

throughout Santa Clara County and has graduated more than 2,000 youth to date.

In February of 2001, Zonia Waldon was promoted to Deputy Director of the Department of Family and Children's Services. Zonia believes that her greatest accomplishment in her career was her never-ending desire to mentor people around her and to assist them in carving out their career paths. She has been a true leader and extremely instrumental in improving the quality of Social Services our community has today. I wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life. She will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

FORTY-THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE RE-
PUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, today marks the forty-third anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus, after 80 years of British colonial rule. Independence is particularly significant for the Cypriot people because of their ancient and extensive history of conquerors, empire builders, and invaders. Throughout history Cyprus has endured oppression and occupation by preserving its unique identity and culture. While this is a day of celebration for the progress and successes that the Republic of Cyprus has achieved, it is also a solemn reminder of the Turkish occupation under which 37 percent of the island struggles.

Since Turkish troops invaded in 1974, Turkey has expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots, moved 80,000 settlers from the Turkish mainland into Greek Cypriot homes in an attempt to change the demographics of the area and restricted the rights of the few Greek Cypriots who remain in the north. The United Nations Security Council and the European Union have condemned these actions by the Turkish government as explicit violations of international law.

After 29 years of illegal occupation, the Turkish-Cypriot leadership under Rauf Denktash has proven itself unwilling to resolve this situation. Tens of thousands of Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated in the occupied areas of the north, urging Mr. Denktash to support the U.N. peace process. But Mr. Denktash has not only rejected the plan, he has refused to allow his constituency to voice their opinion through a referendum. Due to this intransigent policy, the opportunity has been lost for all Cypriots—both Turkish and Greek. However, throughout this long path towards peace, the people of Cyprus have held on to their independence and taken huge strides in building a prosperous and flourishing nation.

Today—after 43 years of independence—Cyprus continues to grow economically, develop democratically and foster regional stability as it takes momentous steps toward joining the European Union. On April 16, 2003, along with nine other countries, Cyprus signed the Accession Treaty to the European Union with the intention of officially becoming a member-state of the EU in May 2004. The Accession of Cyprus will proceed whether it is as

an island with a partition or as an island newly reunified.

The positive impact of the forthcoming EU accession will bring great benefits to all Cypriots both Greek and Turkish. It will bring foreign investment; access to markets and jobs throughout Europe, and additional development assistance to the areas of northern Cyprus. Having looked out across the Green line during my last visit to Cyprus, I strongly believe that the unification of Cyprus into a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation—as called for by United Nations Security Council resolutions—is the only solution that can guarantee economic development and equal political representation for all inhabitants of the island.

Globally—the United States, the EU and the international community and locally—the government of the Cypriot Republic, and the people of Cyprus, both Greek and Turkish, are committed to finding a peaceful settlement in the near future—it is time to work in good faith to make it a reality.

Despite the ongoing conflict and the obstructionist stance of the Turkish-Cypriot leadership, the Government of Cyprus has continued to also strengthen its close partnership with the United States, and it has proven the strength of these ties by providing its support in our fight against global terrorism.

Immediately after the September 11 terrorist attacks, Cyprus was among the first nations to express its solidarity with the U.S. Cyprus has granted blanket clearance for U.S. military aircraft to fly over Cyprus and to use its airports, and is sharing intelligence with and providing legal assistance to various U.S. agencies.

Cyprus has also introduced tough new criminal laws and regulations to deter and punish terrorists and their supporters, taken measures to freeze the assets of terrorists and increased security measures at seaports and airports and at the U.S. Embassy in the capital of Nicosia.

Cyprus has also endorsed and implemented U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) to freeze the assets of terrorists and their supporters; implemented all other relevant resolutions and decisions of the U.N. Security Council, the EU and other international organizations; and ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

And most recently, on September 18, the United States and Cyprus signed a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty that will promote closer coordination between the two countries in the fight against global terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and related violent crimes.

As an active member of both the Congressional Hellenic Issues Caucus and the House Committee on International Relations, I have supported a number of legislative initiatives to resolve the Cyprus dispute and promote the accession of the government of Cyprus to the European Union.

I strongly support the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, whether or not a solution to the island's division has been reached beforehand. I have cosponsored legislation calling on the U.S. Government to support EU accession, and I have written to President Bush on this matter as well.

I have co-sponsored legislation introduced in the House to end restrictions on the freedoms and human rights of the Greek Cypriot enclaves in northern Cyprus. I personally tried

to visit the enclaves during a recent trip to Cyprus so I could see for myself the condition of the Greek Cypriots living there, but I was prevented from doing so by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

I support the Administration's allocation of \$15 million each year to promote measures aimed at reunification of the island and designed to reduce tensions and promote peace and cooperation between the two communities in Cyprus.

I believe it is critical that the Turkish Cypriot side provide information on the five American citizens of Greek Cypriot descent who have been missing since 1974. As a purely humanitarian matter, the Turkish side must make progress on this issue.

My district includes a large Cypriot-American community in Queens and I have listened to their needs and concerns regarding their homes and families in Cyprus many times. On this day of independence and celebration for Cyprus, I believe that it is important that both the United States and the Republic of Cyprus renew the commitment towards strengthening relations and working towards a peaceful and durable settlement for this divided island. I sincerely hope that the Turkish Cypriot leadership decides to make the compromises necessary to end the division of Cyprus so that the entire island can continue to prosper and develop as an active member of the international community.

Until that time comes, I congratulate the people of Cyprus on the 43d anniversary of their independence.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH
FARIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to the life and memory of an outstanding citizen from my district. Joseph Faris of Walsenburg, Colorado recently passed away at the age of eighty-two. Joseph was a man of integrity and vision who dealt fairly with everyone he encountered. As his family and friends mourn Joseph's passing, I am honored to pay tribute to his life and achievements here today.

Joseph was a kind and friendly man who left a mark on everyone he met. He was a gifted businessman who built his company, Faris Land and Cattle Company, into a thriving business. As an active member of the community, Joseph spent time at the Pueblo Elks Lodge and supported the Pueblo Dodgers baseball team. In addition, he loved to participate in charity golf tournaments.

Mr. Speaker, Joseph Faris had a great passion for life, and he loved to share that passion with others. While Joseph has passed on, his legacy will continue to live. I am honored to join with my colleagues in honoring Joseph here today. My thoughts are with Joseph's family during their time of bereavement.