

HONORING BRADFORD LOVE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Bradford Love of Lee's Summit, Missouri. Bradford is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bradford has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Bradford has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Bradford Love for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CYPRUS**HON. KAY GRANGER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, a new sense of optimism has emerged in the international community regarding Cyprus. Since the February 2008 election of Demetris Christofias as Greek Cypriot President, the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have met three times and have agreed to work toward a new federal partnership.

The most recent meeting between the leaders of the Turkish and Greek Cypriots was held on July 1, 2008. As stated in the Joint Declaration, they decided to meet again on July 25 to review the final reports of the working groups and technical committees and also to announce the commencement of full-fledged negotiations.

On April 24, 2000, after years of negotiations, both communities held separate votes on the United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan (Annan Plan). Turkish Cypriots approved the plan by 65 percent, while Greek Cypriots rejected it by 76 percent. Ironically, Greek Cypriots became members of the European Union, and Turkish Cypriots remained subject to political and economic isolation.

Hopefully, the process can move forward. The international community should encourage the sides to reach a comprehensive and just solution which will bring peace and stability not only on the island but also to the region as a whole.

As co-chair of the Turkey Caucus, I should inform my colleagues that Turkey continues to support Turkish Cypriot Leader Mehmet Ali Talat in his quest for a solution. Turkey will continue to support the process in good faith and encourages all sides to find an overdue solution to the Cyprus question.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the American Society of Hematology (ASH) on its 50th anniversary. I also want to thank hematologists for their significant contributions to the research, treatment, and advocacy of sickle cell disease and other blood and bone marrow disorders.

Sickle Cell disease affects between 50,000 and 100,000 individuals in this country. In addition, almost 2,000 babies are born with sickle cell disease each year. While researchers make progress with treatments, patients continue to suffer from debilitating pain, frequent infections, anemia, and vision problems. Sickle cell disease also can lead to serious complications such as blood clots, organ failure, and strokes.

Undoubtedly, hematologists have helped lead the way in the development of new therapies and treatments for sickle cell disease. As a result of their work and advocacy, today's neonatal screening program has improved the overall health and survival of patients. In 1998, transcranial screening allowed doctors to identify sickle cell patients at risk for stroke and treat them with blood transfusions. Hematologists also have been responsible for pioneering the use of hydroxyurea in the successful treatment of the disease.

Moreover, ASH has been a leader in sickle cell advocacy by seeking additional funding for the Federal Government's sickle cell programs as well as helping Federal agencies identify major scientific opportunities in basic and clinical research of the disease. ASH was one of the leading organizations working with Congress on legislation to create the Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Demonstration Program—a federally funded program designed to improve and expand patient and provider education and the continuity and coordination of care for individuals with the disease. In fact, ASH worked diligently with congressional leaders to fund this program through August, 2010.

I look forward to continuing to work with ASH and its members to pursue the common goal of expanding research and providing excellent care for patients with sickle cell disease.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKEECHOBEE HURRICANE**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution memorializing the 80th anniversary of the Okeechobee Hurricane and the tragic losses of life from the catastrophic event. The experience of the Okeechobee Hurricane touches the lives of so many of my constituents and those throughout the Florida delegation, as well as my colleagues representing territories throughout the Caribbean.

This September marks 80 years since the Okeechobee Hurricane, also known as Hurricane San Felipe Segundo, ravaged Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Bahamas, and numerous islands of the Caribbean. At this point in 1928, a number of factors contributed to this hurricane having the second largest death toll in United States history ever recorded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Tragically, over 4,000 lives were lost along the path of the Okeechobee Hurricane.

Madam Speaker, Floridians living near Lake Okeechobee in communities that I now represent experienced a devastating loss of life when the hurricane led to extensive breaches of the levees surrounding the lake. Of the more than 3,000 casualties in the continental United States, more than 75 percent were migrant workers near Lake Okeechobee who were overwhelmingly African American. The lack of capacity to respond to the devastation of the storm and racial overtures of the era led to extensive disparities in the treatment of victims of this hurricane. Many African Americans were buried in poorly marked mass graves, including one site in West Palm Beach where over 670 unfortunate souls were laid to rest. Similar graves for white victims of the tragedy were visibly memorialized, whereas many African American graves were forgotten and only recognized many years later. When considering the development of a community, neglecting these darker moments of our history can overlook important lessons, as we saw with the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Beyond recognition for all victims of the Okeechobee Hurricane tragedy, their loss should inform us how to prevent future injustices in disaster response and mitigation.

The potential for devastation due to failing infrastructure following similar natural disasters exists in many places throughout our nation. Thus, it is absolutely vital that we learn from the past and invest in strengthening our vulnerable water management infrastructure to prevent future tragic losses. We must also prioritize initiatives to educate migrant workers, economically disadvantaged communities, and others who may be disproportionately impacted by hurricanes and other natural disasters.

Madam Speaker, I call on my colleagues to join me memorializing the tragic loss of the Okeechobee Hurricane and reaffirming our commitment to protecting all inhabitants of the United States from the devastation of hurricanes. This resolution is the first step to encouraging our respective localities to prioritize natural disaster preparedness and education economically disadvantaged communities. I look forward to working with my colleagues toward its expeditious passage.

BARBARA ELOISE EARNEST**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a distinguished member of the Colton community and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Barbara "Bobbie" Eloise Earnest.

