

Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project and earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Social Security as its 75th birthday nears.

Social Security is among the most important programs ever created by our Government. Older Americans have worked hard and made sacrifices to ensure a better, stronger country for future generations. They deserve a secure, healthy retirement.

Without Social Security, one out of every two seniors would fall into poverty, and the disabled and survivors—including millions of children—would find themselves without this critical safety net in their time of need.

In my district alone, over 120,000 people received Social Security benefits in 2009, including over 77,000 seniors and nearly 13,000 children who receive benefits because a family member has retired, become disabled, or died. Today, as we approach its 75th anniversary, Social Security is once again under assault by Congressional Republicans.

The ranking Republican member on the House Committee on the Budget introduced H.R. 4529, the Roadmap for America's Future, which purports to rescue and strengthen Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, allowing them to fulfill their missions and making them permanently solvent—all while putting the federal budget on a sustainable path. If this were true, I would be the first in line to cosponsor the legislation.

However, independent analysis of the bill revealed the plan would raise taxes for most middle-income families, privatize a substantial portion of Social Security, and replace Medicare with a voucher system that would cover fewer and fewer health care services as the years went by.

What I find most disturbing about this proposal is the failure to acknowledge a connection between the recent volatility of the stock market and the effect that would have on privatized Social Security accounts.

When a trillion dollars of wealth can disappear in 30 minutes, as it did on May 6, 2010, we know that the stock market is not the place for seniors' life savings. Privatization, or partial privatization, of the Social Security system would have been disastrous for millions of senior citizens that depend on their Social Security checks every month.

Too many seniors in this country saw their retirement savings decimated by President Bush's economic crisis. I rise today to assure

seniors that I and the Democrats in Congress will continue to stand firmly opposed to any and all efforts to privatize Social Security. Seniors can count on us to preserve Social Security for both current beneficiaries and generations to come.

TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, today marks the 35th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. The 1974 invasion claimed the lives of approximately 5,000 Greek Cypriots, while 200,000 were forcefully expelled from their homes. This is a dark chapter not only for Hellenes, but for all of Europe.

As this occupation continues, nearly 43,000 Turkish soldiers—nearly one soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots—are embedded in Cyprus, occupying over 35 percent of the island. This occupied area is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

Yet despite this military presence, Turkish and Greek Cypriots live in relative harmony. Since Ledra Street was opened, connecting occupied Cyprus to the south, over 13 million Greek and Turkish Cypriots have crossed the partition without incident. One can't help but wonder whom the Turkish military is protecting.

While Turkey's influence continues to wreak havoc on reunification negotiations, Cypriot President Demetrius Christofias continues to make the solution to the Cyprus problem his top priority. Having met with him in Nicosia last year, his commitment to finding a solution greatly impressed me. There was certainly no lack of will on the Greek Cypriot side.

To conclude, as we remember the invasion that split Cyprus in two, it is important to note that there are concrete efforts underway by the heads of the respective communities to reunify. Greek and Turkish Cypriots alike want to see a solution. What stands in the way is Turkey. If it still cares about ascending to the European Union, Turkey would be wise to remove its troops and stop impeding progress. For the sake of Cyprus, I hope Turkey wakes up.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, yesterday I missed rollcall vote No. 448 on H. Res. 1472, rollcall vote No. 449 on H. Con. Res. 126, and rollcall vote No. 450 on H. Res. 1219. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on each of these rollcall votes.

HONORING ZACHARY AULGUR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary Aulgur. Zachary 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF CYPRUS

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate once again the anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, beginning in 1974, lasting up to the present time. The division of Cyprus has wreaked havoc on the island nation and left its Turkish-occupied section in disarray. It is cruel that the Cypriot people should continue to be subjected to this conflict.

This anniversary is particularly troubling, given Turkey's role in recent events in the Mediterranean. In May, the Turkish government supported a flotilla of boats attempting to run Israel's blockade of Gaza. Those so-called "peace activists" attacked the Israeli soldiers with bats, clubs and bricks, demonstrating their real intent: to harm Israel, rather than to help the people of Gaza.

In the aftermath of these events, Turkey had the audacity to criticize Israel's behavior toward Gaza, as though they themselves had "clean hands." Before they criticize Israel, the world must remember that Turkey has occupied and continues to occupy Cyprus, for no apparent reason, other than to increase their own sphere of influence in the region.

I hope Turkey will do in Cyprus as Israel did in Gaza: remove their troops and grant the people there a chance to govern themselves, without foreign interference. Unfortunately, the people of Gaza turned to violence rather than peaceful coexistence with their neighbor. By contrast, I believe the people of Cyprus are truly ready for peace, as has been demonstrated by the millions of incident-free crossings between the two sides. It is time for Turkey to remove their troops from Cyprus. That way, the Cypriots—and the Cypriots alone—can make the decisions affecting their future.

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 36th Anniversary of the Turkish invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. In 1974 Turkey illegally invaded the northern part of the island nation Cyprus, and that occupation continues today. As a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I recognize and support the Republic of Cyprus as the sovereign political government of the island. This position is supported by the United Nations, and since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council calling for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties and for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops from Cyprus.

