

the Ship *Cheonan* without provocation. The *Cheonan* lost 46 of its 104 sailors in the attack, and the people of South Korea still mourn their loss.

The Republic of South Korea has been a steadfast ally to the United States for over 50 years, providing a vital foothold for security and stability in Asia; moreover, the United States is bound to South Korea through a shared belief in the values of democracy and the rule of law. We must not stand idly by while our allies overseas are attacked. Foreign aggression is a threat to international stability, and as such also threatens the security of the United States and its people. Secretary of State Clinton has already called out to the rest of the world, showing unwavering conviction that “we cannot allow this attack on South Korea to go unanswered by the international community.” Nor can we in the U.S. Congress remain silent.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution to reaffirm the United States’ commitment to our alliance with the Republic of South Korea. We condemn in the strongest terms the actions of North Korea for their attack and demand a full apology for their aggression, along with a commitment to never again violate the terms of the Korean War Armistice Agreement. The United States must coordinate with our allies to take appropriate action in response to the hostility of the North Korean Government. We also strongly urge the international community to faithfully implement all United Nations Security Council Resolutions pertaining to security on the Korean Peninsula.

I support this resolution not only out of sympathy for our South Korean allies, but also because of the message it sends to potential aggressors abroad. It says we understand that stability around the world is necessary for security at home; it says that we will not remain silent in the face of violations of international treaties; it says that hostility towards peaceful democratic nations will not go unanswered. The safety of the people of the United States depends on our ability to work with the international community to stand by our allies and respond to aggressors.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTHDAY
OF ATATURK

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, As co-chair of the Turkish Study Group in the House, I was invited to a celebration of the birthday of Ataturk, revered as the father of modern Turkey. At the event 16 year old Selin Odabas-Geldiy was asked to speak about the occasion. This very poised young woman gave extremely articulate and pertinent remarks which I felt were worthy of being shared with a much larger audience and am including them here.

REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF ATATURK’S PROCLAMATION OF YOUTH AND SPORTS DAY IN TURKEY TO MEMORIALIZE THE START OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, SELIN ODABAS-GELDIY, MAY 20, 2010, HOME OF MIRAT AND HUDAI YAVALAR

It is a great honor for me to be here tonight and to speak about our great leader

Ataturk and the importance of May 19th. Ninety-one years ago yesterday, Ataturk took a very dangerous trip from Istanbul to Samsun, a city on the Black Sea. There he assumed command of the 9th Ottoman Army. This was a turning point for Turks as it represented the beginning of the Independence War. Because of the significance and the importance of that day, Ataturk dedicated this day to the Turkish youth as he had great confidence and trust in the ability of the Turkish youth to protect and continue the Turkish Republic he founded. I am one of those Turkish youth. When Ataturk spoke of the youth, he was not only referring to those young in age but also to those with open minds, ready to embrace and conquer new challenges.

For as long as I can remember, I have taken great pride in my Turkish heritage. Whenever I meet someone new, I always make a point of telling them that even though I was born in the United States, which I love, my roots are from Turkey. Even in my high school, if someone doesn’t know me personally, he or she will still know me as “the Turkish girl.” I have taken on this identity as a result of my upbringing and how my parents installed this pride in me by example. Ever since I was little, I have watched my parents say with joy, “I live in the United States, but I’m originally from Turkey.” This phrase soon became my own as I met new people. As I was growing up, I remember attending many birthday celebrations for Ataturk at the home of our hosts Mirat and Hudai Yavalar (since May 19th is also considered Ataturk’s birthday) and I thank them for also being good role models in teaching young people about Ataturk. Those are the only birthday parties I attended where the person whose birthday we are celebrating is missing in person. But I realize that Ataturk continues to live in our hearts and minds. How many leaders do you know who evoke such strong feelings of love and devotion in people’s hearts 72 years after they are gone? Not too many, I assure you.

As a child I attended Turkish school every Sunday. We would learn grammar, history, and music, but most of all we would be learning about Ataturk. His leadership and bravery as a military genius were always highlighted. His achievements as a statesman are unmatched. I do not know of any other nation that has gone through and embraced the kinds of reforms Ataturk introduced in Turkey. Creating a secular republic, giving women the right to vote and be elected, changing the alphabet to Latin letters almost overnight, changing the way people dress are just a few of the incredible reforms he promoted and established in Turkey.

As I mentioned earlier, May 19th is dedicated to young people, not only to those who are young in age, but also those who are young in mind, meaning open to learning new ideas and new things. I am happy to be celebrating this important day with all of you.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak with you tonight.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
CLEVELAND MAYOR FRANK
JACKSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Mayor Frank Jackson as he is

named by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association as a 2010 Alumnus of the Year for his work and leadership on behalf of those who live and work in the City of Cleveland.

Mayor Jackson has lived in Cleveland his entire life, and today resides in the same neighborhood in which he grew up. He began his formal schooling in the Cleveland Public Schools. He moved on to Cuyahoga Community College, where he earned an associate’s degree. Subsequently, he earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Cleveland State University and later earned a law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Mayor Jackson was elected to the Cleveland City Council in 1989, where he led the charge to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Mayor Jackson is also a United States Veteran, having served our country in Vietnam with honor.

Mayor Jackson continues to work on issues such as jobs, the foreclosure crisis and affordable housing. He remains a public advocate for the homeless members of our society and he is the first Mayor to attend the annual Homeless Memorial Day event and other events organized by homeless citizens.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mayor Frank Jackson as he is being recognized by the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association for his tireless efforts on behalf of the people of Cleveland.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5136) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2011 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Chair, when the President announced his decision to repeal the current policy, known as “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” earlier this year, the military service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense requested the opportunity to carry out the President’s directive in an orderly manner that would assure the maintenance of discipline and morale in the Armed Forces. It was agreed to at that time, including by the President, that a survey would be sent to all the troops so that their input would be taken into account regarding how best to implement the new policy, and that a report with such recommendations as to how to best implement the new policy would be issued this December, before any legislative action was taken. I believe that process, which was agreed to by the President pursuant to the request of the service chiefs and the Secretary of Defense, should be followed.

Breaking the agreement now by having this vote is most unfortunate, and I strongly disagree with the decision of the President, the Speaker, and the majority leadership to break that agreement today.