

September 10, 2001

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CYPRUS
FEDERATION OF AMERICA, INC.

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Cyprus Federation of America, Inc. which will be hosting its annual Awards Gala on September 28, 2001, and to pay tribute to the distinguished guests it will honor that evening. The Cyprus Federation of America is an umbrella organization representing the Cypriot American community in the United States. The largest Hellenic Cypriot community outside of Cyprus is located in the 14th congressional district, which I am fortunate to represent. As the founder and co-chair of the Hellenic Caucus, I am proud to be their representative.

This year the Cyprus Federation of America, Inc. will honor four individuals who have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the cause of justice and freedom for Cyprus, and to the preservation of the ideals and principles of the Hellenic American community. The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides will present the guests of honor with their awards. The honorees are, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America, the State Treasurer of California, the Hon. Philip Angelides, past president of Cyprus Federation of American, Inc., Mr. Andreas D. Comodromos and noted businessman and philanthropist, Nicholas Bouras. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his unsurpassed contributions to the field of spiritual guidance.

Archbishop Demetrios, was born on February 1, 1928 in Thessaloniki, Greece. The older son of Christos and Georgia Trakatellis, he attended the Experimental High School of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki from which he graduated as valedictorian in June of 1946.

Throughout his life his devotion of God and spirituality played an integral role in his education and career aspirations. He entered the School of Theology of the National and Capodistrian University of Athens in 1946 where he received his theology degree and special recognition for his outstanding work. In 1960, at the age of 32, he was ordained to the office of the Diaconate and in 1964 ordained as a Priest. In 1965 he enrolled at Harvard University to pursue his Ph.D. He received scholarships to study at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and was also honored with the prestigious Arthur Darby Nick Fellowship.

On June 20, 1967 he was elected Titular Bishop of Vresthena. He received a Doctorate of Philosophy from Harvard University in November 1971. In 1977, he received a second Doctorate in Theology from the Faculty of the School of Theology of the National and Capodistrian University of Athens. Three years later he was invited to teach at the Harvard University Divinity school as a visiting professor.

His academic and theological accomplishments made him an incomparable candidate

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for the position of Greek Orthodox Archbishop of North and South American, a position he was named to on September 18, 1999, and continues to hold to this very day.

The Honorable Philip Angelides, Treasurer of the great state of California has provided outstanding leadership as a businessman, and civil servant. The policies and programs implemented by Mr. Agelides as Treasurer have been credited with bolstering the economic strength of California.

Mr. Angelides graduated from Harvard University and was a Core Foundation fellow. He served in California government for eight years, during which time he established a reputation as being a leader on issues such as affordable housing and urban planning. In 1986, he formed his own investment management business, which quickly became a success.

Mr. Angelides has been active in the civic life of his community and State for more than 25 years during which time he helped coordinate a unique bi-partisan civic committee, which helped reform the once troubled Sacramento City Unified School District. Mr. Angelides made history by becoming the first Greek American elected to statewide office in California. He and his wife Julie continue to reside in their hometown of Sacramento where they have three daughters: Megan, Christina and Arianna.

Mr. Andreas D. Comodromos is being honored with the Justice for Cyprus Award for his impassioned work to bring justice and peace to Cyprus. Andreas was born in Famagusta Cyprus on March 27, 1949. The son of Demetrios and Aphrodite Comodromos, he was raised in the Village of Vatili and after completing high school served in the military. He then joined the Cyprus offices of American Life Insurance Co.

In 1973, he married American born Anna C. Zachaiades. They built their home in Cyprus, where they planned to raise their family. The 1974 Turkish invasion resulted in the loss of their home. In April of that year they emigrated to the United States where Andreas pursued his college degree. Mr. Comodromos graduated Magna Cum Laude from Saint Peter's College in 1978, with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. He later founded the accounting firm of Comodromos Associates, P.A. with his brother Michael. He has remained the President and managing partner of the firm, which is based in Paramus, NJ, ever since.

