

activity for understanding, solidarity and social cohesion.

We also call upon the global community, international and regional organizations, states and governments all over the world to:

Actively support the process of intercivilizational dialogue; exert sustainable efforts towards creating a culture of peace, strengthening its principles as a firm basis of international politics and the life of all people; work to establish a more fair world, to consolidate international law and justice, and to implement UN resolutions and signed international agreements, and to find effective means of establishing peace and security all over the world; heed the voices of victims of oppression and terrorism and use all means to seek a just settlement of the existing conflicts, thus addressing the grievances that nurture violence; reject totally the development, production and possession of weapons of mass destruction and promote the strengthening of non-proliferation regimes; respect and protect the sanctity of religious symbols and places and take appropriate measures.

Based upon the abovementioned, we, the leaders of world and traditional religions, resolved to:

Take concrete collective measures for encouraging and highlighting positive perceptions of inter-religious relations by organizing joint meetings, seminars and addresses in the mass media, the Internet and other places of influence; strongly promote inter-religious tolerance among younger generations to make them more devoted to dialogue and encourage them recognize universal values; integrate questions of the dialogue between civilizations and religions into curricula at all educational levels with a view to helping young people to respect and understand religious and cultural difference without hostility; use our spiritual influence, authority and resources to further establish peace, security, stability and contacts between each other in order to make a combined contribution to the prevention and resolution of disputes among different religious communities; offer our experience and best efforts to governments and people or groups and powers involved into conflicts in order to assist them in easing tensions, forming where appropriate joint delegations to conduct negotiations with them; commit to make efforts to promote and realize the goals stated in this Declaration, and to assign the Congress Secretariat to propose a plan for the best possible translation of these recommendations into reality; conduct the Congress of religions on a permanent basis and hold the third Congress of the leaders of world and traditional religions in 2009. For the Secretariat to present proposals on time and place of the next forum; bring to the attention of the General Assembly of the United Nations the conceptual and practical role performed by the Congress in promoting dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions and its considerable achievements in interreligious understanding, inviting support for the further activity of the Congress.

**THE EASTERN NEW MEXICO  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM ACT OF  
2006**

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Eastern New Mex-

ico Rural Water System Act of 2006. This is companion legislation to a bill being introduced today by Senator DOMENICI and Senator BINGAMAN.

This legislation is very similar to H.R. 4623, which I introduced during the 108th Congress. It contains, however, slight revisions that were suggested during hearings held both in the House and the Senate in 2004. There has long been a recognized need for a reliable and safe supply of potable water for eastern New Mexico.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the recognized need goes back to the late 1950's when the New Mexico Legislature and Interstate Stream Commission authorized the construction of a dam on the Canadian River, thus establishing the Ute Reservoir. Soon after construction, numerous Congressionally-authorized studies were conducted to explore the feasibility of a project that would utilize the Ute Reservoir as a reliable water supply for communities in eastern New Mexico. Finally, in the late 1990's, several communities, concerned about the increasingly urgent need, came together to begin planning for the development of a regional water system.

Out of those meetings came the Eastern New Mexico Rural Water Supply Authority. The ENMRWS, as it is known, consists of six communities and two counties in eastern New Mexico. This Authority has expeditiously and effectively finalized the studies and planning necessary to move forward with this project.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we build upon the efforts of the citizens of eastern New Mexico who have both proven the critical need and completed the necessary steps that must form the basis for a project of this magnitude. This project is not new and the need for water is becoming increasingly more urgent. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help provide a positive, long-term solution to a pressing water need in the rural West.

**HONORING PAM BALDWIN OF THE  
CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH  
SERVICE**

**HON. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my thanks and best wishes to Pamela Baldwin, a lawyer who served in the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, CRS, for many years, and who, like me, is now retiring.

Pam's title at CRS was Legislative Attorney, and her specialty was environmental law, and it often seemed that her specialty was all of environmental law. She was a trusted advisor to the Congress, in general, and to me and my staff, in particular, on a dizzying array of issues—the National Environmental Policy Act, endangered species, wilderness and public lands, oil and gas drilling, forestry, mining, and coastal land use.

And she worked on all of these issues the same way—painstakingly, tirelessly, drawing on deep knowledge and with an unswerving dedication to objective analysis. She knew both the theory of law and how it was being applied in practice by federal agencies. And she could discuss complex and abstruse legal

matters in a way that even a Congressman could understand.

In short, in a time of deep partisan and ideological division, Pam was exactly the kind of expert we needed—someone who knew the facts and was willing to state them, no matter how much pressure she faced to do otherwise. And she was always willing to make herself available, on a moment's notice, seven days a week, to help inform the policy process. That's not an exaggeration. In fact, Pam had been hoping to retire for several months already, but had been asked to stay on. My staff made sure to take full advantage of the extra time and kept her busy during these recent months.

