Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Cyprus has made great strides in the past decade. It turns out that, just like the United States, Cyprus has a lot of natural gas. Let’s hope they don’t have as much bureaucracy to get through to export their gas as we do. But the country is held back because it is still divided by an foreign power. Turkey still has 30,000 troops in Cyprus. Erdogan thinks he is still in control. The beauty of democratic elections is that you can see what the people really want.

And faced with the choice between a candidate that wanted to keep Cyprus divided and one that wanted to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots chose reunification.

It is encouraging to hear that negotiations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots are getting back on track. You know, I was a judge in my former life. I dealt a lot with one word: justice. And as a judge I would never have allowed the kind of bullying that is seen by Turkey. The Turkish Cypriots should be able to negotiate on their own behalf. If they want peace, they should be able to get it. They don’t need another foreign country like Turkey telling them what they can and cannot agree to. They do not want to be dependent on Turkey. They want to enjoy the economic freedom of the EU.

Reunification will require a lot of work, but ultimately it will only happen if the two sides talk to each other. This time next year I hope we can come together to celebrate the reunification of Cyprus and the end of over 40 years of Turkish occupation. And that’s just the way it is.

H.R. 1493, THE PROTECT AND PRE\-SERVE INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTY ACT
HON. DARRELL E. ISSA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary leadership of Dr. James Hadley Billington, the 13th Librarian of Congress and renowned scholar of Russia. Following 28 years of service, Dr. Billington announced that he will be retiring from his post as the Librarian of Congress. During his tenure, Dr. Billington made significant contributions by providing visionary leadership as he ushered the Library of Congress into the digital age.

Since being unanimously confirmed by the Senate in 1987, Dr. Billington has overseen the expansion of the Library’s collection size. It has roughly doubled, from 85.5 million items in 1987 to more than 160 million items today. Dr. Billington dedicated much of his efforts to ensuring that our nations historic items and collections be made readily available to the American public. In his early years, at the dawn of the internet age, he worked to facilitate an innovative program for the Library of Congress known as the National Digital Library (NDL) Program, which ensured that American historical and cultural information was available online. As a result of his efforts, projects such as the NDL, Congress.gov, and more recently the Library of Congress’s Copyright Office have become frequently used in K–12 education systems across America.

In addition to efforts ensuring the spread of the richly diverse history of the United States, Dr. Billington is also responsible for the development of the World Digital Library. A project similar to the NDL, the World Digital Library compiles cultural materials from the 193 countries listed in the UNESCO into one database for public access. I can say without question that throughout his decades of service, Dr. Billington has been firmly dedicated to the spread of information.

Dr. Billington has been an outstanding leader and educator to both our nation and the world. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. I have no doubt that his contributions to our global society will have a significant impact on scholastic achievement for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the service and sacrifice of Dr. James Hadley Billington.

COBDEN HIGH SCHOOL CAPTURES STATE BASEBALL TITLE
HON. MIKE BOST
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, congratulations to Cobden High School for capturing the Illinois