Andreas's immense success in America has not diminished his love and appreciation for the land in which he was born, which is why he continues to work for justice and peace in Cyprus. He has held several positions on the Board of the Cyprus Federation of America and served as its President for two consecutive terms. He was also elected to the National Council of the Order of Saint Andrew.

Andreas was a recipient of the 1996 Ellis Island Medal of Honor for outstanding contributions to America and distinguished community service. He is currently serving as President of the Cyprus-U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE), North and South American Region. He continues to reside with his family in Kinnelon, New Jersey.

Nicholas Bouras is being honored with the Humanitarian and Philanthropic Award for his

many contributions to various humanitarian and philanthropic efforts. Mr. Bouras was born in Pontiac, Michigan and was raised in Chicago, Illinois. In 1942 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and served in combat in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. During his service he flew 42 combat missions in B-26 and A-26 medium bombers as a lead bombardier and navigator until the end of the war in Europe. He was discharged with the rank of major and awarded the distinguished Flying Cross, eight Air Medals and five Battle Stars.

In 1955, he graduated from the School of Commerce at Northwestern University, located in Evanston, Illinois. Beginning in 1940, Mr. Bouras worked for the United States Steel Corporation for nearly two decades. In 1960 he began his own steel construction company with his lifetime partner, Anna K. Bouras. He continues to work as the owner and president of Bouras Industries, which now has locations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and South Carolina and approximately 750 employees.

Mr. Bouras is also the founder of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield, New Jersey. He is also a member of the Archdiocesan Council and a member of the Executive Board of the Archdiocesan Council of America for which he also serves as Secretary. He is a member of the National Board of the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle and also serves as its Executive Vice President.

In 1999 he too received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and a year later was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Subcontractors Association of New Jersey. Ernst and Young awarded him the 2000 entrepreneur Award and in 2001 he was presented with the Hellenic Heritage Achievement Award by the American Hellenic Institute. On May 19, 2001 he was awarded a Doctorate of the Humanities by the Hellenic College of Holy Cross. In March 2001 the American Hellenic Institute of Political Affairs Committee (AHIPAC) honored him for his outstanding contributions to the Hellenic Community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cyprus Federation of America, Inc. and its distinguished guests for their tremendous accomplishments, and tireless efforts for human rights and justice for Cyprus.

HONORING ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, as the United States expanded westward and Colorado's western slope was essentially untouched wilderness, Episcopalian clergy decided to place the first church in the region at Lake City, Colorado. 125 years later, this church is celebrating its founding and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the congregation's dedication and perseverance since its inception.

The Right Reverend John Franklin Spalding, Episcopal Bishop of Colorado, and Reverend

C.M. Hoge conducted the original sermons and confirmation processes for the church in 1876. After many trips and openings of other church organizations, Bishop Spalding recalled that the church at Lake City was the first church in Western Colorado. Following the efforts of Bishop Spalding and after relocating to numerous sites throughout the town, the Episcopal services were finally housed at a former carpentry shop and one-room schoolhouse in 1877.

Lake City has the honor of hosting four churches and St. James Episcopal Church most resembles its original design. A Gothic-style 1910 Estey organ still fills the sanctuary with its unique tones. The balance between traditional architecture and contemporary needs has not escaped the congregation and accordingly they have adjusted their facility to accommodate modern-day advancements. New propane heaters have been installed and a new foundation has been poured along with beautiful stained glass windows.

Despite the small size of the church, with an average attendance of 40 people during the summer and 10 throughout the winters, the setting is conducive to intimate teachings and reflection. Mr. Speaker, the St. James Episcopal Church has withstood many tests of time and continues to provide a place of worship for the Lake City area. It is truly a great landmark and I would like to congratulate the congregation on their successes and extend my warmest regards and wish them the very best in years to come.

