

modern harbor for Famagusta in 1932 was an important factor in the promotion and development of the city and contributed to a surge in its economic activity. The expansion and deepening of the harbor, completed in 1965 solidified Famagusta's position that became dominant in terms of the flow of merchandise coming in and out of the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey unlawfully invaded Cyprus, and a few weeks later, on August 14, Turkish military forces in the second phase of the invasion moved further south and bombarded Famagusta relentlessly. Greek Cypriots were forced to flee their homes in fear and terror, never to return again. Turkish forces sealed off the city with barbed wire fences.

45,000 inhabitants of Famagusta became refugees in their own country. They lost their land, their properties, their homes and businesses and many of their own people.

Since the Turkish invasion, religious symbols, churches, monasteries, and cultural heritage of Cyprus have been subject to destruction, looting and vandalism, stolen, and illegally excavated and sold on the black market.

More than 500 Greek Orthodox churches and chapels, 17 monasteries in the occupied area in the north have been pillaged, destroyed, turned into casinos and stables. The ecclesiastical items for these sites—including more than 15,000 portable icons—remain unaccounted for.

Since 2003, with the partial lifting of movement restrictions by the occupation regime, Greek Cypriot displaced persons could visit their homes and properties, but are still denied the right to return and live where they were born and raised.

A large proportion of the properties from which the Greek Cypriot owners were expelled, was unlawfully distributed to and is currently being used by the tens of thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey.

Unprecedented illegal construction is taking place on land which belongs to Greek Cypriots forced to abandon their homes during the invasion by Turkey.

The U.N. General Assembly, the U.N. Security Council and the U.N. Commission of Human Rights, as well as the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and several other international organizations have repeatedly demanded the urgent return of the refugees to their homes in safety. In particular, since 1974, more than 75 resolutions have been adopted by the U.N. Security Council and more than 13 by the U.N. General Assembly, calling *inter alia* for the return of the refugees to their homes and properties. Furthermore, in regards to Famagusta/Varosha area, OP 5 of the the U.N. Security Council resolution 550/1984, *inter alia* states, that it "considers attempts to settle any part of Varosha by people other than its inhabitants as inadmissible and calls for the transfer of this area to the administration of the United Nations".

These resolutions are being ignored by Turkey, which has refused to comply, and flagrantly continues to violate the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Greek Cypriots, including the freedom of movement and ownership.

The European Court of Human Rights found Turkey guilty of violating relevant articles of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms for refusing to

allow the return of any Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes and denying them access to and use of their property.

In the 1979 High Level Agreement between the then President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr. Kyprianou and the then Turkish Cypriot leader Mr. Denktash, it was agreed that "priority will be given to reaching agreement to the resettlement of Varosha under U.N. auspices simultaneously with the beginning of the consideration by the interlocutors of the constitutional and territorial aspects of a comprehensive settlement. After agreement on Varosha has been reached it will be implemented without awaiting the outcome of the discussion on other aspects of the Cyprus problem". Unfortunately, Turkey has not adhered to this agreement in any discussions regarding the return of the refugees.

Expatriated and uprooted Famagustians worked very hard, both in Cyprus and abroad to make a living, they had to start from scratch.

The people of Famagusta, like all other Greek Cypriot refugees, have a burning desire and right to return to their homes.

I commend Mayor Galanos for the extraordinary outreach he has engaged in to bridge the gap between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot divide and work towards a reunified Cyprus and a thriving and bustling Famagusta.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN MICHAEL
ASHLOCK

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Steven Michael Ashlock of Liberty, Missouri. Steven is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Steven has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Steven has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Steven Michael Ashlock for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT ACCURACY AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 25, 2007

Mr. PETRI. Madam Speaker, as Congress considers the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act this year, have an obligation to listen closely to the students, parents, and educators that we represent to ensure that our efforts result in responsible and pragmatic im-

provements. While we have made great strides in the areas of assessment and accountability over the last five years, this reauthorization provides a critical opportunity to learn from our experiences and fine-tune the law.

One example of a lesson my constituents have learned, and have adamantly shared with me, is that we should be encouraging States to move toward better assessment models. As I have met with educators over the past year, one of the primary concerns that I have heard is that the State assessment fails to provide information of value to educators and administrators. Even more disturbing, it often takes 4 to 6 months before scores are returned to schools, which leaves little or no time for teachers to use the information to address student performance before they advance to the next grade.

However, I believe there is a sensible solution that Congress can adopt to address these concerns and give States more options in assessment design. Today, Representative DAVID WU and I are introducing the bipartisan Assessment Accuracy and Improvement Act of 2007 to give States the option to use adaptive testing as their statewide assessment measuring reading, math, and science to fulfill No Child Left Behind requirements. I believe that this legislation will give States the ability to truly track the academic growth of every child and provide more accurate information to teachers, parents and school administrators through the use of an adaptive test.

For those who may be unfamiliar with adaptive testing, it is a test that changes in response to previously asked questions. For example, if a student answers a question correctly, the test presents a question of increased difficulty. If a student answers incorrectly, the test presents a question of decreased difficulty. As you can see, an adaptive test customizes itself to a student's actual level of performance with a great degree of accuracy.

Giving States the flexibility to use an adaptive test and to ask questions outside of grade level will improve the accuracy of student assessment and enable educators to target appropriate instruction for each child based on performance at, above, or below grade level. In addition, using an adaptive test over time will allow accurate measurement of the performance growth of each individual student.

In my district, nearly a third of school districts currently use their own funds to participate in adaptive testing in addition to the State assessment required by NCLB. Educators and administrators appreciate the diagnostic information it yields and the efficiency that it provides. I believe that school districts nationally are already "speaking with their wallets" by spending scarce resources to voluntarily participate in this testing because it provides valuable information that the State assessment does not. And, although our bill does not require States to adopt adaptive testing, it gives them the freedom to do so should they decide it is a better model for their students and educators.

Madam Speaker, adaptive testing and growth models are the key to putting the "child" back into No Child Left Behind. I hope that our colleagues will join us in this pragmatic and responsible improvement to the law as we work towards a bipartisan reauthorization this year.