

Major Hankins is to be commended for his many years of faithful service. He is well deserving of this commendation and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Major J.R. Hankins and wish him future success in his career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures on July 26, 2010. My congressional district suffered massive flooding, and I needed to remain in Chicago to focus on the recovery. If I had been present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "yea" on each of the following:

Roll 467, July 26, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 1320, To amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency and accountability of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes.

Roll 468, July 26, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended: H. Res. 1504, Recognizing and honoring the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Roll 469, July 26, 2010: On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended: H.R. 3101, Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act.

HONORING BRAD ROWALD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brad Rowald. Brad is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brad has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Brad has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges and contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project, but also earned the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brad Rowald for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CLEVELAND, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Cleveland, Ohio, as its members celebrate one hundred years of faith, hope and tradition.

The history of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church began on September 21, 1910 at 2280 West 7th Street in Cleveland when the structures of the church and rectory were officially dedicated. These buildings were built with the labor and generous donations of the parishioners, most of whom were immigrants from the Ukraine. Metropolitan Archbishop Andrew Sheptytsky of Lviv was present to provide a blessing to the newly opened parish. The buildings and grounds have since been restored and expanded, yet the original structures remain as strong and as beautiful as when first built.

Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church grew quickly. It soon became a part of the community and a strong cultural connection for hundreds of Ukrainian families throughout Cleveland. To assist immigrants and families, the parish expanded services, including the establishment of a savings and loan to help young families secure loans to purchase homes. Picnics, concerts and fundraisers became a weekly tradition. The church offered musical treasures from Ukraine, including performances of a 60-string instrument, the bandura. Parishioners would also make and sell varenyky, a delectable Ukrainian dumpling, which quickly sold to Clevelanders of all ethnic backgrounds.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of the members of Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, past and present, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. Their contributions to our community are immeasurable. The church continues to stand as a beacon of culture and faith for Ukrainian Americans, for the diverse people in Cleveland's Tremont neighborhood and throughout our Greater Cleveland community.

STOP DISTORTING HISTORY AND WORK FOR REAL PEACE ON CYPRUS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, Monday, July 20, 2010 marked the 36th anniversary of the day in 1974 that Turkey intervened to stop an ethnic cleansing campaign against Turkish Cypriots by militant Greek Cypriots. As usual, a number of my colleagues have come to the floor of this Chamber over the last few days and weeks to lament the so-called "invasion" of Cyprus by Turkey. And as usual every year I come down to the floor to set the record straight and ask my colleagues

to stop perpetuating revisionist history that attempts to lay all the blame for the ills of Cyprus at the doorstep of Turkish Cypriots and Turkey; to ask them to lay aside the inflammatory rhetoric; and to ask them to actually work to bring peace to this troubled island.

So, once again, here I am but I am not going to focus on the past—I believe an objective evaluation of the history of Cyprus proves that the crisis on Cyprus is significantly more complex than the "blame Turkey" special interest groups would like people to believe. Instead, I am going to focus on the future. While the Cyprus dispute is between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, it has a much greater impact on the global community. Over the past few decades this dispute has involved not only the two peoples on the island, but also Turkey, Greece, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Nations, and the European Union. Moreover, Turkey's membership to the European Union, which the United States enthusiastically supports, is unfortunately being impacted because of the situation in Cyprus.

All of us in this chamber, Republicans and Democrats, want to see peace and prosperity come to all the people of Cyprus. In fact, in 2003, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution H. Res. 165 urging support for the U.N. backed Annan Plan—which proposed the creation of a new bizonal, bicommunal state. Unfortunately, the Annan Plan collapsed in 2004, because Greek Cypriots opposed the referendum which would have approved the plan.

Although Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly supported the referendum, the Greek Cypriots became EU members, and despite promises made to Turkish Cypriots, they remain under international isolation despite their positive efforts. To their credit though, Turkish Cypriots continue to seek a settlement to the issue. This is a testament to their hope for the future.

In September 2008, Greek Cypriot leader Dimitris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat began a positive and concerted effort to reach some type of acceptable solution. From all reports, over the last two years, the two men have been able to reach a number of "understandings" regarding so-called "convergences."

However, on April 18, 2010, through a democratic process Turkish Cypriot voters elected a new President, Dr. Dervis Eroglu of the National Unity Party (UBP). Almost immediately the "blame Turkey" special interest groups began screaming that the change in Turkish Cypriot Leadership from Talat to Eroglu would lead to a period of retrenchment with future negotiations dominated by hardline views. Once again, though, the "blame Turkey" crowd was wrong. Since taking office, Dr. Eroglu has reassured everyone of his commitment for a just and lasting comprehensive settlement through the ongoing negotiations, under the auspices of U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

The first round of the new talks was held on May 26, 2010, and continued briefly on June 3rd and again on June 15th. Four additional sessions have been scheduled through the end of July. Are negotiations proceeding as rapidly and as smoothly as everyone would like; no, but progress is still being made. But, I believe that we are really on the cusp of a breakthrough that could lead to a fair and lasting peace on Cyprus; a peace where the two parties on the island enjoy political equality.