2003-07-24

Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus; Hon. Steven R. Rothman of New Jersey in the House of Representatives

Rothman, Steven R.

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 29th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus and to commemo-
rate this tragedy for the Greek Cypriot people. On the 29th Anniversary of the Turkish Inva-
sion of Cyprus, we solemnly remember the
victims of the invasion. The invasion claimed
5,000 Cypriot lives, displaced 200,000 Greek
Cypriots from their homes, and has created one
of the most militarized areas in the world,
with 40,000 Turkish troops continuing to oc-
cupy the island. The invasion also created ha-
tred between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cyp-
riots that poisoned the way they thought of
each other for years.

While we mourn the tragic losses of the past 29 years, we are also able to celebrate the
futures of a Cyprus integrated into the Eu-
ropean Union. This is an historic year for Cy-
prus, and I would like to commend Cyprus and
the Greek Cypriot people for their commitment
determination in reaching a settlement on
the reunification of the island and especially
membership in the European Union. On April
16, 2003, Cyprus signed the Accession Treaty
to the European Union and will now have a
host of new opportunities open to its people.
Just this week, the Wall Street Journal ran an
article describing the emotional meetings of
Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots going
back to their former villages, and their realiza-
tion that the hatred melted away once they
met and spoke with people on the other side.
If this is truly the case, then there is hope for
a peaceful future.

Nevertheless, it is the obligation of the U.S.
Congress to condemn the violence that sepa-
rated the island nation of Cyprus, and to en-
courage Turkish Cypriot leaders as needed to
negotiate in good faith with their Greek Cypriot
counterparts to settle this dispute. The reunifi-
cation of the island nation is a priority for this
Congress and the international community.
On this anniversary of the Turkish invasion of
Cyprus, we mourn the deaths of those killed in
the invasion and the lost opportunities over
the years, and we look forward to a future of
a reunited Cyprus in the European Union.

HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF
CMDR. KEVIN A. BIANCHI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to
honor a true American hero. Kevin A. Bianchi,
40, was among three members of a Navy heli-
copter crew confirmed dead in a crash in Sic-
ily on July 16, 2003. The fact that his older
brother, Robert, a Navy helicopter pilot, was
killed in a crash in the Philippines in 1986,
adds to the enormous grief that his family now feels.

Kevin Bianchi came from a proud family tra-
dition of Navy servicemen. Two of his three
brothers served honorably with Kevin in the
Navy. Indeed, Kevin himself graduated from the
U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Mary-
land, in May 1985 with a Bachelor of Science
degree in Applied Science. He led fellow serv-
icemen as captain of the Navy Wrestling team,
and was commissioned and assigned to the
Naval Academy staff as an Assistant Physical
Education Instructor and Assistant Wrestling
Coach. In June 1991, Cmdr. Bianchi reported
to the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey
California where he earned a Masters of Science
degree in Information Systems Tech-
nology Management. Finally, in March 2001,
he was transferred to attend the College of Naval Command and Staff at the
United States Naval War College where
he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in
National Security and Strategic Studies.

His glittering academic career was mirrored
by his successful service record. He served
with honor on the Naval Air Force Atlantic
Fleet in Virginia, and was promoted to the
position of Air Operations Officer of the Pacific
Fleet in San Diego, California. He was decor-
ated on countless occasions in recognition of
his service success. In addition to various
service awards, Cmdr. Bianchi earned an Air
Medal and Navy Commendation and Achieve-
ment Medals.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues
here in the U.S. House of Representatives are
inspired, as I am, by Cmdr. Bianchi’s remark-
able patriotism and exceptional valor. He was
proud to serve his country, and refused to give
up his career even after his family had been
struck by tragedy. That Cmdr. Bianchi contin-
ued to put his life at risk on a regular basis,
even after the loss of his brother in 1986, is
proof of his unsailable courage and dedica-
tion. Let us join in extending our condolences
to Cmdr. Bianchi’s parents, who have now lost
two sons in service to our Nation. Our
thoughts and prayers will be with his loving
wife Rita Barrie, and their three children,
Kevin, Christopher and Julia.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION
HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Chairman, I was unavoid-
dably detained due to a U.S. Airways plane
default and missed rollcall vote No. 357, the
Ackerman-LaTourette amendment to the
Agriculture appropriations bill which would re-
quire that the USDA expend no funds to ap-
prove meat from downed animals—animals
that are too sick to walk or stand—for food.
Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

IN RECOGNITION OF JETT WILLIAMS, THE DAUGHTER OF HANK WILLIAMS
HON. MIKE ROGERS
OF ALABAMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to pay tribute to Jett Williams, the
daughter of the legendary Hank Williams,
for her outstanding professional achievements.
Jett Williams was born in Montgomery, Ala-
abama, on January 6, 1953, five days after the
death of her father, Hank Williams. She was
adopted by her grandmother Williams. When Ms. Williams passed away in 1954, Jett
was adopted by a family living in Mobile, Ala-
abama. It was not until adulthood that she
began to search for her real identity. In 1989, the Alabama Supreme Court recognized Jett Williams as the daughter of Hank Williams. Through her fight to be recognized as the daughter of Hank Williams, Jett Williams was assisted by attorney Keith Adkinson, who became her husband in 1996. The next year, she began her professional singing debut in Evergreen, Alabama. In 1990, she published her autobiography. Finally, on the occasion of the anniversary of the 75th birthday of Hank Williams, Jett Williams and Hank Williams, Jr. made their first appearance together, demonstrating their family relationship.

