

area has a high population of military members. These patriots greatly benefit from the library's available programs.

For all its exemplary services, the Eglin Air Force Base Library was awarded the Air Force Library Program of the Year Award on June 12, 2008. The First District of Florida is incredibly grateful for the staff's hard work and diligent efforts to the public and continues to benefit from the library's services. The library's commendable performance has distinguished it as one of the great organizations in north-west Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the Eglin Base Library for all its outstanding dedication to the community.

TAIWAN

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago on September 11, 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower went before the Nation in a radio-television broadcast to speak to the matter of what we today refer to as the Second Taiwan Crisis. The Second Taiwan Crisis was when mainland China had been shelling Taiwan's Quemoy and Matsu Islands for almost 3 weeks. Records from the Republic of China report that over the course of the Second Taiwan Crisis, there were 3,000 civilian and 1,000 military casualties.

President Eisenhower explained that the United States would not waver in its commitment to assist Taiwan in its struggle to remain free of communist domination.

Taiwan, and the islands of Penghu, Quemoy and Matsu have been home of the Republic of China, ROC, ever since the Chinese nationalists, under General Chiang Kai-shek, lost their battle to secure democracy on the Chinese mainland to Mao Zedong in that Nation's civil war, which ended in 1949.

President Eisenhower strongly reaffirmed the United States support of Chiang Kai-shek and his ROC government, noting, "Some misguided persons have said that Quemoy is nothing to become excited about," but pointed out their error, warning that the Red Chinese, under Mao Zedong were using the attacks on the islands to test the free world's courage in resisting aggression. President Eisenhower stated that it was the opinion of his government that the bombardment and blockade of Quemoy and Matsu were not so much a genuine attempt to conquer the Taiwanese islands, but were as part of a plan "to liquidate all of the free world positions in the Western Pacific."

In a firm statement of policy, President Eisenhower promised U.S. allies that there would be "no Pacific Munich." Eisenhower also expressed a sincere hope for "negotiations" for peaceful and honorable solutions, directly or through the U.N.

Americans have not forgotten the free China on Taiwan, but need to be "reminded" of it. And while many today fail to grasp the difference between the ROC and the People's Republic of China they need to know that it is the difference between freedom and communism.

Today, having recently elected its third president, Taiwan is a thriving democratic republic. As citizens of United States of America, we must insure that Taiwan is assisted in its desire to remain a democratic nation. To that end, we will hold faith with the Taiwan Relations Act.

When running for the Republican nomination as President of the United States, George W. Bush was asked on national TV what he would do if push ever came to shove with mainland China on Taiwan—in other words, what would he be willing to do if the communist PRC ever threatened to take over the ROC on Taiwan. He responded in clear and concise language: "Whatever it takes."

Thus, as Taiwan celebrates the 50th anniversary of the August 23, 1958, Bombardment War, we join with Taiwan's President Ma, in his August 23, 2008, visit to Quemoy, where he will personally salute his nation's military, all the citizens of Taiwan and their United States military allies, in their ongoing struggle for self-determination.

Henceforth, let the word go forth that at one time there were people willing to sacrifice, even to death, to protect what they considered payment towards a future of freedom, one not dictated by any outside "detractor," but by those of a citizenry choosing their destiny. Nor should the world forget that today, because of their sacrifice, Taiwan is a free democratic republic.

God has blessed the world with a free, vibrant and productive society in the democratic people on all the islands of Taiwan. May the citizens of Taiwan live long in freedom.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR OTIS SMITH, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Command Sergeant Major Otis Smith, Jr., an exemplary citizen and soldier from my Congressional District retiring this month after 33 years of military service. CSM Smith currently serves as Armor Center and Fort Knox, KY CSM.

CSM Smith entered the Army in March 1975 as a cavalry scout and graduated from OSUT at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. His first assignment was with A Troop, 15th Cavalry at Fort Benning, GA, as a loader and driver of a Sheridan. He was later assigned to 1-64 Armor in Kitzingen, Germany as a gunner for the improved tow vehicle.

In November of 1978, CSM Smith was assigned to Fort Knox, KY, as an Instructor for 19D Advanced Individual Training. He served as a Drill Sergeant at Fort Knox from 1980 to 1982.

CSM Smith returned to 1-64 Armor in Kitzingen, Germany, in September 1982, where he served as a Scout Squad Leader and Platoon Sergeant. He served as an instructor at the Primary Leadership Development Course at Fort Bliss, TX from 1985 to 1989. CSM Smith returned to Europe in November 1989 to serve as an Evaluator and Observer/Controller for Bradley Gunnery at the 7th Army Training Center in Vilseck, Germany. In 1993 he was assigned to 2-37 Armor

(Vilseck) and served as the acting Operation Sergeant Major for six months before assuming duties as First Sergeant of C/2-37 Armor, with a tour of duty at TF Able Sentry (Macedonia) from March to September 1996.

CSM Smith's next assignment took him to Fort Stewart, GA, where he served as the Operation Sergeant Major of 3-69 Armor for eight months. CSM Smith attended the Sergeants Major Academy from August 1997 to May 1998, subsequently returning to Fort Stewart where he assumed duties as the Operation Sergeant Major of 2d Brigade, 3d Infantry Division, with a deployment to "Operation Desert Fox."

In March of 1999 CSM Smith assumed the duties as CSM of 1-64 Armor. In April of 2001, after a successful SFOR 8 rotation, CSM Smith assumed the duties as the 2d Brigade CSM, with deployments to "Operation Desert Spring" and "Operation Iraqi Freedom." CSM Smith served as the Armor School CSM from August 2003 to July 2005 before receiving his current assignment.

CSM Smith was a tireless advocate of Fort Knox's military value and future viability in the months leading up to the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure consideration. He has remained a valuable steward at the Armor School and throughout the Installation during this time a war and administrative transition.

CSM Smith's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal, U.N. Medal, Global War of Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Drill Sergeant Badge and the Order of Saint George.

It is my great privilege to recognize Command Sergeant Major Otis Smith, Jr. today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his lifelong example of leadership and service. His unique achievements and dedication to the men and women of the U.S. Army make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

REAL HOPE FOR PEACE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, Sunday July 20, 2008, marked the 34th anniversary of the day in 1974 when Turkey intervened to stop an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots by militant Greek Cypriots. Over the course of the next few days I am sure that a number of my colleagues will come to the floor of this Chamber to lament the so-called "invasion" of Cyprus. I have said this before and I say it again, 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. The truth is that an unbiased examination of the facts leads to a different conclusion; and by

distorting the facts, by continuing to perpetuate the myth that Turkish Cypriots and Turkey are solely to blame for this incident, I fear that such statements only undermine the good faith efforts of the United States, the European Union and other members of the international community to finally see this conflict resolved; and to see peace and prosperity come to all the people of Cyprus.

Tragically, an historic opportunity to resolve the crisis was lost when the Annan Plan, a UN-brokered proposal to settle the dispute, was soundly defeated by the Greek Cypriots in April 2004. Although the plan had broad support from the international community, and was ratified by the Turkish Cypriots, the Greek Cypriots inexplicably rejected the proposal by a 3 to 1 margin. Those individuals and special interest groups who adhere to the "blame Turkey" school of thought on the status of Cyprus seem to ignore the irony of the fact that when offered the chance to vote for peace, it was the Greek and not the Turkish side that rejected peace.

After the referendum, then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan reported to the Security Council that "the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them;" he called for all Security Council members to "give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development." Unfortunately, while the Greek Cypriots became full members of the European Union, little changed for the Turkish Cypriots and their economic and political isolation continues to this day.

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 continued to seek a just and a peaceful settlement to this crisis. Unfortunately, the issue was at a virtual standstill until recent elections in southern Cyprus brought a new Greek leadership to the forefront who seems more willing to reach a settlement.