She did all of this with unfailing good humor, a wry sense of the world, and a constant ability to be surprised but not thrown by what might turn up in legislation.

Pam played an invaluable role at CRS, and the Nation is better for it. This is not the time to list the number of questionable provisions that might have made it into law if not for Pam's analysis, but they are many. Not just the Congress, but the Nation, owes her a debt of gratitude. My staff and I will miss her greatly, but we will remember what we have learned from her. I wish her the best in retirement.

**WEST END FIRE COMPANY #3  
100TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor West End Fire Company #3 as its members and community celebrate the Company's 100th anniversary.

The West End Fire Company #3 of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania was established as a result of the disastrous Preseverance Knitting Mill fire of 1906. The community's leaders decided that they could no longer rely on outside help in time of emergency and needed to create their own company. On October 16, 1906, the West End Fire Company was formed.

This Company has transitioned from using a barn and horse-drawn fire equipment to its first official hose cart donated by the Phoenix Hose, Hook, and Ladder Company No. 1. The original members of the Company were able to pull together funds to purchase its first lot and, within 2 years, a fire house made from Chester County limestone was established on the corner of W. Bridge Street and Pennsylvania Ave. The Company continued to grow, adding an ambulance service in 1917, and finally incorporating female firefighters into service in 1985. The West End Fire Company #3 is to this day on cutting edge of safety by constantly adding new equipment, training new members, and providing Phoenixville with countless hours of community service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the West End Fire Company #3 of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania as they celebrate its 100th anniversary and in extending best wishes and heartfelt congratulations for 100 years of exemplary community service and volunteerism in protecting the lives and property of Phoenixville area citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT  
GREEK HOLIDAYS APPROACHING:  
CYPRIOT INDEPENDENCE DAY  
AND GREECE'S "OXI DAY"

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Oct. 1, we will celebrate Cypriot Independence Day, and at the end of October, the 28th, we will remember Greece's "Oxi Day," commemorating the Greek decision to reject and resist occupation by the Axis Powers in 1940 during World War II. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and reflecting on these special days in Greek and Cypriot history.

Greek pride and bravery during the independence struggle in the 1820s forged the first successful war for self-determination in the modern era. This Greek example has fired the imagination of oppressed peoples ever since, including the Jews whose struggle for liberation resulted in the founding of the State of Israel in 1948. Both Jews and Greeks over the years have had to supply in brains and pluck what they lacked in numbers.

Ever since throwing off the yoke of dictatorship in 1974, the Greek people have been one of Europe's amazing success stories. Greece entered the European Economic Community and never looked back. Today it is a model of growth and prosperity, and for more than three decades it has been a vibrant paragon of the gift it gave the world so long ago, democracy.

Since 1974 the little nation of Cyprus has suffered immensely. All the more remarkable then that Cyprus has taught the world the lesson of how to endure difficult circumstances with uncommon grace, dignity, strength, and commitment to humane values. Notwithstanding the horrors 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees suffered in 1974, Cyprus remained a democracy, and it rebuilt itself into the prosperous European Union state of today. Cyprus did not wallow in self-pity, as so many other nations have in similar circumstances. Cyprus did not flaunt its refugees or make them a spectacle for political propaganda purposes.

Former Foreign Minister Iacovou once told me a powerful anecdote in this regard. He said that, in the wake of the war, one Cypriot official wrote a memo to President Makarios urging that the refugees be kept in camps with only the most basic of amenities; this, he said, would create a weight on the conscience of the world and would boost the Greek Cypriot case in the court of international opinion.

But President Makarios was too wise for that. He wrote back that the worst thing Cypriots could do is to compromise the well-being of our own people for the sake of propaganda; that, he said, would only heap indignity upon their suffering and would be a derogation of the government's obligation to its own. In almost no time, Cypriot resourcefulness had achieved the rehabilitation of the refugees, and refugee neighborhoods were virtually indistinguishable from others, at least to others. Cypriots long for the healing of their nation, but they lead creative and productive lives every single day.

Thanks to Makarios's far-sightedness, Cyprus is today a dynamic and thriving European state, instead of a benighted third-world backwater. Would that the Palestinians had had a

Makarios of their own, instead of an Arafat. How different the Palestinian refugee situation might be today.