Carrying on the Hank Williams tradition, Jett Williams performs throughout the country, and on August 16, 2003, she will once again return to Alabama for her annual Kowligu Reunion on Lake Martin to honor her father and one of country music’s best known legacies, Hank Williams.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT OF THE WORK OF SISTER JANET DOYLE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity today to recognize the contributions to Catholic education made by Sister Janet Doyle, O.P. of the Toledo Catho lic Diocese. Sr. Janet leaves her position as Superintendent of the diocese’s Catholic Youth and Social Services, having developed the office into a comprehensive network of services for young people including schools, sports, social activities, and ministry.

During her long tenure, Sr. Janet has oversen 83 elementary schools, 10 high schools, 4 private high schools, and 2 colleges in the diocese’s nineteen county Northwest Ohio area through which tens of thousands of children have been educated. Under her leadership, the schools expanded enrollment to include students of all faiths, offering opportunities for them to learn in an interfaith environment.

Sr. Janet’s stewardship has been marked by the Catholic educators credo that “we believe our Catholic School is not only a school, but a community of Faith; we believe those entrusted to us are not only students, but children of God; we believe we are not only educators, but ministers of the Gospel; we believe the values we teach are not only character development, but a call to Holiness; we believe our courses of study are not only academic pursuits, but a search for Truth; we believe the purpose of education is not for personal gain and the development of society, but for the Transformation of the world.” Under her capable guidance, the diocese’s schools have demonstrated high academic standards, offering quality education with rigorous academic standards, and at the same time giving students a safe haven in which to learn and grow. Thank you Sister!

Sr. Janet leaves as her legacy the fulfillment of the mission of the office of Catholic Youth and Social Services—Sr. Janet and her staff have made their teaching mission by serving, challenging, and supporting the leaders of youth formation and education who minister in schools and parishes in the Diocese of Toledo. “Though her daily presence will be missed, Toledo’s Catholic youth services bear her imprimatur.”

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARPIN
OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. CARIN. Mr. Speaker, the words most often used to describe Eddie Murray are “team-player,” “reliable,” “steady,” and “clutch-player.” What these words fail to convey is just how much fun it was to watch Eddie play, particularly for the Orioles, particularly in Memorial Stadium where he spent his first 12 years as a professional baseball player. He helped the team excel in every way, from winning a World Series and a pair of American League Championships, to being an exciting home team to root for at the ballpark.

This wonderful and often under appreciated ball player known in my hometown simply as “Eddie” will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame this weekend in the first year he is eligible. The statistics are important, and they show just how steady and yet remarkable Eddie’s career was. Eddie Murray is one of three players (the other two are Hank Aaron and Willie Mays) to hit over a lifetime 500 home runs and 3,000 hits. He is the only switch hitter to accomplish this feat. He homered from both sides of the plate in 11 games—a Major League record. He was the 1977 American League Rookie of the Year, an 8-time All-Star (in both Leagues), a 3-time Golden Glove winner, and shares the distinction with Cal Ripken and Pete Rose of playing at least 150 games in 16 seasons—all in a career that was 20 years long. He ranks 2nd in all-time career grand slams with 19. He ranks 8th all-time in RBIs, 17th in home runs, 12th in hits. He holds the Major League record for games played and assists by a first baseman. He batted in 1,917 RBIs—more than 75 a season in 20 consecutive seasons.

He hit 996 RBIs in the 80’s—the most any player hit in the decade—and was known for being able to play his best in situations where his team needed him the most. Murray was a career .410 hitter with the bases loaded. In fact, he hit 117 game-winning RBIs, an American League record, and hit a Major League record 128 sacrifice flies. Murray was in every way the ultimate clutch player and a team player who thought of the team and the game before his own glory. In total, he hit 504 home runs, 3,255 hits, and played for the Orioles, the Dodgers, the Mets, the Indians, and the Angels. But he started his career and hit his 500th home run in Baltimore, and he will be inducted on Sunday as an Oriole. We are proud to claim him.

Eddie Murray told the Baltimore Sun in January he was honored by the induction. “The 500 home runs, to me, is the most mind-boggling, because I didn’t think I was strong enough. I never thought of myself as a home-run hitter.” He gave back to other players, on the field with his selfless play and off. When Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig’s record, he simply said, “I’m the only one that was lucky to have him as my teammate for 5000 games.”

Of sharing his achievement with Aaron and Mays, Murray said, “I’m not in their class.” Mr. Murray, your fans in Baltimore and across the Country beg to disagree.

CELEBRATING NEW YORK’S DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of New York’s oldest celebrations of Dominican culture, Manhattan’s Dominican Day Parade. The annual parade, which once ran through the heart of Washington Heights, has grown to become one of August’s most anticipated celebrations of cultural and ethnic pride on New York’s Sixth Avenue.

This year’s parade on August 10th not only comes on the heels of the Dominican Republic’s hosting of the 14th edition of the Pan-American Games, it also kicks off Dominican Heritage Week in New York City. From then to August 16th, New Yorkers of all ages will get a chance to learn about some of the ways in which this vibrant community is transforming the nation.

We have begun to hear of Dominicans and Dominican-Americans in the context of stars like baseball slugger Sammy Sosa, designer Oscar de la Renta, and Miss Universe 2002 Amelia Vega. However, there are hundreds of Dominican professionals and an increasing amount of Dominican students that are blazing trails in government, law, science, and technology. They understand that they stand on the shoulders of not only the sacrifices that their parents have made but also on the achievements of members of other freedom-loving people.

In many ways, their journey is similar to other immigrant groups that have landed on our shores. But make no mistake, the people of the Dominican Republic have a style all their own. They are part of the wonderful mosaic that is America whose continuing empowerment can only help this country reach its full potential as a democracy.

LIVING WELL WITH FATAL CHRONIC ILLNESS ACT OF 2003

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Living Well with Fatal Chronic Illness Act of 2003”, a bill to build the capacity to meet the challenge of growing numbers of people living with serious chronic illness for some time before death. I am joined