

many recommendations and observations on what NASA should do to keep the Shuttle flying safely over the remainder of its operational lifetime, which may extend another decade or more.

NASA has already put in place an external task force, co-chaired by Tom Stafford and Dick Covey, to oversee its implementation of the CAIB's "return-to-flight" recommendations—those recommendations that must be met before the next Shuttle launch. Over the coming months, the Congress will be monitoring the task force's assessment of NASA's plans closely to assure ourselves and the American public that the next flight is as safe as is humanly possible.

However, a long-term oversight problem remains. The Stafford-Covey task force will conclude its activities when the Shuttle resumes flying, or even earlier. Admiral Gehman has repeatedly registered his concern that once the Shuttle is flying again, there may be no effective oversight mechanism to ensure that NASA follows through on the long-term CAIB recommendations—those designed to keep the Shuttle flying safely over the next decade. I share his concern.

My bill will establish an external, independent, and technically competent committee to monitor NASA's implementation of the CAIB's recommendations. The committee will be selected and run by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering and will provide its timely assessments to both the Congress and NASA. Following the 1986 loss of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*, the National Academies provided a similar function in overseeing the re-design of the Shuttle's solid rocket motors (SRM), as well as reviewing other post-*Challenger* Shuttle modifications. History shows that the National Academies served a vital role in providing high-quality, independent advice and assessments to NASA during that difficult time. They were tough—rejecting several re-designs and test plans before approving the final design—but they were fair, and there have been no problems with the SRMs since *Challenger*.

Why can't the Congressionally established Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel (ASAP) monitor the long-term CAIB recommendations? Because a week ago—on September 22—all nine ASAP members tendered their resignation, a distress signal that we in Congress should be taking very seriously. In interviews with the press, ASAP members have noted both their lack of independence from NASA and the discouraging fact that NASA has regularly dismissed the ASAP's safety recommendations. The oversight Committees, including the Science Committee, on which I serve as Ranking Member, need to get to the bottom of the ASAP situation. Perhaps the ASAP will need to be re-constituted legislatively to provide it with greater independence and resources.

At the same time, however, we need to establish a dedicated group that can effectively oversee NASA's implementation of the CAIB's longterm recommendations. I recognize that there may be many ways to reach this goal, and I call on the leaders of the relevant oversight Committees to convene hearings promptly to examine the various options. The strengths of my legislation are that it gives the Shuttle oversight group complete independence and it follows a model that has been

proven to work effectively in the past. It also ties the oversight body to standing institutions—the National Academies—that can provide it with the support and stability it needs for the long run.

I offer this legislation with the goal of helping the NASA Administrator to promote safety in the human space flight program. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation and to speed its enactment into law.

TRIBUTE TO MARJORIE SELLERS
DAY UPON HER RETIREMENT
FROM ALABAMA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SYSTEM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the long and distinguished career of Marjorie S. Day who blessed the First Congressional District of Alabama with 31 years of service and devotion. Marjorie committed her life to the betterment of young children through the many years she dedicated to 4-H youth programs in the State of Alabama. She blessed the 4-H program with her exceptional gift of warmth and sincerity.

Marjorie Day graduated from Auburn University in 1970 where she obtained a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education. She continuously worked to further her education by participating in various courses and training programs. In 1985, she graduated from the University of Alabama with a Master's of Science in Home Economics, Food & Nutrition.

Before her involvement in 4-H programs, Marjorie's career began in the Conecuh County public school system in Evergreen, Alabama, as a vocational home economics teacher. Driven by a tireless passion for serving children, she began her 31 year journey with 4-H programs in 1972 in Heflin, Alabama. Here, Marjorie worked with 600 adoring young people from fifteen different 4-H clubs. In 1977, she moved to Mobile, Alabama, where she spent the next 25 years of her career working as a county agent for Alabama Cooperative Extension System of Mobile County. Here, her youth groups continued to expand until she eventually assumed responsibility for the entire 4-H program with the assistance of other agents.

Marjorie was recognized for her exceptional talent as the recipient of various awards and honors including a 25 Years of Service Award in 1998 and a 30 Years of Service in the Government of the United States of America Award in 2002. Marjorie's undying passion to help others is an irreplaceable gift that goes above and beyond any other. There is no doubt she holds a special gift of compassion that will truly be missed.

Marjorie will surely enjoy the well deserved time she now has to spend with family and loved ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish her the best of luck with all future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING OF THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker. I rise before you today in recognition of the 43rd anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus broke free from 80 years of British colonial rule to become its own independent Republic. Despite the hardships that the people of Cyprus have had to endure over the past four decades, they now have one of the most vibrant economies in all of Europe, and remain committed to the core principles enshrined in the Cyprus Constitution that guarantee basic rights and freedoms to both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

Over the past year, the people of Cyprus have had much to celebrate. The Republic was formally admitted into the European Union, the so-called Green Line that separates the southern, government-controlled portion of the island from the northern occupied territory was partially opened so that Greek and Turkish Cypriots could explore the entirety of their homeland for the first time in nearly thirty years, and the Greek-Cypriots created and implemented a package of measures designed to assist their compatriots from the north in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, and trade.

However, despite each of these positive advancements in the divided Republic, reunification of the island has yet to occur. Due to the obdurate stance of the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, negotiations have stalled and the United Nations has ceased its efforts to bring the two sides to an agreement. At this crucial juncture, it is absolutely imperative that the United States government continues to show support for reunification of Cyprus. Fueled by international support, the Greek and Turkish Cypriots will continue their calls for reunification, and the Turkish and Turkish-Cypriot leadership may be persuaded to reconsider their positions.

In an effort to advance the peace process in Cyprus, I have introduced a bill, H. Res. 320, which calls for the removal of Turkish troops from the island. Reunification negotiations would be greatly facilitated by demilitarization of the area, as this current threat of violence is certainly not conducive to a peaceful process. I strongly urge each of my colleagues to cosponsor this important resolution. In addition, I ask that my colleagues join me in calling upon the Foreign Operations Appropriations subcommittee to work in conference to ensure that Cyprus receives funding at the \$15 million level as it has in past fiscal years. US funding for Cyprus is used primarily for bicommunal programs that aim to encourage cooperation between the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus. The continuation of these worthwhile programs is absolutely essential to the reunification process, and, because of this, US funding is needed now more than ever.

As the citizens of the Republic of Cyprus celebrate the 43rd anniversary of their nation's