

10TH PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH
REPUBLIC**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, Turkey is undergoing a peaceful transition of power, which has received little attention in this country. Last Friday, the Turkish parliament secured the necessary support to vote Ahmet Necdet Sezer, a former top judge as the 10th President of the Turkish Republic. He will officially assume his post on May 16th.

This development was viewed positively by the European Union and western circles. President-elect Sezer is known as an outspoken advocate of democratic reforms and a staunch defender of secularism.

His accession to the presidency was also well received at home. According to a public opinion poll, he enjoys 81 percent popular support. According to the same poll, 75 percent of those polled believe that he would be a successful President.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey is well known as a dependable and strategically located NATO ally, but the State Department's 1999 report on global terrorism, which was recently released, highlights Turkey's contributions to curtail terrorism, perhaps one of the biggest threats to our security in this new millennium.

In 1999 Turkey not only captured Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the vicious PKK which was responsible for the death of tens of thousands of people, but also was successful in thwarting the activities of the leftwing Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) as they prepared to inflict damage on U.S. targets.

The report details the Turkish police's successful operation against the terrorist group in a shootout on 4 June as the terrorists prepared unsuccessfully to fire a light antitank weapon at the U.S. Consulate in Istanbul from a nearby construction site. Authorities also arrested some 160 DHKP/C members and supporters in Turkey and confiscated numerous weapons, ammunition, bombs, and bomb making materials over the course of the year, dealing a harsh blow to the organization.

According to the report, Turkey also made significant progress against Islamic terrorism, as Turkish authorities continued to arrest and try Islamic terrorists vigorously in 1999. The report states that militants from the two major groups—Turkish Hizballah, a Kurdish group not affiliated with Lebanese Hizballah, and the Islamic Great Eastern Raiders-Front—managed to conduct low-level attacks.

There were at least two attempted bombings against Russian interests in Turkey during 1999. On 10 December authorities discovered a bomb outside a building housing the offices of the Russian airline Aero-Flot in Istanbul. The bomb weighed approximately 14 kilograms, was concealed in a suitcase, and was similar to a bomb found on the grounds of the Russian Consulate in Istanbul in mid-November. Turkish officials suspect that Chechen sympathizers were responsible.

While most of our NATO allies have benefited from the end of Cold War, experts main-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

tain that since 13 of the 16 possible conflicts in the world are in Turkey's neighborhood, Turkey has not benefited from a peace dividend. We must continue to support and nurture the friendship we have with the Republic of Turkey, a close ally that continues to shoulder a heavy burden for regional peace and security.

HONORING DR. JOE SAMUEL
RATLIFF FOR HIS 30TH YEAR IN
THE MINISTRY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to recognize the achievements of Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff, of Brentwood Baptist Church. On Wednesday, May 17, 2000, the congregation of Brentwood Baptist Church honored Pastor Ratliff for the many contributions he has made over the last 30 years in the name of the Lord.

Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff of Lumberton, NC, received his Bachelor of Arts in History, from Morehouse College, Atlanta, GA. He received both the Doctorate of Ministry and Doctorate of Divinity degrees from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. He has done post-doctoral work at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.

It is difficult to imagine what the Houston community would be like today had Dr. Ratliff not been called to become Pastor of Brentwood in 1980. We have been truly blessed to have a man with his sense of dedication and selflessness among us. In 1993, Dr. Ratliff co-authored the book, *Church Planting in the African-American Community* (Broadman Press). He was named the first African-American Moderator of the Union Baptist Association . . . the nation's largest urban Southern Baptist body, consisting of 250,000 members in 1994. In March of 1997, his portrait was hung in the Hall of Fame in the Martin Luther King, Jr. International Chapel on the Morehouse College Campus. Under Pastor Ratliff's leadership, the Brentwood family has grown to 10,000 strong.

Pastor Ratliff's time with the ministry has allowed him to develop a strong support network that extends outside the church. Dr. Ratliff currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Morehouse School of Religion and Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Ratliff is a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and is married to Mrs. Doris Gardner Ratliff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my fellow members of the 106th Congress to join me in saluting Pastor Joe Samuel Ratliff. Self-evident is his lifelong journey to enhancing the dignity and nurturing the spirits of all people. I am grateful that there are people like Dr. Ratliff who serve as examples of what we should all strive to be.

May 19, 2000

THE UCSD CANCER CENTER:
WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH, GAIN-
ING WORLD-CLASS PRIVATE
SUPPORT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues the exciting, new research opportunities being pursued by the UCSD Cancer Center in La Jolla, California, and to recognize some very generous families and organizations for the extraordinary private support they have recently pledged to provide to the Center.

The UCSD Cancer Center is now undergoing a tremendous period of growth and resurgence. Directed by the distinguished Dr. David Tarin, the goal of the Center is to research and help deploy the many new treatments and protocols now being developed to fight and prevent cancer. Through the leadership of people like Labor Appropriations Chairman JOHN PORTER, the Republican majority in Congress has successfully raised the bar of investment in health research and cancer research as a major national priority of the people of the United States. Now this research, in many cases, requires a next step: the testing and evaluation of treatments and medicines through clinical trials. Such trials are a major focus of the UCSD Cancer Center, so that we can bring together medical professionals, researchers and patients to the benefit of everyone. By consolidating research and treatment at the UCSD Cancer Center, we will learn more about treating and preventing this horrible scourge of cancer, in a way that preserves and enhances the dignity and peace of cancer patients, their families and their loved ones.

Such cancer is not inexpensive. Conversely, though, I believe that we cannot afford not to invest in such a center. It gaining increasing recognition from the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute, directed by my friend Dr. Rick Klausner. It is the focus of a regional effort by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, to apply local tobacco settlement funds to combat and prevent cancer.

I want to pay particular attention to several families who have put forth their own treasure to the improvement of this vital Center. Within the past several months, private gifts totalling \$47 million have been pledged for this purpose.

In thanksgiving for a gift of \$20 million by San Diego Padres majority owner John Moores and his wife Rebecca, the center will be named the John and Rebecca Moores UCSD Cancer Center.

Longtime investment banker and attorney Jerome Katzin and his wife Miriam have pledged another \$15 million.

And many more gifts large and small, by San Diego's leading families and by people whose lives have been touched by cancer, have been pledged to this Center.

Mr. Speaker, this Center is gaining national recognition in its field. As a strong supporter of cancer research and of this Center, I want to