

UN and Cyprus to facilitate a peace process. It will take the cooperation of the international community to bring the stalemate to an acceptable conclusion.

I applaud the leadership of President Christofias and his determination to reunify the country of Cyprus. The people of Cyprus have waited a long 34 years for peace and justice. They deserve the help of the United States and the international community in their endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT BLOSSER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Robert Blosser of Jefferson City, MO, who was recently inducted into the Missouri Newspaper Hall of Fame.

In 1932, Mr. Blosser began his lifelong career with the Jefferson City News Tribune at the age of 18. For a 30 month stretch, Mr. Blosser left for WWII as a combat photographer. Upon his homecoming in 1945, he faithfully returned to the News Tribune. With time, Mr. Blosser became the company's president and also served as president of a local television station owned by the News Tribune. Mr. Blosser's leadership was recognized by the Missouri Press Association when he was elected president of the association in 1976. After numerous years with the News Tribune, Mr. Blosser retired in 1984. He continued to serve on the News Tribune's board of directors until earlier this year when the company was sold.

In addition to these accomplishments, Mr. Blosser served on the board of Chamber of Commerce and Salvation Army in Jefferson City. He has delivered Meals on Wheels for more than 20 years. Mr. Blosser also is an active Lion's Club member and served on the board of the United Way. Still today, at the age of 93, Mr. Blosser mentors at East Grade School in Jefferson City and serves on the board of the Senior Nutrition Center where he frequently volunteers. On top of these achievements, Mr. Blosser and his wife, Marge, have three children.

Madam Speaker, Robert Blosser has distinguished himself as a valuable leader of his community and as a role model for young Americans. I know that members of the House will join me in wishing Robert Blosser all the best.

SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a resolution to designate October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

By selecting this month as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, we can promote awareness of this tragic disease, and support the goals of a "National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month."

The Heart Rhythm Society states that Sudden Cardiac Arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year and has approximately a 95 percent mortality rate according to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. In order to survive the attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack.

Sean Patrick O'Hara, a 21-year-old University of Mississippi student, died of Sudden Cardiac Arrest while studying for final exams. Sean's mother, Dawn Cartwright, has started the only Sudden Cardiac Arrest Chapter in Mississippi to spread awareness, educate the public, and to help provide Automated External Defibrillators in all public venues. Through tireless dedication, Ms. Cartwright is working to raise public awareness about the devastating effects of Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

Education and public awareness about sudden cardiac arrest, the warning signs and the need to seek medical attention are critical to preventing Sudden Cardiac Arrest deaths.

I hope that my colleagues will join Ms. CAPPs and myself to help save lives and inform the public about this critical disease by naming October National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

FIGHTING AGAINST FAULTY
MEDICAL DEVICES

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. WEINER. I rise today in support of the recently introduced Medical Device Safety Act of 2008. This much-needed legislation would restore an injured consumer's ability to hold negligent medical device manufacturers accountable for product-related deaths and injuries.

The Medical Device Safety Act addresses the problems created by the Supreme Court's February 20, 2008, decision in *Riegel v. Medtronic*. This decision stripped away essential consumer rights by supplying device manufacturers with total immunity from liability.

It's difficult to see the reasoning behind this special treatment for device manufacturers when you consider what happened to Bridget Robb. In May 2005, Ms. Robb was diagnosed with nonischemic, viral cardiomyopathy and congestive heart failure. To prevent her from dying from a fatal arrhythmia, she had a Medtronic cardiac defibrillator and pacemaker implanted in her chest. On December 31, 2007, a wire in Ms. Robb's defibrillator broke, causing the device to send a strong electric current to her heart. Ms. Robb suffered 31 electric shocks in 13 minutes in front of her 6-year-old daughter. Medtronic knew about this defect, but issued only a voluntary recall. Since this frightening experience, Ms. Robb has undergone two surgeries to replace her defibrillator and goes to doctor's appointments almost weekly for follow-up appointments and testing.

Prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Riegel*, the FDA and State courts protected consumers, like Ms. Robb, together. Since *Riegel*, consumers only have the FDA to protect them; and the FDA has insufficient re-

sources to do so effectively. The Medical Device Safety Act ensures that consumers like Bridget Robb will be able to seek legal recourse for their injuries and reiterates Congressional intent that State laws must work hand in hand with Federal regulations to protect consumers.

For these reasons, I urge support for Congressman PALLONE and Congressman WAXMAN's bill, H.R. 6381. I look forward to working towards passage of this legislation and restoring these, critical, basic consumer protections.

34TH BLACK ANNIVERSARY OF
THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember those Cypriots who lost their lives defending the Republic of Cyprus during the 1974 military coup against the democratically elected government of Archbishop Makarios, who was then President of Cyprus.

This military coup paved the way for the Turkish invasion of Cyprus five days later that resulted in the occupation of 37 percent of the Republic's territory. Nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were expelled from their homes and an estimated 5,000 were killed. More than 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including four Americans of Cypriot descent, remain missing since the Turkish invasion, their fate still unaccounted for.

The repercussions of this terrible day are still in play today, affecting the lives of every Cypriot, European policy, and the actions of the United Nations and international community. The so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is recognized as legitimate by no nation other than Turkey. With more than 40,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world.

However, on this day when we pause to remember this violent act against the people of Cyprus, we also have hope that a genuine and long-lasting peace may be restored and families reunited. In 2004, Cyprus' accession to the European Union triggered a process of economic and social integration between Greek-Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots. Since the partial lifting of restrictions along the cease-fire line by the Turkish forces in April 2003, there have been over 13 million incident-free crossings by Greek and Turkish Cypriots. More than 60,000 Turkish Cypriots have received Cypriot passports or other official documents, allowing Turkish Cypriots to travel, work or reside in any European Union country.

More importantly, however, is the commitment of the Cyprus government to achieving a solution to healing the division of Cyprus. Such a solution should be based on a bi-communal, bi-zonal federal State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty and citizenship, with its independence and territorial integrity safeguarded, in line with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Since his election in February 2008, the current president of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias,