

professional advice, means to put individuals, mostly women and minorities, into poverty.

In 1997, 9 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries aged 65 or older were in poverty. Without Social Security, that number would have risen to 49 percent. In addition, without Social Security, nearly 60 percent of blacks, native Americans and Hispanics would have been in poverty. Privatization is not the solution to provide financial security for retirees.

What my colleagues and the public should be concerned about, though, is that the members of the commission had no alternative but to support privatization. In fact, as a condition of being named to the group, you had to support the idea of privatization.

It has been said many times that this is another way for President Bush to pay back his supporters who helped him into office. By supporting privatization, President Bush will put millions, probably billions, of dollars in the pockets of Wall Street firms and their CEOs. In fact, Wall Street firms are starting a multi-million dollar advertising campaign to win public support of the plan.

As the Wall Street Journal reported:

“. . . a range of financial-service firms are pooling their efforts, and millions of dollars for advertising, to assist him in raising public concern about the retirement program's woes. But the ad dollars are a pittance compared with the billions at stake for Wall Street should Mr. Bush achieve his goal of carving private accounts out of Social Security.”

The group's name? It is ironically called “Coalition for American Financial Security.” The only financial security they ensure is their own.

So by adopting this amendment, sponsored by Mr. Kucinich, we will be able to provide a report to the President and to the public to show why privatization is a bad choice. Only then, when we can see both sides of the story, can we make an informed and sound decision.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILITARY SERVICE OF PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my colleagues' attention the fact that yesterday was the 60th anniversary of President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order calling into military service the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines.

In accordance with this the White House released a statement yesterday commemorating this important anniversary. It is long overdue that we resolve the inequity in our Nation's failure to provide veterans benefits to these Philippine veterans.

I request that the full text of this statement be included in the RECORD.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, July 26, 2001.

I am pleased to send greetings to the 4,000 members of the American Coalition for Filipino Veterans as you celebrate “Filipino Veterans of World War II Day.”

On July 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order calling the organized forces of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines to join the United States armed forces in preparing for the possible outbreak of war with Japan. Tens of thousands of Filipino soldiers bravely answered the President's call.

When war finally came, more than 120,000 Filipinos fought with unwavering loyalty and great gallantry under the command of General Douglas MacArthur. The combined U.S.-Philippine forces distinguished themselves by their valor and heroism in defense of freedom and democracy. Thousands of Filipino soldiers gave their lives in the battles of Bataan and Corregidor. These soldiers won for the United States the precious time needed to disrupt the enemy's plans for conquest in the Pacific. During the three long years following those battles, the Filipino people valiantly resisted a brutal Japanese occupation with an indomitable spirit and steadfast loyalty to America.

This month, as we commemorate the 60th anniversary of President Roosevelt's military order, we recognize the important service and contributions of Filipino soldiers in turning back aggression and preserving democracy. America extends to you heartfelt and abiding thanks for the sacrifices made by Filipino soldiers during World War II.

Laura joins me in sending best wishes for a successful celebration here in Washington, D.C.

MARKING THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION AND OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Homer's Iliad reads on the birth of Venus: “The breath of the west wind bore her Over the sounding sea, Up from the delicate foam, To wave-ringed Cyprus, her isle . . . [which] Welcomed her joyously.”

This describes how after her birth, Cyprus, a place of tranquility, beauty, and peace—worthy of gods—served as the home of Venus herself. However, if other stories could still be added to the volumes of Greek mythology, we would read of the Trojan invasion and terror seized upon the goddess of love's paradise island.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the persistent efforts of my colleagues CAROLYN MALONEY and MICHAEL BILIRAKIS for calling this special order and arduously maintaining the plight of the Greek Cypriots in the minds of their fellow Members of Congress.

On July 20, 1974, the island nation of Cyprus fell victim to 35,000 Turkish armed forces who invaded this land and tore it apart along a “Green Line.” Remaining one of the most militarized areas of the world, Northern Cyprus has suffered a vast and continued deterioration of human rights protection throughout the last 27 years, despite an international agreement signed in 1975, known as the Vienna III agreement, which was originally drafted in order to guarantee the most basic human rights and freedoms to 20,000 Greek Cypriots

and Maronites enclaved in the Karpass Peninsula, which feel under Turkish rule. Today, after systematic intolerable harassment, intimidation, and inhuman treatment, only 400 Greek Cypriots and 160 Maronites remain.

From the onset of the invasion in 1974, Turkish leaders initiated a campaign intent on the permanent displacement—or rather extinction—of the Greek Cypriots. Upon Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, 200,000 Greek Cypriots—victims of a policy of ethnic cleansing—were forced from their homes and became a population of internally displaced people, refugees, within their own country. These communities, these families were evicted from the towns and homes they have lived in for centuries, in order to accommodate over 80,000 settlers from mainland Turkey. The U.S. committee for Refugees calls the internal displacement of people in Cyprus the “longest standing in the [European] region.” Cyprus' total population is 750,000. Currently throughout the whole of the island, 265,000 people have been displaced because of the violent break up of one nation.

Furthermore, the Turkish led occupation of Northern Cyprus has created a labyrinth from which Greek Cypriots can *not* escape. The man-made “green line” imposed upon this ancient bicultural culture is the embodiment of heinous practices of human rights violations employed by Turkish forces to divide this community. Freedom of movement and association are nonexistent. A Greek Cypriot press is prohibited. Even Turkish Cypriots are banned from engaging in bicultural contact at the grassroots level with Greek Cypriots.

In addition, is the impunity allotted to Turkish armed forces responsible for the disappearances of 1,463 Greek Cypriots, including four Cypriot-Americans, despite Turkey's obligation under the UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. The regime in place in Northern Cyprus is guilty of taking an island nation community and turning neighbor against neighbor. Thus, the 27th anniversary of Cyprus' occupation comes at the heels of the European Court of Human Rights decision made on May 10th of this year, finding Turkey guilty of violating 14 articles of the European Convention on Human rights, and of being an illegal and illegitimate occupying force in Cyprus.

In December 1999, under the good auspices of the United Nations, proximity talks began, bringing both sides closer to possible negotiations. After 5 rounds of talks, and seemingly successful strides, the Turkish Cypriot leader has *STALLED HOPE*. His attempt for international recognition, despite the UN Security Council's call for non-recognition of Northern Cyprus in 1983, and demand for the withdrawal of the *sovereign* Republic of Cyprus' application for EU membership, are both ironic and foolish.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress with a long history of support of due justice and freedom of the enclave in Cyprus, I speak out today to convey to this Congress and the Administration the crucial necessity to maintain pressure on the Turkish government so as to ensure the continuation of the proximity talks, and hopefully soon, negotiations leading to the return, once again of a single sovereign and peaceful Cyprus as Venus knew it to be.