

has followed through on his promise to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority. The day of his election, he extended his hand in friendship to Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Talat, calling for face-to-face meetings. As a result, President Christofias and Mr. Talat will meet for the fourth time on July 25th. Over the past six months, working groups and technical committees have been preparing the ground for direct fully-fledged negotiations, with the aim of reaching a settlement of the Cyprus problem. On July 13th, in Paris, United Nations Secretary General Bank Ki Moon assured President Christofias of the U.N.'s continuing interest to achieve a Cyprus settlement through negotiations by Cypriots for Cypriots.

These are all promising measures, Madam Speaker. So I can only hope that before next year's anniversary, the world will finally see a negotiated resolution that heals the wounds of the 1974 invasion, reunites the Cypriot people once more, and provides a genuine and lasting peace to Cyprus.

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TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL S. FINEGAN

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Mr. Michael S. Finegan for his service as the Director of Veteran Affairs Western New York Healthcare System. Mr. Finegan has truly made great strides for the veterans in the Western New York area.

Mr. Finegan gained his Bachelor's Degree from Allegheny College, and later earned his Master's Degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. Mr. Finegan has since achieved great things in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mr. Finegan has taken on a variety of different roles throughout his tenure with the Department of Veterans Affairs. From 1997 to 2000, Mr. Finegan served as Chief Financial and Operations Officer for VA Healthcare Network Upstate New York, where he was personally responsible for the development, coordination and monitoring of the Network's financial management and operations. For the following three years, Mr. Finegan took the position of Director of the VA Medical Center in Butler, Pennsylvania, as well as lead director for Veterans Integrated Service Network 4.

Since late 2003, Mr. Finegan has successfully served as Director of VA Western New York Healthcare System, during which time he served as Acting Director of the VA Healthcare Network for Upstate New York for a brief period in 2006. At the VA Western New York Healthcare System, Mr. Finegan led a staff of 1,750 employees who have provided the finest health care to more than 40,000 veterans of military service during the past year alone. He has also carried on the highly regarded clinical research and training programs for America's future health care contributors.

Mr. Finegan is currently a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Healthcare Financial Managers Association and the American Society of Public Administration. Mr. Michael S. Finegan is an innovative leader for veterans around the country, especially in the Western New York area.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the many achievements of Mr. Finegan and wishing him luck in all future endeavors.

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SUPPORTING NATIONAL CYSTIC FIBROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday July 15th, the House of Representatives passed unanimously by voice vote H. Con. Res. 299, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month. As a proud cosponsor of this resolution, I am grateful that the House of Representatives took the time to show our support for those who are fighting for better treatment and a cure for cystic fibrosis.

Our ability to help families and the medical community make headway against this disease is vital. With approximately 30,000 Americans living with this disease—a large percentage of which are children—raising funding and awareness for research will bring hope and real results.

In an effort to raise money and awareness for cystic fibrosis research, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has held an annual Celebrity Tennis Gala for the past 23 years. Since the beginning of these annual events, the life-expectancy of a child born with cystic fibrosis has more than doubled. This is in no small part due to the money raised at this event and others. Last year alone, the Foundation raised more than \$350,000 which is a substantial part of the \$2.5 million raised over the years through the gala. I had the privilege of being a part of the 2008 event, where my Chief of Staff Dino Teppara was a key player, and I was encouraged by the dedication of the families I met and the hard-working individuals at the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

America has remained a leader in medical research and our scientists continue to lead the way in inching closer to a cure for many diseases. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the American people as we battle together to find a cure for cystic fibrosis and other diseases.

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HONORING ALFREDO FLORES SR.

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. GONZALES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Alfredo Flores Senior, a constituent of mine who on August 10th will celebrate his 100th birthday.

Mr. Flores was born in Muzquiz, a city in the Mexican state of Coahuila. Caught in the crossfire of the Mexican Revolution, Flores immigrated to the United States when he was just 15 years old. Then a young man, he found himself in a strange country with an absent father and a mother and sister who relied on him to put food on the table. And while the Great Depression greeted him on his 18th birthday, he built a business that thrived despite the difficult odds that he faced.

