

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House at the time of votes on two measures. Had I been present, my vote on H.R. 861, to make technical amendments to section 10 of title 9 of the United States Code would have been "aye." In addition, I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 721, the Made In American Information Act.

IN HONOR OF BARBARA CORNWALL LYSSARIDES, AUTHOR OF MY OLD ACQUAINTANCE: YESTERDAY IN CYPRUS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Barbara Cornwall Lyssarides, a Cypriot-American journalist whose recently published book, *My Old Acquaintance: Yesterday in Cyprus*, details the recent history of the island of Cyprus. Ms. Lyssarides will be honored on the evening of March 7, 2001 by Cyprus's Consulate General to the United States, Mr. Vasilis Philippou, at a book signing presentation at the Consulate General's office in New York.

Ms. Lyssarides is an accomplished journalist whose previous books include a first-hand account of guerrilla warfare in the Portuguese colonies of Africa, which was published in New York and London. When the National Organization of Cypriot Struggle (EOKA) launched a rebellion for independence from British rule on October 1, 1960, Ms. Lyssarides covered it as a young staff reporter and feature writer for the daily *Times of Cyprus*.

Ms. Lyssarides has spent much of her life living abroad, mostly in Cyprus. She was born in Detroit, Michigan and received her degree in history from Wayne State University, where she also studied journalism. Throughout her career, Ms. Lyssarides has traveled all over the world, serving as a reporter for numerous foreign newspapers.

In her introduction to *My Old Acquaintance*, Ms. Lyssarides writes:

Over the millennia, Cyprus has been sold, colonized, inherited, borrowed, lent, defeated, delivered, neglected, isolated, annexed, mis-ruled, sometimes well-governed, often betrayed . . . To me, it is astonishing that its people have survived at all, not only physically but with religion intact for almost 2,000 years, language even longer, and with customs and beliefs little changed after centuries of foreign impact.

Mr. Speaker, the nation of Cyprus has been beset by instability for too long. Barbara Cornwall Lyssarides eloquently describes her own relationship with this troubled island and I salute her for her admirable efforts to bring attention to her adopted homeland and this extremely important international issue.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from Alaska who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in his community. Justin Gonka of Anchorage has just been named one of Alaska's top honorees in The 2001 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Gonka is being recognized for his dedication and continuous support of the Special Olympics. Justin has assumed numerous roles within the Special Olympics and hopes to one day become a coach. Besides being a great student, Justin has also helped to recruit other young people get involved and volunteer for the Special Olympics.

In light of numerous statistics that indicate Americans are less involved in their communities than they once were, it's vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contribution this young man has made. People of all ages need to think about how we, as individual citizens, can work together at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and next door neighbors. Young volunteers like Mr. Gonka are an inspiration to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all young volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other young people to follow their example. Over the past six years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 100,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Mr. Gonka should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I applaud Mr. Gonka for his initiative in seeking to make his community a better place to live, and for the positive impact he has had on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can, and do, play an important role in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA TOWNSEND WHEAT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 19, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute one of the Inland Empire's own, Yolanda Townsend Wheat.

A Board Member of the National Credit Union Administration, and native of the 42nd Congressional District of California, Yolanda will be visiting the area this month, making a number of presentations to schools, businesses, and academia.

We feel in our hearts great pride for Yolanda's achievements, and hope she will inspire a new generation of young people in our area. Yolanda truly embodies the American dream that if you work hard, if you persevere, there is nothing you cannot achieve. I hope the children in the Inland Empire will look to her as a role model and mentor.

I offer my best wishes to Yolanda, her husband, Alan Wheat, former Congressman from Missouri, and their two children. I know they are proud of all she has attained.

Yolanda's achievements are remarkable for their great breadth and depth. An attorney specializing in corporate finance, President Bill Clinton named her to the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) Board in April 1996. She served as NCUA chairwoman for a short time in early 2001.

The three-person NCUA Board is responsible for overseeing more than 10,000 federally insured credit unions with assets totaling over \$400 billion. The NCUA is the independent federal agency that insures the deposits of more than 76 million credit union members in the nation's federal credit unions and most state-chartered credit unions.

During her tenure on the NCUA Board, Yolanda has been a champion for the interests of consumers, focusing on such issues as access to financial services, privacy and predatory lending practices. She has been instrumental in developing incentives that help credit unions expand their membership base so that as many consumers as possible have access to credit union services. She has worked to empower credit unions to provide more services in the financial marketplace in order to remain competitive and thrive in the 21st Century.

Yolanda was raised in a multicultural household in California. Her mother, (the former Mary Sanchez) worked in a law firm and was the inspiration of Yolanda's desire to pursue law as a career. Her father, Art Townsend, was the founder and publisher of *The Precinct Reporter*, a weekly African American newspaper in my district.

As an attorney, Yolanda has nearly ten years of specialized experience in real estate and corporate law. She represented commercial lending and financial institutions at several law firms. She worked in both the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. offices of the law firm of Morrison and Foerster from 1986 to 1992. She practiced law from 1993 to 1995 with the former law firm of Smith, Gill, Fisher & Butts in Kansas City, Missouri.

A native of San Bernardino, California, Yolanda holds a J.D. for Harvard Law School and graduated with distinction from Stanford University with an A.B. in International Relations. She is a member of the bars of California, Maryland and Missouri.

All of this adds up to a truly remarkable record of achievement and public service. And so, as Yolanda visits the people of the Inland Empire, we wish her God's blessings, good wishes, and our proudest thoughts.