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TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE  
200TH ANNIVERSARY COMMISSION  
ACT OF 2007—SUPPORT

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 3432, a bill that would authorize the establishment of a federal commission to coordinate activities for the commemoration of the bicentennial anniversary of the U.S. Transatlantic Slave Trade Act.

Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in the United States. Although the transatlantic slave trade represents a dark aspect of not only U.S. history, but world history, it provides an opportunity to celebrate the progress with human rights, civil rights, and race relations in our great country. In addition to celebrating progress, the anniversary offers an opportunity to educate and remind people all over the world of the history slavery played in making race such a dominant reality in our history and the role of the slave trade.

The establishment of a federal commission to coordinate the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade commemoration activities would assist with reminding and informing people of the past and present day implications of slavery in the development of America as a nation.

At the present time, people are rightfully consumed and burdened with issues that are impacting their personal lives, as well as, societal issues including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, terrorism, quality healthcare, education, and crime. Due to this, I believe people would welcome being refreshed by something to celebrate versus something to worry about; especially because African Americans have made and continue to make immeasurable contributions and advances in our great country since the abolishment of the transatlantic slave trade and slavery. Young people need to have an understanding of and develop an appreciation for our country's past, which would hopefully instill pride and hope for tomorrow.

I thank Congressman PAYNE for introducing this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it. I also encourage people all over the world, especially young people to learn about the history of slavery.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT RELATING TO REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 9, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 405, of which I am a cosponsor, which expresses the strong support of the House of Represent-

atives for the implementation of the July 8, 2006, U.N.-brokered agreement between President of the Republic of Cyprus Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat relating to the reunification of Cyprus. As a co-founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I want to thank Representative BILIRAKIS, my fellow co-chair, for introducing the bill and working to bring it to the floor today.

On July 8, 2006, President Papadopoulos and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat agreed, under the auspices of the United Nations, to a set of principles to begin a process of discussions aimed at ending the division of Cyprus. The agreement calls for a commitment to the unification of Cyprus based on a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and political equality, as set out in the relevant Security Council resolutions. The agreement also called for the establishment of technical committees and working groups to examine and discuss a variety of issues including those that affect the daily lives of the people.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus, and I hope that passage of H. Res. 405 by the House today will be a positive influence in moving this process forward in preparation for new comprehensive negotiations leading to the unification of Cyprus within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELOIT CIVIC THEATRE

**HON. TAMMY BALDWIN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of an organization that has influenced the advancement of cultural opportunities for the people of Beloit, Wisconsin. Originally envisioned as a showcase of local talents, today the Beloit Civic Theatre has grown into a remarkable attraction stimulating growth and support of the arts within the community and surrounding area.

Initially named the Beloit Little Theatre Guild upon its founding in 1932, the organization began its tradition of service with the production of the Whole Town's Talking. The group concluded its first season with another performance and 250 dedicated members. Word of the outstanding organization spread quickly, and the guild membership grew to 1,300 by the following year, the largest of any community theater in the State. In 1948, the name was changed to the Beloit Civic Theatre, as it stands today.

Although the Beloit Civic Theatre was not incorporated as a non-profit organization until 1952, they have given back to the community since their very first season. Today their profits support a scholarship fund to cultivate the talents of graduating high school students pursuing a field within the arts.

Throughout the past 75 years, the Beloit Civic Theatre has undoubtedly gone above and beyond their mission to bring the people of Beloit unique and distinctive performances.

Enjoyed at the Elizabeth Reinholz Theater by a variety of audiences, the presentation of timeless classics, modern masterpieces, and original works has advanced more than the amazing talents of aspiring actors, but developed a desire and love for theater within the Beloit community.

On this 75th anniversary of the Beloit Civic Theatre's founding, I applaud its devoted staff, faithful volunteers, and talented and dedicated performers who have nurtured and supported this indispensable organization of cultural growth and entertainment for the past 75 years. We look forward to 75 more.

ON THE 2007 ANGELS IN ADOPTION PROGRAM

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 10, 2007*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, on October 4, 2007, I had the great pleasure of seeing one of the finest constituents of the Second District of Kansas honored as an Angel in Adoption. This award was given by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, of which I am proud to be a member. The story of the Second District's Angel in Adoption, Stuart Griffiths, is a story of hard work, commitment, and humility. It is a story that I am proud to share today.

Stuart started working with children during college when he was a wrestling coach. He gave rides to and from practice to a young man living in a group home and decided there was more that he could do to help. He began volunteering at the young man's group home—helping with homework, playing ball, whatever was needed—until he was asked to become the assistant director. After working in public schools in Lawrence, Kansas, he returned to his hometown of Clay Center and became a foster parent. Over the years Stuart has hosted 32 foster children. Eventually he was told by a caseworker, "You ought to become a social worker because you're already doing it so you might as well get paid for it." So Stuart returned to school and earned a degree in social work. He jokes that he made this decision before anyone told him how much social workers earn. All joking aside, he has devoted the last 8 years of his life to working in child protective services.

Part of what makes Stuart's story unique is that he has made a conscious effort to help children with special needs. He told caseworkers he "wanted the kids nobody else wants," and they listened. He was contacted by social workers from surrounding communities to help children who needed extra care and attention. Over the years, he has helped children who were victims of abuse or had behavioral problems grow and mature into successful and talented adults.

Stuart now has five adopted sons, ranging in age from 14 to 19. Another remarkable aspect of his story is that he is a single parent. In addition to his job and responsibilities as a parent, Stuart also runs the football little league in his community and coaches his own team. He is the epitome of a public servant. Despite his tremendous contribution to the community, Stuart is incredibly humble. In his stories he continually talks about the many accomplishments of his sons. When asked about