Bobbie was born in Indio, California on January 30, 1930. After moving as a child, she

became a lifelong resident of Colton, California. Her mother, Gertrude Valenzan, was the first female Mayor Pro-Tem of Colton.

Bobbie graduated from Colton High School in 1948. An enterprising young woman, long before women were encouraged to work outside the home, Bobbie began working at the age of 16 in the mail room of the Retail Clerks Union, which would later become the United Food and Commercial Workers Union UCFW. For nearly forty years, Bobbie worked tirelessly for the UCFW, rising through the ranks from what she called “an envelope licker” to Insurance Department Supervisor for the UCFW for all of San Bernardino County. She was also the recorder for all of the minutes of all the union meetings for all of those years.

After retiring in 1985, Bobbie took up golf. Always insisting on walking, never using a cart or caddy, she famously walked all 18 holes 3 or 4 times a week well into her seventies. She was known in her neighborhood as a caring, compassionate woman, the “Mother Teresa” to her friends.

A devout woman, Bobbie was an active member of Immaculate Conception church in Colton, CA. Also a family woman, she raised her three children Nick, Larry, and Becky by herself. In 1980, she met and married Leroy Johnson and shared in a loving relationship for 28 years. Bobbie’s true pride was her 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

In her youth, Bobbie was known as a first-rate dancer, and had once been a dance partner of the great Johnnie Bracia. And it was with that same spirit of grace, style and elegance that Barbara Eloise Earnest touched the lives of all those around her.

Let us take a moment to remember this amazing woman and her admirable dedication to others and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. Having known her for over twenty years, the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with her loved ones at this time.

Madam Speaker, the community of Colton has lost one of its greatest native daughters, but she will forever live on in the hearts of those that knew her. God Bless Bobbie Earnest for love of country and mankind.

ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH
INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, this year we mark the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, a day in which the freedoms and human rights of the island’s Greek Cypriots were violated. 200,000 Greek Cypriots lost their homes and almost 5,000 were killed in the invasion. Today, 43,000 Turkish troops maintain an illegal occupation in gross violation of international laws. Amazingly, there are more Turkish military personnel on the tiny island than U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. Since the beginning of the occupation, thousands of Cypriots have been killed and many families were torn apart as a result of the invasion. Religious artifacts, many dating back to the 8th Century, were stolen, desecrated or destroyed. It is our duty to re-

member this anniversary so that we can move forward in bringing a resolution to the Cyprus Problem.

In 1997, I had the opportunity to travel to Cyprus. I saw the barbed wire that divides free Cyprus from occupied Cyprus and hoped for a day when Cyprus would be unified. Turkey’s violation of international law and the United Nations’ peace treaties remains an injustice. Free Cyprus has been a crucial ally to the United States in the War on Terror and has provided millions in economic aid to Turkish Cypriots. In Congress it is our responsibility to stand up for those Cypriots who have stood with us for so many years. It is our duty to speak for the hundreds of thousands of silenced Greek Cypriots who are threatened with oppression in Turkish occupied Cyprus. There is a reason to feel hopeful about a solution to the Cyprus Problem. Preliminary discussions have taken place between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to hopefully lay the groundwork for official negotiations. It is my hope that Turkey allows these discussions to go on undisturbed and for the Turkish military to retreat back to its own nation. The next time I visit Cyprus, I want that barbed wire to be a distant memory. I want Cyprus to be free again. Together, with cooperation from the United States and the international community, we will see that day.

HONORING KYLE WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Williams of Grain Valley, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Kyle Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE U.S. AIR FORCE
B-52H STRATOFORTRESS CREW
LOST ON JULY 21, 2008

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives and service of Major Christopher M. Cooper, aircraft commander; Major Brent D. Williams, navigator; Captain Michael K. Dodson, co-pilot; First Lieutenant Joshua D. Shepherd, navigator; First Lieutenant Robert Gerren, electronic warfare officer; and Colonel George Martin, flight surgeon,

who were the crew of a B-52H Stratofortress that crashed off the coast of Guam on July 21, 2008. The crew was assigned to the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and were deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam as part of the Air Force’s continual bomber presence in the Pacific. Colonel Martin was the on-board flight surgeon and deputy commander of the 36th Medical Group at Andersen Air Force Base. The B-52 was preparing to fly over Guam’s annual Liberation Day parade, commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam during World War II after thirty-two months of occupation by enemy forces.

This tragic event reminds us of the constant dangers that are faced by our men and women in uniform. The loss of this crew is felt by the Air Force family throughout the world and our island community of Guam. The people of Guam will always remember this crew on Liberation Day and their untimely passing gives us all the more reason to appreciate our freedom and the many sacrifices made by the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces defending our nation.

In their honor, I would like to recite the poem “High Flight” by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.:

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sundown I’ve climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov’ring there
I’ve chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I’ve topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I’ve trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to all the families of these brave airmen who gave their lives in the service of their country.

God bless the families of these brave men, God bless the men and women defending our freedom, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE JCC MACCABI
ARTSFEST: FAIRFAX 2008

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Madam speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Community Center (JCC) Maccabi ArtsFest that is taking place this summer in Fairfax, Virginia.

The JCC Maccabi ArtsFest was first launched in Baltimore, Maryland, during the summer of 2006. The program was designed to inspire Jewish teenagers to engage in the fine arts while using their religion as a vehicle to impact their community. This is accomplished by a dynamic combination of workshops, performances, exhibitions, recognition