

and work. The individual of whom I am speaking is Ahmad Rateb Olomi. He was unexpectedly and tragically taken in an airplane accident over the Arabian Sea on Monday, February 24, 2003, at the age of 45.

Mr. Olomi was born in Afghanistan, and earned a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Engineering and Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. He moved to the United States in 1980. He was hired by Orange County in 1984 and shortly thereafter became a naturalized United States citizen. He worked his way up from Engineering Technician to the position of Senior Civil Engineer. Some of the more notable projects he worked on were Seven Oaks Dam, the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, and the Laguna Canyon Road State Route 133 realignment. Over his 19 years of service to Orange County, Mr. Olomi developed himself into one of the County's most talented and valued professionals.

In addition to his love for the United States and his community, he never forgot his original homeland. On the day of the tragedy, Mr. Olomi was on a 6-month leave of absence from the County of Orange traveling with the Afghan Minister of Mines and Industries to help with the rebuilding of Afghanistan, and the construction of a transnational pipeline project that would pump natural gas and oil from Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and into Pakistan.

Mr. Olomi was also a dedicated family man. He is survived by his wife Roya and children, Yusef and Sahar. He is remembered by his family and friends as a man admired for his integrity, honesty, intelligence and selfless commitment to others. My thoughts and prayers go out to them for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, looking back at Mr. Olomi's life, we see a man dedicated to his family, community, adopted country and original homeland—an American and Afghani whose service led to the betterment of those who had the privilege to come in contact or work with him. Honoring Mr. Olomi's memory is the least we can do today for all that he gave over his lifetime.

INTRODUCTION OF EFFICIENT ENERGY THROUGH CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIES (EFFECT) ACT OF 2003

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join Reps. CUNNINGHAM, CRANE and MATSUI in introducing the Efficient Energy through Certified Technologies (EFFECT) Act of 2003. This bill provides tax incentives to make both new and existing buildings more energy efficient. These incentives are workable, verifiable and will promote market transformation, stimulating the market for energy efficient technology and services.

Building construction and operation represents 15 percent of Gross National Product and buildings consume 35 percent of the Nation's primary energy budget—almost twice as much as cars. This bill would stimulate the economy while decreasing energy consumption. It would improve our national energy security by reducing vulnerability to transmission

disruptions and cutting our oil and gas import dependence.

The tax incentives are based totally on energy performance, achieving two critical goals: It assures that projected energy savings will be achieved; and it encourages vigorous competition and innovation in the marketplace, reducing the cost of energy efficiency.

Within 10 years, the EFFECT Act could produce power savings of 110 gigawatts—the equivalent of 275 400 megawatt power plants. The cost savings could be over \$30 billion annually. Right now the effect would stimulate the use of existing, off-the-shelf technology that can cost-effectively reduce energy use by 50 percent for existing buildings. This would result in nearly a 6 percent reduction in air pollution emissions over the next 10 years—equivalent to taking 40 percent of our automobiles off the road—and save American homeowners billions of dollars each year in energy costs.

This bill is supported by a coalition of environmentalists and industries, and as shown by the latest Gallup Poll, the American people. In that poll, 60 percent agreed that the United States should emphasize greater conservation by consumers of existing energy supplies, while 29 percent supported production of more oil, gas and coal supplies as the solution.

This bill demonstrates the extraordinary power of energy conservation to reduce the need for wasteful, inefficient, and capital intensive energy projects. There is no other Federal policy proposal that has the potential to save this much energy and peak power or to help the economy so much for so little cost. I urge my colleagues to join the original co-sponsors in passing this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 2003, I missed rollcall vote No. 42. If I had been present I would have voted "yes."

CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply disappointed by the failure of the recent talks between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Tassos Papadopolous and Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, which ended yesterday without an agreement due to the intransigence of Mr. Denktash.

We have observed years of intense negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities and were hopeful that this round would end in success. As you know, in 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 35,000 heavily armed troops in Cyprus. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots, who fell victim to a policy of ethnic cleansing, were forcibly evicted from their homes and became refugees in their own country.

Despite the hardships and trauma caused by the ongoing Turkish occupation, Cyprus has registered remarkable economic growth, and the people living in the Government-controlled areas enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living. The latest success is the European Council's invitation to Cyprus to become one of the ten new Member States of the European Union. Sadly, the people living in the occupied area continue to be mired in poverty. We had hoped that a united Cyprus would join EU.

Instead, we are faced with failure. Failure because Mr. Rauf Denktash has denied Turkish Cypriots the opportunity to determine their own future and to vote in a referendum which would have likely lead to a solution of the Cyprus problem.

Despite my concerns and disappointment, I appreciate the comments of President Papadopolous who has stated that the Greek Cypriot side will "continue the efforts for reaching a solution to the Cyprus question both before and after Cyprus joins the EU."

I urge the government of Turkey to take constructive steps for resolving the Cyprus problem. And I urge the Administration to continue with its efforts to persuade Turkey and the Turkish-Cypriot leader to work within the UN process to end the division of Cyprus.

At a time when tensions are rising around the world, we must seize every opportunity to achieve peace and stability.

A TRIBUTE TO PASTOR JEAN BURCH, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District. Pastor Jean Burch of Pasadena, California, has been pivotal in the social and religious vitality of our community and I wish to salute her efforts today.

Raised in Pasadena, she attended Pasadena City College, continuing her journey into higher education at Biola University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Leadership with an emphasis in Biblical Studies.

Pastor Burch had a successful twenty-year career within the legal profession. In March 2000, she left the legal profession to become the Senior Pastor of Community Baptist Church in Pasadena. Her religious career began in the early 1970s under the leadership of Dr. Reverend Coy Turrentine, the late Bishop James E. Henry and as Assistant Pastor for her father, Pastor Emeritus John W. Burch at Community Baptist Church. In addition, she served as an instructor at the Southern California School of Ministry, teaching a course entitled "Women in Ministry."

A natural leader, she has been extensively involved in many community, civic, and religious organizations. Some of the boards she