In 2006, I cosponsored H. Res. 603, which urged the U.S. government to advocate for the immediate withdrawal of Turkish forces from the territories of the Republic of Cyprus. I will continue to support Cypriots as they seek a peaceful solution to the conflict dividing the island. It is my prayer that these two countries can find a solution to serve the best interest of all the people in the region, and one day live in peace.

HONORING THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a worthy organization—one committed to special needs children and their families. The Moses and Aaron Foundation's significant and enduring efforts under the direction and visionary leadership of president Rabbi Yaacov Kaploun and executive vice president Yehuda Kaploun deserve high praise, as do the philanthropists who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation Special Fund for Children, an all-volunteer organization, is dedicated to assisting children with disabilities, or, as the Foundation prefers to recognize them, "Outstanding Children." The organization provides these children and their families with a wide range of programs, including social, physical, financial and wheelchair assistance, as well as counseling and guidance.

It also provides scholarship funding to educational institutions; collects, purchases and distributes clothing for children in need; and remembers them with presents at holiday time or when hospitalized.

The Foundation has arranged for sound and musical equipment in other institutions and has distributed gifts to thousands of children during the holiday season—including hundreds of toys given to the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots and local law enforcement agencies' programs.

The corporate and individual supporters of the Foundation include concert chairmen Mr.

and Mrs. Richard Gans, Mr. Avi and Dr. Laura Greenbaum, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Rothman, the Jelly Belly Candy Company, Metropolitan Lumber Company, Mr. Robert Gans and the Croton Watch Company, as well as Ms. Rachel Sapoznik, Mrs. Janice Lipton, Mr. and Mrs. Yakov Bertram, Mr. and Mrs. Chaim Rubin, Ms. Patti Shlesinger and Esther Kaploun, who heads the Division of Volunteers.

On July 24, 2010, at the Sullivan County Community College in Lock Sheldrake, New York, the Moses and Aaron Foundation, under the Honorary Chairmanship of Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, will sponsor its 14th annual Summer "Chazak-Strength" Concert honoring and paying tribute to Special and Outstanding Children and their families.

The Guests of Honor will be the Special and Outstanding Children, many of whom will join the entertainers on stage to perform. More than forty organizations, camps and schools serving the physically and mentally disabled children will be represented.

The Chazak Concert, like all the Moses and Aaron Foundation's programs, demonstrates a caring and compassionate concern for others' quality and dignity of life and merits the appreciation of all those who have benefited from its services.

The Moses and Aaron Foundation was founded in memory of Rabbi Dr. Maurice I. Hecht of New Haven, Connecticut, and Aaron Kaploun, both of whom led lives of exemplary community service. It is in this sentiment of communal dedication that the Moses and Aaron Foundation has devoted itself to serving the needs of a unique group in the community.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Moses and Aaron Foundation as an organization which exemplifies the generosity of spirit in American society.

HONORING NATHAN SCHLAUD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nathan Schlaud. Nathan 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 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

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

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TERRY WEIDEN

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished veteran, an amazing community servant, a true patriot. Terry Weiden selflessly worked for the residents of LaSalle County, not the least of which were his fellow veterans. Mr. Weiden passed away Tuesday, July 6th, leaving a deep void in our hearts.

Born in Utica in 1954, Terry Weiden would eventually serve his country in the Armed Forces. As a military police officer in the United States Army, he rose through the ranks to become a Sergeant and served with distinction for thirteen years.

After his distinguished military career, Mr. Weiden became an active member of the Utica American Legion Pierce Davis Post 731 and the LaSalle Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4668. He is perhaps best known for his work as chairman of the Utica Veterans Day Parade, the largest Veterans Day parade in north-central Illinois.

Mr. Weiden's reach in LaSalle County was broad and extended beyond the veterans community. Mr. Weiden also served as the commissioner of the Utica Emergency Medical Training program for four years and led his local Knight of Columbus chapter, which helps make up one of North America's largest Catholic charities.

Mr. Weiden made his community and our country a better place. For the generations of Americans to come, his service and philanthropy stands as a splendid example.

COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH PEACE OPERATION

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Turkish peace operation which prevented an attempt by Greece to annex the island of Cyprus. Although peace prevails in Cyprus today, the social, economic and political development of the Turkish Cypriots has been restricted for more than four decades.

Despite their continued commitment to achieving a just and lasting settlement that respects the political equality of the two peoples on the island, the Turkish Cypriot people are still waiting for the international community to honor the promises it made to them that their isolation would be lifted. While the Greek Cypriots were given full membership in the European Union, despite rejecting a United Nations plan to unify the island, Turkish Cyprus is still largely isolated from the international community.

Madam Speaker, if the process is to move forward toward a lasting settlement it is important that the United States Congress recognize the unwavering commitment of the Turkish Cypriot people to unify the island and encourage the lifting of their isolation.