

wrote then to Representative Ford with similar reservations and a challenge to share those sentiments with the Congress, which Representative Ford did.

I share Mr. Debris' concerns about the lack of civility and personal responsibility in Congress. Throughout my seventeen years in Washington, I have strived to follow the call of Micah 6:8 "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Mr. Debris' letter is a good reminder of the humility and civility needed in Congress. I have also sought to follow the advice of Edmund Burke, a noted British parliamentarian, who said "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing."

For the edification of my colleagues, Mr. Debris' letter is below:

Grand Rapids, MI, May 31, 2010.

REPRESENTATIVE EHLERS, I have just returned home on this stormy Memorial Day morning after spending time with a member of my family. While driving home I realized that I needed to voice my concern with you over the welfare of our country. More specifically on the ineptness of the Legislative Branch to work in harmony with one another to strengthen and unite this country.

Yes, I have voted for you in past elections and consider myself a Republican, but I have also voted for Democrats on more than one occasion. What is so special about this country is that I have the right to choose the men and women that are sent to Washington D.C. Unfortunately, after the polls close and the elected officials, Republican or Democrat, take their oath they seem to serve only one person. That person being themselves.

It seems as though not a day goes by when a politician is in the news double talking their way around a simple question, pushing blame off to another person or political party, or making promises to the American people by saying one thing and not even doing anything to resolve the issue. When asked a question, give a straight forward answer. When confronted with wrong doing, take responsibility. Don't blame others. When making promises, act with integrity and accomplish what you set forth to do with no complaints.

Included is a copy of a letter from Mr. Irwin Koropas to former Representative Gerald R. Ford back in 1950. Mr. Koropas was concerned with the inability of Congress to work together by getting off their proverbial high horse to preserve this great country. Sadly, the same concern holds true today. Sixty years have passed and Congress still does not understand what the American people want. Do what you were elected to do...work for the American people, not yourself.

Mr. Irwin Koropas served his country proudly. He loved his wife and daughter and modeled examples of honesty, respect, and patriotism to his three grandchildren. The good Lord called him home some years ago, but he is never forgotten. Every Memorial Day I visit him. I visit my grandpa. I will never be embarrassed to be an American or to call this great land home. However, I am embarrassed by the elected politicians serving in the nation's capital. Who will be the first politician to put aside political partisanship and honestly and faithfully put the needs of Americans ahead of their own personal agenda?

I'll close this letter with the words my grandpa wrote to then Representative Ford sixty years ago. Representative Ehlers, "Please read this to Congress if you got the guts, which I think you have."

Respectfully,

PAUL DEBRIS,
Grand Rapids, MI.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor the legislative week of Monday, July 19, 2010.

For Monday, July 19, 2010, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote No. 448 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1472); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 449 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 126); and "aye" on rollcall vote No. 450 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1219).

REGARDING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the island of Cyprus to honor the memory of the nearly 5,000 Cypriots who lost their lives during the invasion and to remember the 200,000 Cypriots who were forcibly removed from their homes and the nearly 1,500 Cypriots who are still missing to this day.

A deep respect for freedom, human rights and the rule of law unite the people of Cyprus and the United States. We must draw upon these common values and democratic vision as we work together toward a peaceful and prosperous future for the people of Cyprus.

All Cypriots deserve a united island that fulfills the promise of peace and democracy for which a generation has paid so dearly. The United States stands with the people of Cyprus as they work to achieve a bi-communal and bi-zonal reunification under a single sovereignty with respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots.

Now that the elections are over, the U.S. joins other nations in encouraging President Christofias and Turkish Cypriot Leader Eroglu to resume their efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict that is mutually acceptable to both parties.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF ALBERT OWENS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the wonderful life and accomplishments of Albert Owens with sadness as I mourn his passing. Mr. Owens, one of the first African-Americans to leave his indelible mark on the entertainment industry, recently passed away due to illness at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City. He was sixty-one years of age.

Albert began his career as a founding member of the Charles Unicycle Riders. He gained

national recognition in 1965, after appearing as a guest on the hit television show "I've Got a Secret." Albert and his group eventually became the Ringling Bros. first African-American troupe, changing their name to the 'King Charles Troupe.' He also performed acts with the Barnum & Bailey Circus among many others, and reached a new level of national fame.

Yet, Albert's roots remained grounded as his determination to assist his hometown never wavered. When not traveling and performing, he was a devoted family man who returned home to his Bronx community to continue his work as a volunteer. Albert worked tirelessly to counsel the city's youth with the YMCA, using the unicycle as a tool to engage young people and help them build stronger character. He mentored the next generation up until his passing, never swaying from his resolve to provide the blueprint for success which they can all follow.

Albert Owens was a man of devotion with a commitment to service. Despite his well-earned fame and his standing within the entertainment industry, he always put the needs of his community and the hopes and dreams of others before his own. Albert was a man of many talents and friends. I am honored to say that he was a friend to the city of New York.

RECOGNIZING THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN THE HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. BEN CHANDLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. CHANDLER. Madam Speaker, the Bluegrass Region of Central Kentucky is one of the most picturesque spots in our country. Central Kentucky has miles of rolling fields of pasture partitioned with plank fencing. These fields and farms house some of the most spectacular athletes on the planet—horses—giving our region its name: the Horse Capital of the World. And in a few short weeks, the world is coming to see it.

For the first time since its start in 1990, the World Equestrian Games are coming to America and more specifically, to the Kentucky Horse Park. Lexington will take its place alongside other host cities to showcase the magnificence of the horse. Lexington and Central Kentucky will be on an international platform that in the past has included Stockholm, The Hague, Rome, Jerez in Spain and Aachen, Germany.

