congressman PENCE's amendment that would

have prohibited funds in the bill from funding the Planned Parenthood Federation of America or any of its affiliates. It was my full intention to vote for this amendment, as I have been and continue to be a strong advocate of pro-life issues and legislation. My voting record makes it apparently clear that I have never wavered in my support of pro-life legislation. In closing, I fully support Congressman PENCE's amendment to H.R. 3043, and I will continue to vote in favor of pro-life legislation as I have done throughout my 14 years in Congress.

IN HONOR OF MR. MACEO SNIPES

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a forgotten soldier whose achievements mandate acknowledgement from this deliberative body. The Second Congressional District of Georgia is proud to call the late Maceo Snipes—a man of distinction—one of our own. In recognition of his service and tragic death, a memorial service was held in his honor on Saturday, July 21, 2007.

On March 28, 1909 Maceo Snipes was born to the late John and Lula Snipes in Taylor County, Georgia. At the age of 34, he enlisted into the U.S. Army, where he honorably fought in World War II.

Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Rupert, Georgia, where his courage continued to exemplify. Maceo Snipes made history in Taylor County, when he made a statement by voting in the 1946 primary election. In this process, he became the first African-American to vote in Taylor County since the Reconstruction.

Unfortunately the novelty actions of Mr. Snipes led others to bigotry. The next day Maceo Snipes was shot at his family home in Taylor County, Georgia. Three days following the brutal shooting, Maceo Snipes died in Atlanta, GA. The day was July 17, 1946. Although he died, his diligent spirit will continue to live in the memories of Georgians. For years to come, proponents of civil rights will look to his example for inspiration.

So on this 24th day of July, 2007, I with great honor commend Maceo Snipes for his service and bravery. Snipes is a credit to the ideal American, who devoted his life to his community and our country.

STOP THE BLAME GAME WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, over the last week or so I have listened to a number of my colleagues come to the floor of this Chamber to lament the 1974 "invasion" of Cyprus. For many years the United States, the European Union and other members of the international community have worked together for a just and lasting solution to the vexing problem of Cyprus. That is why I am deeply

concerned when I hear some of my colleagues throwing barbs at the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey in an attempt to lay all the blame for this complicated issue at their doorstep. Because by distorting the facts, we are potentially undermining our good-faith, efforts to see this conflict resolved and to see peace and prosperity come to all the people of Cyprus.

The fact is that when the Island of Cyprus gained its independence from Great Britain in 1960, the Republic's constitution specifically defined a power-sharing arrangement which required a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice-president, each elected by their constituency.

The fact is that in 1963 Greek Cypriot President Makarios proposed sweeping constitutional modifications which heavily favored the Greek Cypriot community. The changes removed most of the checks and balances which had been built into the constitution to ensure the safety and equal status of the Turkish Cypriots. The inevitable result was a serious deterioration of relations between the two parties, which came to a head in December 1963, when armed Greek Cypriots attacked and killed many Turkish Cypriots who were unable to escape. The armed conflict spread quickly, with the Turkish Cypriots eventually being forced to withdraw into enclaves to defend themselves.

For the next 10 years, the campaign of the Greek Cypriots cost the Turkish Cypriots many lives and untold suffering, as well as their equal partnership status in the Cyprus government.

Former United States Undersecretary of State, George Ball, who, among others, was 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 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).

The fact is that during the presidential elections of 1974, Archbishop of Cyprus Makarios—the Greek Cypriot leader at the time—escalated the crisis by embracing Enosis, or Union with Greece, as his election platform. Although Makarios won reelection he also created a power struggle between the military junta in control of mainland Greece and himself for the control over the Island. That power struggle culminated in a coup which forced Makarios to flee Cyprus and renewed ethnic cleansing of Turkish Cypriots.

In his address to the UN Security Council on July 19, 1974, Makarios himself described the coup as "a clear attack from the outside and a flagrant violation of the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Cyprus".

The fact is that in the face of a bloody coup that not only threatened the independence of Cyprus but also resulted in renewed massacres of Turkish Cypriots, Turkey, which was treaty-bound to act as a Guarantor State, was compelled to undertake action on July 20, 1974. And the fact is that 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.

The fact is that the Turkish intervention was legitimate and was internationally confirmed

by, among others, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe (CACE). CACE resolution 573, dated July 29, 1974, clearly states, "Turkey exercised its right of intervention in accordance with Article IV of the Guarantee Treaty of 1960."

