

its NATO obligations, or follow its legal obligations as demanded by Congress, Turkey retaliated by closing all American military installations on Turkish soil, and by severely restricting American access at two NATO bases. At that time, military installations in Turkey were deemed essential surveillance posts in the Cold War fight against the Soviet Union. Turkey refused to reopen these facilities until the U.S. lifted the arms embargo, signaling that its relationship with the United States was never more than a transactional one, rather than one rooted in a shared commitment to the rule of law, individual liberties, democracy, and collective Western security.

July 20th marks 36 years that the Turkish military has occupied Cyprus. In that time, neither the Republic of Cyprus nor its people have directed any aggression towards Turkey. In stark contrast, Turkey maintains an active colonization program where it is illegally resettling some 180,000 Anatolian Turks into the homes and possessions of the 200,000 Greek Cypriots it evicted from the occupied territories. The Turkish military is also systematically eradicating the Hellenic and Christian heritage from the occupied territories. All but 5 of the 500 Greek Orthodox Churches in the occupied territories have been looted, desecrated, or destroyed. To no avail, the international community including the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice have all called on Turkey to honor its international obligations and cease and desist from these hostilities against the people of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus is a full-fledged member of the European Union. Turkey seeks that status as well, but as a NATO member illegally occupying European Union soil, Turkey put NATO and the EU at loggerheads. The result is that the EU and NATO are unable to cooperate in the consolidation of their economic and strategic interests in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey's ongoing occupation of Cyprus is compelling evidence that it has little interest in meeting the standards of individual liberties, human rights and religious tolerance shared by America and other democratic nations. Lacking the ties that bind, Turkey is apparently quite willing to jeopardize relations with its long-time allies. Witness its 2003 denial of the deployment of U.S. forces along the Northern Iraq border and its recent vote in the U.N. against Iran sanctions.

The United States and its allies must call upon Turkey to abide by international law and meet its responsibilities as a dependable NATO partner. And on this, the 36th anniversary of the invasion and occupation of Cyprus, the United States should demand an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Turkish soldiers now occupying northern Cyprus. Until that occurs, policymakers in the White House and in the Congress must press the issue in every interaction with their Turkish counterparts. In this way, the United States can work towards establishing a strong, enduring, and values based alliance with Turkey that will serve to bring justice to the people of Cyprus, strengthen NATO, and reinforce collective Western security.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT (H.R. 4173)

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (H.R. 4173). This legislation will finally bring accountability to big banks and ensure Minnesota families are protected from high-stakes Wall Street speculation. I want to thank my colleagues on the House-Senate conference committee for their hard-fought negotiations to finalize this landmark bill.

In the fall of 2008, our country's financial system stood on the brink of collapse. The failure of large financial institutions quickly led to sinking home prices, a collapse in retirement savings, and job losses on a scale not seen since the Great Depression. Despite overwhelming opposition from Republicans and relentless lobbying from special interests, Congress has responded with legislation that imposes the toughest regulation of Wall Street in a generation.

House Republican Leader JOHN BOEHNER told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review on June 29th, 2010 that these tough new rules are like "killing an ant with a nuclear weapon." I could not disagree more. Wall Street's recklessness cost Americans 8 million jobs and \$17 trillion in retirement savings. When Republicans controlled Congress and the White House, they weakened the regulations American families relied upon for protection and left the economy vulnerable to financial crisis. H.R. 4173 restores common sense rules for banks and creates new protections for consumers after a decade of recklessness. The passage of this legislation protects taxpayers and their retirement funds, college accounts, and homes from risky decisions by CEOs, lenders, and speculators. The era of Wall Street gambling with the economic security of the American people is over, and a new age of financial accountability and transparency is about to begin.

Rebuilding the American economy and putting people back to work requires a stable financial sector that is regulated responsibly. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this historic legislation.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT CHRISTIAN G. RATA CZAK

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Sergeant Christian G. Rataczak, who passed away on July 9, 2010.

Born in Minneapolis, Christian moved to Phoenix with his family when he was five months old. After high school and college, he joined the National Guard and was deployed

to Afghanistan for a year where he served as an Apache helicopter mechanic in Bravo Company, 1/285th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion. Wearing the uniform of the United States Army and serving his country was something he never took for granted. He was an outstanding soldier who will be remembered fondly by his Officers, NCOs and fellow Soldiers for his outstanding personality and attitude.

Christian worked for Dillon Aero of Scottsdale, and loved his job. His coworkers remember him as someone who was a joy to work with and was always willing to help no matter the circumstance.

We remember Christian and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Christian made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

Christian is survived by his mother Cheryl, his father Dave, his sister Jennifer, brother-in-law Todd, nephew Tanner, niece Hailey and many aunts, uncles, and cousins. His father, Dave, the former Adjutant General of the Arizona Guard, and his wife Cheryl are both close members of the Arizona military family and we mourn this tragic loss with them.

This body and this country owe Christian and his family our deepest gratitude, and we will today and forevermore honor and remember him and his service to our country.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,242,893,842,328.75.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,604,468,096,034.95 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE UNL PANHANDLE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, July 24, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Panhandle Research and Extension Center will celebrate 100 years of service to Western Nebraska.

It goes without saying agriculture is the lifeblood of Nebraska's Third District, and the entire state as well. The Third District of Nebraska encompasses 65,000 square miles. It