Today, Alamo Music Center is San Antonio's largest music store and has served people across South Central Texas for decades. It has not only become an important part of our economy but our community as well.

Notably, Mr. Flores has always lived up to the responsibility that came with his success and stature in the community. He co-founded the Westside State Bank that specialized in delivering financial services to low-income minorities and has played an integral role in various community interest groups across San Antonio.

Mr. Flores life is a true personification of the American dream. He came to this country to realize a better life for him and his family, and through hard work he achieved this noble goal and put himself in a position where he could give back to his community. For these reasons, I'm honored to celebrate his achievements as we approach this milestone in his life, and ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Flores a Happy 100th Birthday.

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FUTURE OF CYPRUS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues have supported a settlement of the Cyprus issue for decades. They have come to the floor and urged Turkish and Greek Cypriots to overcome the difficulties and reach an agreement regarding the future of the island.

On July 1, 2008, Greek Cypriot leader Demetris Christofias and Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat met in a positive and cooperative atmosphere. At this meeting, the two leaders reviewed the progress of the Working Groups and Technical Committees, and, momentarily, agreed in principle on the issue of a single sovereignty and citizenship. The Cypriot leaders will meet again on July 25 to undertake a final review of preparations for full-fledged negotiations.

This is not the first time there has been cause for hope. After four and a half years of negotiations and numerous failed attempts, a United Nations Comprehensive Settlement Plan was completed on March 31, 2004. The final hurdle was two separate, simultaneous referenda to be held on both sides of the island on April 24, 2004.

Turkish Cypriots approved the plan by 65 percent, while their Greek Cypriot counterparts rejected it by 76 percent.

The ironic outcome was that the Greek Cypriots, having turned down a peaceful settlement, became full member of the European Union, while the Turkish Cypriots were excluded, further isolating the North.

Congress should evenhandedly support these developments, and refrain from taking any actions which would disrupt the process. I congratulate both leaders on this important breakthrough and urge them to continue the process which will provide a bright future for the peoples of Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. FRAWLEY

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the loss of one of Buffalo's finest public servants with the passing of William J. Frawley, a 39-year member of the Buffalo Police Department, on the 4th of July.

Inspector Frawley demonstrated his commitment to our country at an early age when he enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 17 where he fought in Italy, France, Germany and Austria while serving with the 36th Infantry Division.

As a veteran of World War II, he returned home to begin another chapter of service to his fellow citizens when he joined the Buffalo Police Department in 1947. Rising through the ranks, Bill Frawley personified professional standards and a strong sense of humanity as he rose through the ranks as a patrolman, lieutenant, captain and inspector. His calm and conscientious manner was especially needed when he oversaw the 911 operations during the Blizzard of 1977 as head of the Division of Administration and Communications.

Known as a "cop's cop," Inspector Frawley will be remembered in the words offered by Chief of Detectives Dennis Richards who called Bill a decent, compassionate leader and a mentor to future generations who lived by his own credo, "never asked someone to do something that you yourself would not do."

As his sister, Kathleen, noted in the Buffalo News, he was a humble man of integrity who "was tireless in his job. He did it because he loved it." He also valued education returning to college where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University at Buffalo in the 1970's.

Though he retired in 1986, Inspector Frawley's legacy continued on through his design of the Buffalo Police Reorganization Plan which consolidated the city's 14 precincts into five districts. It was after his retirement that I became most familiar with his vision and management skills as I took up the challenge of implementing the plan during my tenure as a member of the Buffalo Common Council. The first consolidated district would eventually become a reality in my home district in South Buffalo.

And South Buffalo was also Bill's home where young children would knock on the Frawley family door on Pomona Place for words of praise for improved report cards and special treats for special occasions. He was a strong, generous and faithful member of St. Teresa's Parish and in his later years, St. Agatha's Church. His service to others extended to giving of himself as he donated blood to the Roswell Park Cancer Institute Plasmapheresis Center nearly 600 times.

His life story began a new chapter when he married Joan Haltam in 1982 and for the next 22 years, the Inspector became a loving, caring husband and stepfather until her death in 2004. His devotion to his stepchildren, Joseph, Karen and Michael, never wavered.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to his beloved sister, Kathleen, and his stepchildren for their loss and our most sincere appreciation for the life of William J. Frawley. We are grateful for his lifelong example, both professionally and

personally, of selfless public service, integrity, faith and dedication to family and community.

