

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

in small and rustic communities all across the West. Judge Pryor has worked tirelessly at the state and federal level to ensure attention to basic services such as education and health care in small towns. She's worked hard to maintain funding for county roads while promoting and encouraging economic development and commerce within the county.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the joy to work closely with Laura on numerous issues through the years, and know well the deep devotion she brings to her job each and every day in representing her fellow citizens in Gilliam County. It is this devotion that propelled a county effort to construct a Grain Quality Lab that has enabled area wheat growers to become more competitive in the global marketplace by enhancing quality and productivity. I was honored to help her in this endeavor, and will be visiting this topnotch facility next month. She has also been a strong proponent for renewable energy efforts and has worked to locate wind farms within the county for an additional tax base and source of revenue.

While it is very difficult to choose Judge Pryor's most memorable accomplishments, many would say it has been her successful effort to unite rural Oregon as one voice. Laura's leadership among her elected peers led to the establishment of the Eastern Oregon Rural Alliance, which joins government officials with residents from all across the vast territory of eastern Oregon in advocacy for rural issues. Her efforts ultimately led to the creation of the Office of Rural Policy, which was established by the state of Oregon to examine how state policies impact rural communities and act as an advisory branch to the state legislature and the governor.

Mr. Speaker, my remarks illustrate but a few of the tremendous accomplishments Judge Pryor has made during her distinguished career. I appreciate my colleagues joining me today in congratulating Judge Laura Pryor, an extraordinary lady and great American. I wish Laura and her husband, Earl, many years of continued happiness and success.

**SAFETEA-LU AMENDMENTS ACT**

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I insert in the RECORD a letter from me to Speaker HASTERT regarding H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to SAFETEA-LU

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

*Washington, DC, September 29, 2006.*

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On June 28, 2006 the House passed H.R. 5689, making technical corrections to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA: LU). Yesterday, I introduced a bill that revises H.R. 5689 to incorporate changes that the Senate has asked us to include (H.R. 6233). These changes are necessary to ensure that all policies, programs and projects embodied in last year's long-term highway, transit, and highway safety authorization bill are implemented as intended by the Congress.

On September 14, 2006 the House passed H. Res. 1000, instituting a new standing order of the House with regard to earmarks in authorization, appropriations, and tax measures. H. Res. 1000 provides that, in order to consider a bill, the committee of jurisdiction must list all earmarks included in the bill and committee report along with the names of Members requesting the earmarks.

The bi-partisan bill that I introduced yesterday has not been reported by the Committee, so there is no report or list of earmarks. In reading the standing order, I concluded that the requirement that a list appear with this bill does not apply because the point of order described in section 1(c) of H. Res. 1000 does not lie against a bill considered under suspension of the rules. I intend to move to suspend the rules of the House to pass H.R. 6233.

This bill does not increase the amount of funding that is designated for projects in SAFETEA: LU. There are changes to the descriptions of projects that are currently in SAFETEA: LU and there are some projects to replace projects in SAFETEA: LU that cannot be executed or implemented. In this correction bill, however, the total amount of funding designated for projects is identical to the amount that was designated in SAFETEA: LU.

Where this bill does provide funding (which is offset by a rescission of contract authority), the legislative sections providing such funding do not meet the earmarking definition, because no entity is named as the intended recipient of the funds. Where this bill does designate specific entities, or amend underlying project designations in SAFETEA: LU, it does not provide new funding. In addition this bill provides for no new outlays. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has scored the bill as reducing contract authority by \$4 million over five years.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman*

IN HONOR OF JOHN SIMPSON

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 29, 2006*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate John Simpson on the occasion of his retirement from public service. John has worked as Director of Constituent Services and Senior Issues in the office of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer since January 2006. Prior to this position, Mr. Simpson served as Director of Constituent Services for then Assemblymember Scott M. Stringer on the Upper West Side of Manhattan since 1993. John has assisted hundreds of constituents throughout Manhattan in landlord-tenant disputes, consumer issues, and every other problem in the spectrum.

Mr. Simpson came to work in government after 40 years in private industry at the Hallen Construction Corporation where he worked after serving our country. He served in the United States Air Force from 1951-1955 and was recognized officially for Superior Efficiency as the Head of the Morning Report Unit.

On the Upper West Side, Mr. Simpson is a leader in our community. He is an active member of the Church of the Blessed Sac-

rament on West 71st Street, where he is a co-leader in one of the soup kitchen teams. He is also a Vice Chairman of Community Services and member of the Board of Directors of the Ansonia Democratic Club. In 1999, the West Side Spirit named Mr. Simpson a "Hero of the West Side" for his work towards social justice.

For his commitment to his community and his City, it is my privilege to congratulate John Simpson on his distinguished record of service and his retirement.

RECOGNIZING FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 28, 2006*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 973, and the goals and the ideals of Financial Planning Month. I am proud to say that I am an original co-sponsor of this bill, and a member of the Financial Literacy Education Caucus.

I would first like to start by thanking my colleagues Mrs. BIGGERT and Mr. Hinojosa for their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, we need to be paying more attention to financial literacy in this country, and to making sure our constituents have the tools to be responsible consumers, good savers and savvy investors.

An estimated 40 percent of Americans say they know only some, a little or not much, about how to manage their finances and only 10 percent of college students have had financial education in high school.

And yet, everyday life requires an increasing knowledge of banking and finance. The average American family spends \$200,000 to raise a child to the age of 18, but the overall savings in this country barely breaks above 1 percent.

Prices for basic essentials—for health care, housing, schooling—are all skyrocketing. How are our families going to pay for it all if they aren't saving?

I am pleased that the Congress is voting to pass this financial planning awareness resolution at this time. Next week, I will be hosting the banking and finance portion of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Summit.

Financial literacy education is such an important topic that I have chosen to make it the focus of our summit. During our discussion, we will talk about "best practices" in financial literacy education.

It is essential that our citizens develop the tools of good financial management. These are the tools that will allow them to build wealth to enrich their families and communities.

They are also the tools that will protect them from fraud and exploitation, and help them be more responsible with their finances. This is not just important for individuals and their families, it is important to our nation as a whole. Less debt, more savings and more investment will be the foundation of our future economic success.

Once again I thank my colleagues for bringing H. Res. 973 to the floor and urge its passage.