

mass destruction. Cyprus was the first EU member to sign this agreement. In the fall Cyprus became a signatory to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. Finally, as citizens from many nations including the United States evacuate from Lebanon, Cyprus is providing critical support in helping these individuals reach safety.

A unified Cyprus would promote stability, both politically and economically, to the entire Mediterranean region. The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in solemnly commemorating the 32nd anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

Long live freedom.

Long live Cyprus.

Long live Greece.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I reluctantly rise in opposition to this one-sided resolution that condemns recent attacks against the State of Israel while failing to deplore Israeli violence against the people of Lebanon. Like the authors and supporters of this resolution, I support Israel's right to exist and denounce the tragic kidnapping of Israeli soldiers. I also appreciate the desire to marginalize Hezbollah. But Israel's disproportionate military response, which is decimating Lebanon's infrastructure and economy, and preventing the transport of necessary medicines into the country, is counterproductive.

As we are all painfully aware, the Middle East is a fragile place. Unfortunately, America's unconditional support for Israel is now tipping the balance in Israel's favor, facilitating a cycle of violence that undermines hopes for long-term peace. The latest back-and-forth threatens a larger, longer, and more deadly war, and underscores the failure of this administration to bring stability to the region.

Lebanon has a democratically elected government that is by no means safely ensconced. I fear that in an attempt to weaken Hezbollah, Israel will instead undermine a Lebanese government that is more autonomous and sovereign than at any time in the past two decades. Killing Lebanese soldiers, for example, will not help the Lebanese government limit Hezbollah's influence. President Bush and I rarely agree, but even he this week cautioned Israel to be "mindful" of allowing Lebanon's government to "succeed and survive" after the conflict.

I do not agree with the President's refusal, however, to join the international community in calling for a prompt cease-fire. Nor do I appreciate this resolution's tacit approval for a lack of American diplomacy. Rather than back any and all actions Israel takes, the United States should act as an honest broker and pressure both Israel and Lebanon to show restraint. Di-

plomacy, not more violence, is the path to peace in the Middle East.

Additionally, I strongly encourage the United States to acknowledge the plight of Americans living in Lebanon. Yesterday morning, the Washington Post ran a letter to the editor by a constituent of mine, noting the administration's Katrina-like response to evacuation requests. The constituent's family would like to depart Lebanon, but has been unable to secure transport out of the country.

Finally, I am concerned that particular language in this resolution that all but encourages Israel to take action against Iran's nuclear facilities. Section Eight in particular sanctions "Israel's right to take appropriate action including to conduct operations in the territory of nations which pose a threat to it" As with the current violence, I would urge Israel—and the United States—to pursue a diplomatic solution in Iran.

I cannot vote for a resolution that condemns one tragedy while supporting another. I urge my colleagues to embrace the difficult and challenging path to peace rather than the reflexively simple march to war.

GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I, with my colleague Congressman WEXLER of Florida, would like to submit a statement regarding the current situation on the island of Cyprus.

As both Greek and Turkish Cypriots reflect on the events that took place more than 30 years ago, there is good news coming from the divided island of Cyprus. After a hiatus of more than 2 years since the unsuccessful referenda of April 2004, in which the Turkish Cypriots overwhelmingly voted in favor of a U.N. plan for a settlement, while the Greek Cypriots overwhelmingly voted against it, the two Cypriot leaders, Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat and Greek Cypriot leader Tasos Papadopoulos, met under U.N. auspices on July 3 and 8, respectively, and agreed to hold further meetings at the technical, as well as political levels, on the basis of a "Set of Principles."

Among these principles aimed at "the unification of Cyprus based on bi-zonal, bicomunal federation and political equality," is a commitment to the creation of the "right atmosphere" in order for the process to be successful; the enactment of "confidence building measures" to that end, and putting an end to the "blame game."

The meeting of the two leaders and the agreement they reached have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union and others.

It is important that this new and positive spirit demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders be supported by the United States Congress in order to help the parties build trust and forge an atmosphere conducive to peace. It is our sincere hope that the spirit of reconciliation and goodwill generated during the recent meetings will continue to be promoted by all parties involved.

Mr. Speaker, as the process moves forward it is also important to recognize the resolve of

the Turkish Cypriot people who have demonstrated time after time an unwavering commitment to reconciliation as well as remarkable flexibility both in the 2004 referenda and after. Despite their continued commitment to reunify Cyprus, Turkish Cypriots are still awaiting the fulfillment of the promises made to them by the international community before and after the referenda that their isolation would be lifted. We believe that both the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, whose support was crucial in securing the "yes" vote of the Turkish Cypriots in the 2004 referenda, should be rewarded, not penalized, in order for the process to move forward toward a lasting settlement.

More than ever before, it is important to support the recent progress made in Cyprus and look towards a brighter future for Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

TRIBUTE TO EMANUEL TURNER OF HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Emanuel Turner from Hernando County, Florida, who is retiring from the military after twenty-five years of service to our country.

Mr. Turner was born in Jackson, Mississippi on July 3, 1957 to Emanuel Turner Sr. and Marie Ellis. After graduating with a Bachelor's Degree from Jackson State University in June, 1981, Mr. Turner met and married Jarry Dean. Soon thereafter, he joined the Army to support his wife and later their two children, Emanuel III and Courtney Marie.

During his active duty in the United States Army from 1981 to 2006, Mr. Turner was stationed in several different locations around the country including Germany, Kentucky, Texas, Kuwait, Hawaii, Michigan, and Georgia. These frequent relocations could not have been easy for Mr. Turner or his family, and his willingness to remain dedicated to this country is commendable.

Serving with the 25th Infantry Division, the 3rd Infantry Division, and the Personnel Service Detachment, Mr. Turner participated admirably in Operation Restore Democracy, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Desert Storm. His involvement in these missions shows his commitment to the United States and our fight to advance the cause of freedom.

Also during his service, Mr. Turner met and married his current wife, Flora Nathan of Brooksville, Florida. They now reside in Hernando County with their three step-children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Mr. Turner's retirement, I would like to thank him for his service to this country and the sacrifices he has made on behalf of the American people. Without his service our Nation would not be as strong as it is today.