TRIBUTE TO UNITED WAY OF HUDSON COUNTY

**HON. ALBIO SIRES**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. SIRES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work of the United Way of Hudson County in the 130th District of New Jersey, which I have the honor of representing in Congress. The United Way of Hudson County has a distinguished history of working with its partners to help the homeless in Hudson County. Hudson County has about 300 chronic homeless and another 2,700 people who are in and out of homelessness, representing nearly 1 percent of the residents in our community.

I would like to highlight just a few of the good things the United Way of Hudson County is doing in my district. They are responsible for providing funding to many social services agencies working with the homeless, including a Bayonne facility for homeless men, a program for the elderly in Jersey City, a training program for 59 shelter residents, housing for Hudson County individuals with HIV/AIDS, meals, transitional housing, a soup kitchen, and educational services for homeless persons. In 2005, the United Way of Hudson County created an Emergency Shelter System for the Homeless that was widely honored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the State of New Jersey, and the State Association of Community Development Directors. In 2006, the United Way of Hudson County was awarded the county's first "Housing First" grant for \$1.2 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant provided housing and social services for 26 disabled individuals. Their Housing First focus, championed by the United Way of Hudson County and County Executive Tom DeGise, will provide housing, hope, and a better future for the homeless of Hudson County.

Please join me in honoring the United Way of Hudson County as we celebrate their good work at the Second Annual New Jersey Congressional Reception on July 30, 2008.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FDIC FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2008

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, all of us are watching the news, concerned about the economy and our financial markets. The regulators of our financial services companies, the Federal Reserve, the SEC, and the banking regulators are all using the tools they have at their disposal to make sure small investors and depositors are as safe as possible in this environment.

Among the most important duties that fall to our banking regulators is the protection of deposits. Average families and small business

owners alike all depend on the Federal safety net to ensure that their savings are safe. Sometimes, ensuring the safety of those deposits requires regulators to step in when a bank or thrift becomes insolvent. For instance, in my own district, I have nearly 10,000 IndyMac depositors. The FDIC acted quickly to resolve this institution and is running it until that bank can either be returned to business as a safe institution, or its assets, including the deposits, can be transferred to a stronger financial institution that can meet the demands of its depositors.

While Congress has taken steps over the past several years to ensure that the deposit insurance system is strong—and it is—the IndyMac situation demonstrates that every bank failure is different. Therefore, the regulators need as much flexibility as possible to ensure that they can respond to whatever the market throws at them.

That is why today I am introducing the "FDIC Flexibility Act of 2008." After talking with the widely respected Bill Seidman, the chairman of the FDIC during much of the response to the savings and loan crisis, I believe that some well-intentioned provisions of the law may actually make the FDIC's job of resolving troubled institutions harder, not easier.

The bill will repeal the "low cost solution" provisions which require the FDIC to always choose the solution with the lowest cost to the banking fund when resolving an institution. The problem is that what might be a low cost solution for a particular institution might not always be the best or fastest way to ensure that depositors have access to their funds. If depositors can't get access to their money, this can cause a crisis of confidence in the entire banking system, and put other institutions in jeopardy people start runs on banks.

Sometimes, the best way to resolve an institution may not be the absolute cheapest—such as selling the failed institution to a stronger bank at a discount—but it will increase confidence and stability in the banking system as a whole, and reduce exposure over the long-term.

I don't believe that this is the silver bullet to resolve every crisis we're facing, nor is it the only answer to the problems of resolving failed banks. But I think we need to have the discussion about what kinds of tools our regulators need, and with an advocate as widely respected as Chairman Seidman, this is a good place to start.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAUL J. KOESSLER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 22, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Paul J. Koessler, a tireless civic leader, generous philanthropist, and devout Western New Yorker. Paul's service and commitment to Buffalo has left a long enduring impact on our community, and he will be sorely missed.

A Harvard Business School graduate and successful businessman, Paul never forgot his roots and always remembered the importance of giving back to the community he called