

I share Troop 463's pride in being nominated as a "Super Troop" for four years, three of which have been consecutive. The Super Troop honor is bestowed upon the Troop which exemplifies the best in Scout Spirit, competitive edge, good attitude and demonstrates a positive example to others.

Madam Speaker, the young men of Boy Scout Troop 463 have shown dedication to their peers, their community, and their cause. The Troop's accomplishments reflect the best values of Scouting and should not go unnoticed.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT
GENERAL R. STEVEN WHITCOMB

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb will retire after 40 years of service in the United States Army on October 1, 2010. He has served his country well and will be sorely missed.

Lieutenant General Whitcomb graduated from the University of Virginia in 1970 with a Bachelor's degree in History. From there, he went on to receive degrees from the California University of Pennsylvania, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the United States Army War College. He was commissioned through ROTC and entered the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer.

First stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, he steadily rose through the ranks and excelled at each assignment he was given. From combat operations in Desert Shield/Desert Storm to Operation Joint Forge to Operation Iraqi Freedom, he effectively led our men and women into battle and never forgot that the Army's most precious assets are those who wear the uniform of our Nation's military. Throughout his career he consistently showed his dedication to the youngest members of the U.S. Army. As a professor and a mentor for ROTC, he made sure the young cadets of the U.S. Army were well-trained with high morale and in excellent physical condition.

At the Pentagon, Lieutenant General Whitcomb served several roles including Executive Officer for the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. He ended his forty years of distinguished service as the Inspector General for the Office of the Secretary of the Army.

Madam Speaker, throughout his lifetime of service, Lieutenant General R. Steven Whitcomb has shown uncommon professionalism and dedication to the mission of the United States Army. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House Floor during yesterday's three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 1472, H. Con. Res. 126, and H. Res. 1219.

RECOGNIZING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKEY'S ILLEGAL INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, tonight I join my colleagues on the House floor to remember the 36th anniversary of Turkey's illegal occupation of Cyprus.

On July 20th 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in violation of international law and at great cost to the citizens of Cyprus. Turkish troops established a heavily-armed force which occupied the northern part of Cyprus and continues to occupy close to 37 percent of Cyprus' territory. The invasion forced nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots to flee their homes—making one-third of the Cypriot population refugees in their own country.

Today, Turkey continues to illegally occupy northern Cyprus with a force of 43,000 troops. This unbelievable number of troops amounts to almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots. This military occupation flies in defiance of international pressure to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Beyond the military occupation of northern Cyprus it is important to consider the mass colonization which has resulted in 160,000 Turkish mainland settlers illegally living on property owned by Greek Cypriots or even U.S. citizens. Once again this illegal colonization comes despite international pressure on Turkey to take action to stop the illegal occupation and ensure the return of properties to their rightful owners.

In fact, 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 for a withdrawal of Turkish troops and the return of refugees to their rightful homes. However, the Turkish government continues to remain defiant, plainly ignoring these calls to withdraw.

In recent months we have continued to see Turkey pursue policies that not only hurt its relations with nations that should serve as true democratic allies, but also policies that hurt regional relations and stability. I have been an outspoken opponent of Turkey's irresponsible regional relations, which in many ways negatively affect the U.S. Whether it is the illegal blockade on its border with Armenia, the failure to take proper recourse to investigate a domestic group that incited a deadly incident with Israeli troops, their continued violations of Greek airspace or their illegal occupation of northern Cyprus, Turkey disrespects international law and regional partners of the United States.

There comes a time when the United States must say enough is enough and take principled steps to prevent further destabilizing actions. As a member of the Hellenic Caucus, I have long advocated for the withdrawal of Turkish forces from northern Cyprus and called on Turkey to support a settlement that comes from the Cypriots themselves.

The United States must do its part to foster a united Cyprus. It is in the best interest of the

United States, and I believe all involved parties to ensure that the goal is a reunified Cyprus where Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots live together in peace and security. A successful settlement effort must build on the work towards a bizonal, bicommunal federation with political equality that represents U.N. Security Council resolutions. In the end, Cyprus must have a single sovereignty and single citizenship which all Cypriots can enjoy.

Now is the time for Turkey to show that they are willing to take a sincere approach to allowing a peaceful resolution to the dispute. The leadership in Ankara must show that the will and support behind a peaceful settlement is in the best interest of Turkey and that it is fully supported. Without such a signal by the government of Turkey, a final settlement will continue to dwindle as Turkish settlers pursue the policies of their home nation.

It is now thirty-six years since the illegal Turkish invasion and subsequent occupation of Cyprus. However, the resolve has never been greater to ensure that Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots alike benefit from a united nation that affords them the stability and security that all citizens deserve. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus has shown their willingness to work constructively with the Cypriots towards a reunified island. It is time for Turkey to do the same.

Last Congress, I introduced the bipartisan American Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act. Through this legislation, Americans who are being denied access to their property and even their ancestral homes will finally be able to seek restitution. I am currently working with different stakeholders to strengthen this bill before reintroduction.

Madam Speaker, as we remember the 36th Anniversary of Turkey's illegal invasion and occupation of Cyprus, I remain hopeful a united Cyprus can become a reality. However, the United States can not be complacent in this goal.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the thirty-sixth anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, to sadly commemorate this tragic event. Turkey's illegal occupation has continued for far too long. After decades of stagnation, the situation in Cyprus demands a just and comprehensive solution.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have passionately, aggressively, and persistently called for an end to the devastating artificial division of the island of Cyprus. I have been an outspoken critic of Turkey's obstinate belligerence on this issue and a supporter of what seems like countless bills and resolutions pleading, urging, and demanding a just and peaceful resolution.

My voice has been just one in a rising chorus of international leaders asking Turkey to end its occupation and help facilitate a solution that is amenable to all Cypriots. Since Turkey's 1974 invasion, numerous United Nations resolutions have condemned Turkey's