In fact, the two leaders in Cyprus, Greek Cypriot Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Mehmet Ali Talat, met on July 1, 2008 and achieved a remarkable breakthrough by striking an agreement in principle on the issue of a single sovereignty and citizenship. They also agreed to meet again on July 25th to prepare for the first full-fledged negotiations in four years. United States Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Daniel Fried, who has followed the talks closely, has said that: "There's a chance . . . that we will be moving forward again in a way we haven't in some time." He has also hinted that the Administration is considering appointing a special envoy to Cyprus.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Greek and Turkish Cypriot Leaders for their recent courageous steps; and I sincerely hope that when they meet again a few days from today that they will get down to the real work of reshaping Cyprus into a peaceful island that respects human rights and the fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots. I also sincerely hope that all of my colleagues will learn from their example and join with me to end the 'blame game,' and instead advocate for an even handed approach to the thorny issue that is Cyprus, an approach that recognizes the fun-

damental equality of all Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S GRASS-ROOTS PROGRAM

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the National Football League, NFL, for its continuing efforts to improve the lives of America's youth both on and off the field.

In 1998, the NFL and NFL Players Association organized the NFL Youth Football Fund, YFF, which is a non-profit foundation that supports the game of football at the youth level and promotes positive youth development. This wonderful organization has provided hundreds of thousands of children with the opportunity to learn the game of football, stay physically active, and get involved in productive after-school activities with positive role models.

One important initiative that the YFF has undertaken is its Grassroots Field Refurbishment Program. This unique program provides funds for communities to revamp local athletic fields so that youth have a safe place for athletic activities. The fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goal posts and turf. The YFF has contributed nearly \$23 million through the Grassroots Program to rebuild 170 fields nationwide in underserved areas.

The NFL recently awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Jersey City public schools to help replace the playing field at Cochrane Stadium in the Caven Point Athletic Complex, which is located in my home state of New Jersey. The field was closed in April 2008 because of concerns about high levels of lead found in the astroturf surface. The sports complex at Caven Point is an integral part of youth athletics in Hudson County and many of my constituents use these facilities. I am extremely pleased that the NFL is assisting the community in this way.

I am honored to have an outstanding NFL franchise such as the Giants, who are the Super Bowl XLII Champions, play in my Congressional district at their home field of Giants Stadium in East Rutherford. Our local community continues to proudly support the Giants and is grateful that the NFL has selected Jersey City to receive a grant to improve their local athletic playing field.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in commending the National Football League for its consistent support of our youth across the country. I also ask for unanimous consent to enter an article from the Jersey Journal into the RECORD.

[From the Jersey Journal, June 10, 2008]

NFL GIVING \$200G TO HELP REPLACE TURF AT COCHRANE STADIUM

(By Ken Thorbourne)

The National Football League is chipping in to replace an athletic field in Jersey City that was closed in April due to concerns about lead. The National Football League Grassroots Program announced the \$200,000

grant to the Jersey City public schools to help replace the heavily used Cochrane Stadium field at the Caven Point Athletic Complex last week.

"The district is thrilled the NFL is supporting local athletics," said Board of Education spokesman Gerard Crisonino. "We see it as a real commitment to the students of Jersey City."

Cochrane Stadium—along with the field at Frank Sinatra Park in Hoboken—were closed after elevated levels of lead were found in the synthetic fibers. The Hoboken field has already been replaced.

Crisonino said a new field at Caven Point is expected to cost \$1.1 million. In addition to the NFL grant, the district expects to receive city and county money. Specifications are being drawn up to bid the contract, he added.

Elevated lead levels were also found at the College of New Jersey's Lions Stadium Field in Ewing, which also has a synthetic turf field.

"Fields are an integral part of creating viable and healthy communities," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in a statement. "The development and refurbishment of these football fields give youngsters a safe place to play the game, and brings families and neighborhoods together."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 22, 2008, I was unavoidably detained in my congressional district and had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: (1) rollcall No. 512: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 6493; (2) rollcall No. 513: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 1311; (3) rollcall No. 514: "yes" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H. Res. 1202.

RECOGNIZING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Hellenic Caucus, I rise today to recognize the 34th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus. On this occasion, we mourn those who lost their lives and remember the barrier created in 1974 that still exists today. The island remains divided between the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots, despite attempts by the international community for a reunification settlement.

I have repeatedly emphasized the need for a peaceful settlement to the ongoing division in Cyprus—a goal that has eluded American and European leaders for more than thirty years. I believe that a strong U.S. commitment to Cyprus should be one of our nation's top foreign policy priorities. As Americans, we must guarantee that our foreign policy reflects our values of justice, equality and responsibility, and promoting a lasting peace and stability in Cyprus illustrates those values.