

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
JOSELYN LLOYD BELL, JR.

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn Lloyd Bell, Jr., Congressional Liaison Officer, Army House Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, who will retire September 30, 2008. I wish to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Bell upon his retirement after twenty years of distinguished military service to our Nation.

I came to know Lieutenant Colonel Bell over the last year while he served as an Army legislative liaison officer to the U.S. House of Representatives. A steadfast dedication to Soldiers, their families, the Army, and our Nation has been the hallmark of his remarkable military career during which he has distinguished himself as both a soldier and leader.

Colonel Bell's assignment to the Army's House Liaison Office was the culmination of an outstanding military career. Prior to assuming this position, Colonel Bell served as a Defense Collection Manager at the National Military Command Center in the Pentagon, and later at the Defense Intelligence Analysis Center in Washington, DC, where he worked with the Intelligence Community to ensure intelligence assets were properly postured to answer the Nation's most demanding and urgent needs.

A military intelligence officer, Lieutenant Colonel Bell received his commission through the Army ROTC program at the University of Central Arkansas. A series of command and staff positions followed. His first assignment was as a Surveillance Platoon leader and later Company Executive Officer in the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion of the 9th Infantry Division (Motorized) at Fort Lewis, Washington. He went to war in August 1991, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, serving as a Platoon Leader and Interrogator in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Following the Persian Gulf War, Colonel Bell held several military intelligence assignments in positions of increasing responsibility. In 2001, Colonel Bell was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Georgia, where, following the terrorist attacks of 9/11, he participated in the development of combat plans and orders for Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom.

In 2003, he went to war again as the Chief of the 3rd Infantry Division's Analysis and Control Element directing intelligence operations and producing intelligence in support of the invasion that destroyed the Iraqi Armed Forces and removed the Iraqi Regime.

After his tour of combat, he returned to Fort Stewart as the Executive Officer of the 103rd Military Intelligence Battalion, quickly resetting the Battalion for a second deployment to Iraq.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College.

His outstanding service has been recognized with numerous awards including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meri-

torious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Joint Services Achievement Medal, and Army Achievement Medal. He proudly wears the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

Lieutenant Colonel Bell's selfless service, dedication to duty, leadership, and loyalty represent the highest traditions of military service. He is a true soldier and scholar.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lieutenant Colonel Joselyn Lloyd Bell, Jr. for his service to our Army and our Nation. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to his wife, Amy, and five children—Shelby, Jordan, Chalci, Tanner and Sydnee—for their many sacrifices and for their service to the Nation alongside their Soldier. We have all benefited from the service of such a man and such a family. I wish him and his family all the best in a well deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ROBBIE "GRAN" JUANITA
SEPOLEN

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to celebrate the wonderful and full life of Robbie "Gran" Juanita Sepolen.

In her 105 years on this Earth, Gran was a daughter, a wife, a mother, a foster parent, a student, a teacher, an activist, grandmother, great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, and even a great-great-great-grandmother, and most importantly, she was a devoted Christian. Her accomplishments are innumerable and the lives that she touched along the way are countless.

Growing up in Brownwood, Texas, Gran was part of the first graduating class from Brownwood Colored High School in 1918, later named the Rufus F. Hardin High School. After college, during a time of great bigotry against the African American race, Gran overcame those boundaries and shared her love of learning with others as a teacher and librarian in the Brownwood School District.

A true public servant, Gran used her rights as a voting citizen to help others find their voice by helping them register to vote. She was active in the senior citizen ministry as well, sharing her love of the arts in senior citizen centers throughout the county.

Gran never tired of meeting new people or learning new things, participating in numerous cultural events, and was even crowned the 2001 Cowboy of Color Rodeo Queen in Houston, Texas.

While we mourn the loss of such a unique and wonderful woman, we must also celebrate a life well lived and move forward knowing that Gran left footprints on the hearts of all that crossed her path.

It is my honor to not only have represented Gran here in Congress, but also to continue to represent all those she inspired during her long life; they are Gran's legacy to Texas.