**TAIWAN'S UNITED NATIONS
MEMBERSHIP**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan, a thriving democracy, a strong advocate of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and a bastion of economic strength, deserves membership to the United Nations on behalf of its 23 million citizens. With the election of its President—Chen Shui-bian—in a free and fair election last year, Taiwan continues to strengthen its democracy by improving safeguards for human rights and contributing to the international community.

Since his election, President Chen has continually sought to resume dialogue with the Chinese mainland regarding eventual reunification. Despite this effort, Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations has often been thwarted for political reasons beyond Taiwan's control. It is unreasonable for the people of Taiwan to be excluded from full participation in international institutions due to threats from mainland China. Denying Taiwan membership in the United Nations and other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, obstructs access to important international resources.

For the past several years, both Houses of the U.S. Congress have consistently introduced and passed legislation relating to Taiwan's meaningful participation and membership in the United Nations. This important leg-

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islation restates our support and our commitment to the progress of Taiwan's democracy.

We believe that Taiwan's full and equal membership in the United Nations and other international organizations is long overdue. The rationale of the world community in 1971 was that they were righting one wrong in giving China a seat in the United Nations. Now it is time to right the wrong created at that time, namely the U.N. disenfranchisement of Taiwan's citizens.

In order to strengthen the prestige and authority of the United Nations, it is now necessary to grant the people of Taiwan United Nations membership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the House floor during Thursday's roll call vote on H.R. 2833.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of this bill to promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam.

**BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, the United States Constitution guarantees liberty and equal opportunity to the people of the United States. Historically, however, these fundamental rights have not always been provided.

In the early beginnings of U.S. history, education was withheld from people of African descent. In some states it was against the law for African Americans to learn to read and write. Later, throughout America's history, the educational system mandated separate schools for children based solely on race. In many instances, the schools for African American children were substandard facilities with out-of-date textbooks and insufficient supplies.

However, on May 17, 1954, in the landmark case aimed at ending segregation in public schools—Brown versus the Board of Education—the United States Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," and as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens, "equal protection of the laws." The Brown decision effectively denied the legal basis for segregation in states with segregated classrooms and initiated educational reform throughout the United States. This decision brought all Americans one step closer to attaining equal opportunities in education.

In remembrance of the Brown decision, we must remain steadfast in our efforts to make sure that all children receive the very best

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education imaginable. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to join with me today in supporting the establishment of a commission to encourage and provide for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Brown versus Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

**PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE
FAMILIES AMENDMENTS OF 2001**

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am joining my colleague, Representative WALLY HERGER, the Chairman of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Resources, in introducing legislation today to reauthorize and increase funding for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. This legislation would raise the funding level for this important child welfare program from \$305 million to \$505 million per year. In addition, the measure would provide new educational assistance for children who have aged out of foster care, and establish a new mentoring program for the children of prisoners. I commend Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson for providing us with detailed legislative language on the President's proposals in this area, although I was disappointed to see the Administration's recent mid-session review of its budget proposal backtrack on the President's prior commitment to fully implementing these much-needed policies.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the bill would have outlays of \$38 million in FY 2002, meaning that it would not dip into the Social Security Trust Funds (CBO projects a \$2 billion non-Social Security budget surplus in FY 2002). However, we do need to carefully evaluate the impact of this new spending on Social Security funds in future years. We must maintain a responsible budget framework that does not use Social Security funding to finance spending or tax policies. I am prepared to make sufficient budgetary changes to ensure this new legislation meets that test.

As a Nation, we rightfully provide temporary foster homes to children when they are victims of abuse and neglect. However, we do not currently do enough to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place, or to avert it from re-occurring once a problem is identified. This is exactly the purpose of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, which serves families in, or at-risk of becoming involved in, the child welfare system. States have broad discretion in spending funds from this program for services designed to support at-risk families, to reunify families in an environment safe for children, and to promote adoption when children cannot safely return home. More specifically, States can provide counseling, parenting skills classes, respite services, mental health care, comprehensive caseworker oversight, referral services to other programs, post-adoption assistance and substance abuse treatment. On this last issue, I believe we should establish a separate program with