I stand second to nobody in my desire to see a peaceful settlement of the Cyprus crisis and to see the breathtaking island of Cyprus fully re-united under one government. I also deeply respect the efforts my good friend Kofi Annan made toward that end. But first and foremost I am a democrat—and I mean, in this case, with a lower-case "d". On April 24, 2004, the Greek Cypriot people democratically rose up—virtually with one voice—and rejected the Annan Plan. The international community must give that decision its fullest respect, and it must draw the obvious implications. When 75% of the people say "no," the fault lies with the drafters, not the people.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer, I was honored with the Mordechai Frizis Award. This honor is named after the Jewish Greek hero from Chalkis who was the first high-ranking Greek military officer to give his life in defense of freedom against the Axis powers in 1940.

As the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to Congress, I saw first-hand the atrocities of that time. I lost my family, and my wife lost most of her family. Many others lost their lives and their families.

Over 55 million people died in World War II, including Mordechai Frizis. Had brave and selfless people like Frizis not fought against the evils of the Hitler regime and even been willing to die for our freedom, the outcome could have been even worse. We are much in the debt of the Morodohai Frizis's of the world.

The indigenous Jewish communities of Greece represent the longest continuous Jewish presence in Europe. Tragically, these communities were almost completely destroyed during the Holocaust. Greece lost at least 81 percent of its Jewish population during the Holocaust. 60,000 to 70,000 Greek Jews perished, most of them at Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Only 8,000 to 10,000 Greek Jews survived. The number would have been even smaller, had it not been for the Greek people who were unwilling to cooperate with German plans for their deportation, and Greek resistance groups who battled the Axis occupiers to save Greece and the Jews living there.

The Frizis Award contains the soil of Greece, the U.S., and Israel. All three countries have deep meaning in my life, and the connection between the three is even more important. I thank the Greek, and of course the Cypriot, people for their great contributions not only to the world, but also to me personally, and to my wife. We and the entire world are better for these contributions.

The fact that Mordechai Frizis was the first Greek killed in the first successful battle against the fascists in World War II has an overpowering symbolism for the world and for me personally. The onslaught of the fascists was, in fact, an assault on the very values that Hellenic and Jewish civilizations represent, particularly the joint commitment of our cultures to ethics and honest rational discourse. As we face a war on terrorism today, once again Jewish and Hellenic values are at the barricades facing the barbarians and their totalitarian, violent ideology. Once again, it is our fierce commitment to what we know is right, our conviction that the barbarous cannot be allowed to win, and our courage that will see us through.

Mordechai Frizis was a man—a Greek, a Jew, and, from what I've read, a brilliant and

highly capable officer. But circumstances have endowed him with so much more, with near-mythical status. For Mordechai Frizis is a metaphor for all that Greeks and Jews have suffered, all that we have triumphed, all the values that we would not compromise and that we have insisted that the civilized world embrace.

That is why I was deeply honored and grateful to receive the Frizis award, and that is one reason why the Hellenic world has my enduring friendship and support.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our Greek and Cypriot friends as we all remember the October 1st Cypriot Independence Day and Greece's "Oxi Day" on October 29.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA PRYOR

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable lady and tremendous public servant who hails from the quaint town of Condon, Oregon—Laura Pryor. For as long as I can remember, folks in Gilliam County have fondly referred to her as "Judge Pryor" as she is the chief steward of the county. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me as we thank Judge Pryor for the countless contributions she has made to Gilliam County and the state of Oregon during 19 years of public service.

Born and raised in San Diego County, Judge Pryor rode her horse to school up until the second grade. Her childhood instilled in her a love for the rural countryside and rural way of life. Over 30 years ago, as her California community began to develop and be paved, Laura decided to move her four children to Oregon to avoid the urban sprawl in preference for a country setting where neighbors still offer their help without thinking about it. After briefly serving at the Oregon Department of Economic Development, she met a third-generation wheat farmer, married him and moved to his hometown of Condon, population 750. Within two years, the governor appointed her to fill a vacant seat on the county commission. Gilliam County is one of seven in Oregon where the top official is titled "county judge," and has responsibility over some judicial functions in addition to chairing the county commission. Laura has been ably steering Gilliam County from the judge's seat for 19 years.

Mr. Speaker, Gilliam County is in the heart of the Columbia Plateau where the economy is largely agrarian and the towns are quietly settled away from the main thoroughfares. With a population of approximately 1,900, the county encompasses nearly 1.6 square miles for every person. The county courthouse sits 250 miles away from the state capital in Salem, and nearly 3,000 miles from our nation's capital here in Washington, D.C. The region needs an effective and assertive voice to be heard, and Judge Pryor has delivered just that the past two decades.

It is through Laura's first-hand experiences in life and in representing rural Oregonians that she became such a strong advocate for farmers, ranchers, and small business owners