THE 34TH COMMEMORATION OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, today marks the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and I want to remind all of my colleagues of the ongoing Turkish occupation.

We cannot let the passage of time diminish the events of 1974, nor can we ignore the human rights violations by Turkey that continue today. For more than 34 years the United States and United Nations, as well as European nations, have lamented Turkey's 1974 invasion and subsequent occupation of the Republic of Cyprus. Turkey's poor treatment of Greek-Cypriots living in the occupied area, and its desecration of Christian churches, is without justification.

In July, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in complete violation of international law and is currently occupying approximately 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes, making them refugees in their own country. A large portion of those homes were unlawfully given over to thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey, whom are still there today.

During the Turkish invasion, Cyprus's main town in Famagusta was bombarded and the entire population was forced to flee their homes in fear, never to return again. The Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences and this is how it remains today. Since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the General Assembly, calling for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots.

Since 1974, U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, as well as resolutions adopted by numerous other international organizations, and resolutions we in Congress have passed, reflect the universal condemnation of Turkey's invasion and all subsequent acts of aggression against Cyprus.

The United States and Cyprus share a deep and abiding commitment to upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy, and human rights. The international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation.

Cyprus's goal is the reunification of the island as a bicomunal and bizonal federation with a single sovereignty, single international personality and single citizenship with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces. President Demetris Christofias is committed to negotiating in good faith in order to achieve a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions, and the High Level Agreements of 1977 and 1979 and the values and principles on which the EU is founded.

It is my sincere hope that as we honor the 34th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus that we are closer to the end of the occupation than to the beginning.

HONORING MIKE WAGNER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement as the Captain of the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. Mr. Wagner will be honored at the Stanislaus Sheriff's Posse Rodeo on June 14, 2008.

Mike Wagner was born in Yuba City, California but was raised in Newman, California. In 1965 he joined the United States Air Force and served for 3 years. After leaving the Air Force, he moved back home and joined the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Department. Since then, he has documented over 25,000 volunteer hours for the reserve unit. He has held an administrative position within the reserve unit for over 25 years and was the Reserve Captain for 16 years.

Mr. Wagner has contributed greatly to the Sheriff's Department through the Reserves and has received many accolades for his efforts. In 1972, Mr. Wagner was a founding member of the Sheriffs mounted unit. He has chaired the Sheriffs Posse Rodeo to raise money for the Reserve Organization. In 1980 he received commendation for water rescue and for presidential protection. He has received commendation by the Modesto Rotary, the California State Sheriffs Association Meeting for services provided, California State University, Stanislaus and was selected three times as the Stanislaus County Reserve Officer of the Year. He has been certified for mounted patrol and was sworn as a level one officer in 1996. In 1997, Mr. Wagner was selected by the California Reserve Peace Officer Association as the state Reserve Officer of the Year. He also received the 2004 Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Medal of Merit.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Wagner upon his retirement from the Stanislaus County Sheriffs Reserve. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Wagner many years of continued success.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF FOWLER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Fowler, California on the celebration of their 100th anniversary this past June 15, 2008.

The City of Fowler owes its name to Thomas Fowler, the first businessman to ship cattle from the Central Pacific Railroad line ten miles south of the city of Fresno, California in 1872 where Fowler now exists. The city was officially incorporated on June 15, 1908.

Among the many historic highlights for this thriving community include establishing a large

irrigation canal from the Kings River and incorporating it as the Fowler Switch Canal in 1881; having the sole store owner in town, Mr. John Gentry assume the role of Postmaster in 1882 instituting the first rural delivery in the entire area, and being home to the oldest house of worship of the Armenian Apostolic Faith anywhere in the United States through St. Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church established in Fowler in 1908.

Relying mainly on agriculture as a significant economic base, this small town in the San Joaquin Valley is known for harvesting citrus fruits, grapes, and fresh market fruits among other crops. Fowler is also the home of processing fruit plants which are part of their thriving industrial business corridor that continues to expand.