Unfortunately, since 1974, and in defiance of the rule of law and the established principle that federations can only be built on a foundation of equal partnership, the Greek Cypriot side continues to claim exclusive sovereignty over the entire Island. In 1983, this prompted the Turkish Cypriot side to assert its rights by proclaiming the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

After many unsuccessful attempts at reconciliation, U.N.-led direct talks between the two sides began in early 2002. The talks sketched out a settlement—the Annan Plan—which was voted on in simultaneous referenda held on each side on April 24, 2004.

The fact is that Turkish Cypriots approved the Annan Plan by a clear and overwhelming majority of 65 percent but Greek Cypriots—under heavy pressure from the Greek Cypriot government—rejected it by an even larger majority of 76 percent. The Turkish Cypriots were internationally and rightly praised for their "courageous vote in favor of the proposals".

The Greek Cypriot side has since been trying to justify its rejection by claiming, among other things, that the plan "did not meet the interests of the country" and that "it did not provide for guarantees to ensure the complete implementation of commitments under the plan". However, impartial European Union diplomats, closely associated with the reconciliation effort, have gone so far as to say very undiplomatically, that the Greek Cypriot people had been "lied to" by the Greek Cypriot government as to the details of the Annan plan.

As public servants I think the members of this House understand that no compromise worth its salt ever fully meets all of the demands of either side, nor could it do so or it wouldn't be much of a compromise. The fact is that the Annan Plan was a carefully balanced compromise that certainly from the Turkish Cypriot perspective represented immense sacrifices on the part of the Turkish Cypriots, on such key issues as land, resettlement, property and security.

The Greek government and several former Greek government leaders fully supported the plan and the Turkish government was also pivotal in encouraging the Turkish Cypriots to approve the plan. In the end, the only people who were not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to bring peace to this troubled island where the Greek Cypriots—yet they were inexplicably rewarded membership to the EU; although some EU leaders have subsequently stated that doing so was a mistake.

The fact is that despite the Greek Cypriots' failure to embrace peace and the international community's failure to end the economic isolation of the Turkish Cypriots; Turkish Cypriots continue to seek a just and peaceful settlement to this crisis.

Most recently, Turkey and Turkish Cypriots have supported implementation of the July 8, 2006, United Nations-brokered agreement between Greek Cypriot leader Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus through a process of bi-communal discussions.

Some of my colleagues, particularly those who support House Resolution 405 (H. Res.

405), would have this House believe that Turkish Cypriots are unwilling to proceed with the July 8 agreement. But I would ask my colleagues this simple question; when offered the chance to vote for peace which side rejected peace, Turkish or Greek? The answer is Greek.

Under the circumstances it should make one wonder if Greek Cypriots, having already forestalled UN efforts to resolve the Cyprus issue—and been rewarded for it through EU membership—whether they truly feel under pressure to seek a just solution. The fact is that the status quo benefits Greek Cypriots significantly more than Turkish Cypriots and it seems to me that if either side has an incentive to delay implementation of the July 8 agreement; it would be the Greek Cypriots.

Madam Speaker, facts are stubborn things; and as the facts in this case clearly show, the crisis on Cyprus is significantly more complex than the "blame Turkey" special interest groups would like people to believe. It's time for these groups and their friends in Congress to end the "blame game" and get down to the real work of reshaping Cyprus into a Cyprus that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BARBARA SCRUGGS

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, in June, my hometown of Grantville, GA, lost one of its treasures upon the death of Mrs. Barbara Scruggs, who was an activist, a public servant, a devoted wife and mother, a patron of the arts and an American patriot. She was 75.

Born in Pennsylvania, Barbara wasn't a Georgia native. She chose Georgia as her home and loved the state and Coweta County with the zeal of a convert.

After graduating from nursing school in 1954, Barbara eventually served her Nation as a nurse in the U.S. Air Force in 1957 and 1958. It was during that time that she fell in love with a fighter pilot named William Gordon Scruggs, whom she married in 1957. They eventually moved to Coweta County and raised three children together there.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Barbara's parents had raised her as a Republican, but when she moved South, Georgia was conservative but it was a one-party state controlled at every level by Democrats. Barbara became a politically active Republican in Coweta County at a time when no one in Georgia had ever heard of such a thing. To paraphrase a country song, Barbara Scruggs was a Republican when being a Republican wasn't cool.

She always followed politics closely and got involved. She took leadership positions in the Coweta County Republican Party and the Coweta County Republican Women's Club, handling the latter's newsletter duties for many years. Prominent in the Georgia GOP—described as a volunteer always willing to do more than her share—she was selected as a delegate to the 2000 Republican National Convention, where she proudly donned patriotic attire and donated to future first lady Laura Bush's book drive for local libraries.