For 16 days, visitors and spectators from every state in the union and more than 50 other countries will see championship level competition in dressage, eventing, endurance, driving, reining, vaulting, jumping, and para-dressage marking. And, for the first time, all eight competitions will be held at a single venue.

Truly this event will benefit the region and one of Kentucky's signature industries. In addition to an economic impact of millions, hundreds of members of the media from 40 or more countries will attend this event. Televised coverage of this event will represent the largest major network broadcast of equestrian sport in U.S. television history and presents a tremendous opportunity to portray the scenic beauty of Central Kentucky in a manner that may never be rivaled again.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing that the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games will make the people of my district special ambassadors of good will by bringing the focus of international equestrian sport to what truly will be the Horse Capital of the World.

HONORING JIM RINGLAND

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jim Ringland of Holts Summit, MO, who received the Silver Order of Saint Philip of Neri Award for his service in the United States Special Forces. Mr. Ringland served in the Special Forces for 26 years and has been a member of the Special Forces Association for 40 years.

The award is presented to those who are "selfless, superb teachers and inspirational leaders", the qualities of an ideal Special Forces soldier. Mr. Ringland received this honor due in large part to his exemplary performance as a teacher in the Green Berets, where he trained soldiers in areas such as psychological warfare, survival, and unconventional warfare. The Silver Order of Saint Philip of Neri Award has only been given to 10 people before Mr. Ringland.

Our country has been blessed to have citizens who have selflessly volunteered to defend our nation and freedom. They are the reason why we are the strongest nation on Earth, and the reason we stand today with freedom unparalleled across the globe. Without our nation's veterans and military men and women, and men like Jim Ringland, we would not have the rights and privileges that we as Americans enjoy today.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. GREG MATHIS, SENIOR PASTOR AT MUD CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IN HENDERSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and accomplishments of Dr. Greg T. Mathis, Senior Pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church of Hendersonville, North Carolina. This year, as Dr. Mathis celebrates his 30th year at Mud Creek Baptist Church, I am proud to pay tribute to his remarkable career of faith, strength, and the desire to live a fulfilling life helping others.

Serving as Senior Pastor since 1980, Dr. Mathis and his wife Deborah have helped build Mud Creek Baptist Church into a nationally recognized place of worship, with an average weekly attendance of 2700. Mud Creek Baptist Church was recently identified in a book entitled "Excellent Protestant Congregations," as an excellent place to worship in America.

Dr. Mathis's good work does not stop at his own church. He regularly preaches at revivals,

Bible conferences, and seminars throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. He has served as the President of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention and the North Carolina Pastors' Conference and as a member of the Executive, Resolutions, and Budget Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was named as one of the most influential people in Baptist life by The Biblical Recorder, and was presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Award by Governor James B. Hunt for his service to the state of North Carolina.

Dr. Mathis graduated from Gardner-Webb College in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree and went on to graduate from the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1980 with a Master of Divinity Degree. He has been recognized with two Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degrees from Gardner-Webb University in 2001 and North Greenville University in 2010. He is a published author with several well known books, including Five Smooth Stones and The Ultimate Life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the impressive life and career of Dr. Greg T. Mathis. It is an honor for me to recognize his accomplishments and the profound impact he has on the religious life of countless Western North Carolinians, and to wish him continued success in future years.

THE OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION (H.R. 2693) AND THE SAFER OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (H.R. 5716)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of today's oil spill legislation as part of Congress' comprehensive response to the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf.

The Oil Pollution Research and Development Program Reauthorization (H.R. 2693) will provide badly needed additional resources for oil spill research and development, as well as streamline the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research currently responsible for the nation's federally funded oil spill pollution R&D. Additionally, the Safer Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Technology Research and Development Program (H.R. 5716) will ensure that the federal government's existing R&D program for deepwater drilling is as focused on accident prevention, worker safety and environmental impact mitigation as it is on resource recovery.

While relatively modest in scope, these two initiatives will bring a more appropriate balance to federal policy with respect to deepwater drilling, help reduce the risk of future deepwater accidents, and improve our ability to respond to those accidents should they occur again.

I urge a yes vote.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF CYPRUS AND COMMENDING EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT LEADING TO THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, this past weekend marked the 36th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces. During the war, approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed and close to 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly removed from their homes. This anniversary also marks another year in which Cyprus is divided between north and south and between the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities.

However, despite 36 years of division in Cyprus, I remain hopeful about reaching a just and lasting settlement. Following his election in February 2008, President Demetris Christofias followed through on his commitment to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority. In September of that year, he embarked on full-fledged negotiations with Mehmet Talat, who was at the time the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community. I am encouraged that these negotiations are continuing under the new Turkish Cypriot leader Dervis Eroglu.

The ongoing talks aim at reaching a comprehensive settlement for the Cyprus problem with the goal of achieving the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The agreement should also lead to a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality for Cyprus.

The House of Representatives has voiced its strong support for comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue. On October 9, 2007, the House passed House Resolution 405, which expressed its support for the immediate implementation of the U.N.-brokered July 8, 2006 agreement as the way forward to prepare for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the reunification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. In addition, the resolution called upon the United States Government to fully support the immediate implementation of this agreement in its entirety.

There are still many difficult issues that need to be resolved before a comprehensive agreement to the Cyprus problem can be achieved. Turkey, which continues to deploy 43,000 troops in Cyprus, is critical to reaching such an agreement. I urge Turkey to work constructively with the Cypriots in support of a negotiated settlement and the peaceful reunification of the island.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,245,998,461,216.30.