Commonly referred to as "one of Fresno County's best kept secrets" the residents of Fowler are proud of the small-town feel to their community and the family-centered lifestyle. Fowler's local leaders praise their 'well-kept neighborhoods, attractive downtown, highly acclaimed school district and quality affordable housing' as gemstones of their community.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to congratulate the City of Fowler on their centennial celebration as I am truly honored to represent this little city in the House of Representatives. I wish the community continued success and many more years of tradition for all who already live here and those who choose to make Fowler their home in the future.

RECOGNIZING OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY ANTHONY FORGIONE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today in recognition of Deputy Anthony Forgione of the Okaloosa County Sheriffs Office, who was slain in the line of duty on July 22nd. My deepest condolences go out to Deputy Forgione's family and friends as they mourn his untimely loss.

Deputy Forgione, a former Fort Walton Beach Police officer, was just two days shy of his three-year anniversary with the Okaloosa county Sheriff's office. He was killed when he and two other deputies, all members of the Special Response Team, went into a home to apprehend a suspect who had walked out of a mental health evaluation. The suspect fired at the team with a shotgun, fatally wounding Deputy Forgione. He was only 33 years old and is survived by his wife and two daughters, ages 5 and 10. Deputy Forgione's death marks the first time in the history of the Sheriff's Department a deputy was killed in the line of duty and has shocked a community proud of that history. The funeral service for Anthony Forgione is set for 2:00 p.m. on July 26th at the Niceville Assembly of God in Niceville, FL.

The Northwest Florida Daily News reported that when summarizing what happened during yesterday's early morning events and the manner in which his deputies responded to the incident, Okaloosa County Sheriff Charlie Morris said, "Sometimes, it just goes wrong.

Sometimes in doing our job, we lose people. They did their job well this morning, and they did it well. It's just gut-wrenching." When speaking of Deputy Forgione, specifically, he stated, "He was a professional, a true professional and he loved his SRT team."

As Sheriff Morris and the rest of the local law enforcement community deal with the loss of one of 'their own', he said, "It just gets in the deepest part of your stomach and turns it upside down". As a former Deputy Sheriff myself, I can attest to the pain the whole department is feeling at this time and my heart goes out to them.

Madam Speaker, the communities of Okaloosa County have reason to be proud of Deputy Forgione and I am humbled to have the honor of representing those people. Vicki and I will keep Anthony's entire family, especially his wife, Jessica and his young daughters, in our thoughts and prayers. I hope all the people of Northwest Florida and our Nation do the same. On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the unheralded bravery of Deputy Anthony Forgione and wish to honor his exemplary service to the Okaloosa County community. May God bless Deputy Forgione and all those who serve in law enforcement to protect our communities.

INCREASED DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, recognizing increased dialogue between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriots, and Turkey's support for a peaceful resolution on Cyprus, it is encouraging to see positive steps being taken to reunify the island.

A recent Washington Times editorial outlines the importance of building on progress being made and explains how the U.S. can contribute to this process.

NEEDING AN EXCUSE FOR SUCCESS

[From the Washington Times, July 22, 2008]

The divided island of Cyprus confirms the axiom that political leaders occasionally need excuses for success. The United States should give newly elected Greek Cypriot President Demetris Christofias an excuse to negotiate the reunification of the island with Turkish Cypriot President Mehmet Ali Talat by breaking the international embargo on the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) through direct transportation, trade, telecommunications and sporting links.

Cyprus fractured between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot de facto sovereignties in 1963 following the demise of the 1960 constitution. Since then, Greek Cypriot leaders have lacked any political incentive to compromise from a position of domination because the Greek Cypriot south has enjoyed exclusive international recognition while Turkish Cypriots have suffered from political isolation and economic strangulation. The Greek Cypriot south is represented at the United Nations. It enjoys diplomatic relations with every nation but the Republic of Turkey. It represents the entire island at international sporting or cultural events. Greek Cypriot intransigence has carried no penalty. Indeed, stubbornness has been rewarded by the international community