Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 27th anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus.

As Greek-Cypriots in America and around the world gathered last week to mark a tragic day in their nation’s history, it is proper and fitting that we in this body join them in the hope that peace will soon return to their island nation.

As we gather on the floor of the House to mark the 27th anniversary of Turkey’s invasion of Cyprus, 37 percent of that country remains occupied by Turkish military forces. It is equally unfortunate that five American citizens of Cypriot descent and over 1,600 Greek-Cypriots are still unaccounted for as a result of Turkey’s 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

Yet despite these efforts, today, we remain far from a final settlement that will end the artificial division of Cyprus. It is my belief that Congress has a solemn obligation to speak out and support a just and lasting solution to the Cyprus problem. A solution which must follow the precepts laid down in United Nations Security Council 1250, which was adopted on June 29, 1999 and in which part reads, “. . . a Cyprus settlement must be based on a State of Cyprus with a single sovereignty.” In short, the U.S. House of Representatives should serve as a guiding force in the pursuit of a reunified Cyprus, an island nation where all citizens enjoy fundamental freedoms.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by thanking the Co-Chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Representatives Michael Bilirakis and Carolyn Maloney for their exceptional work. I look forward to working with them in the 107th Congress to ensure that some day soon, the unification, not the division of Cyprus, will be commemorated in this body.