

BARBARA ELOISE EARNEST

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I stand here today to honor and remember a distinguished member of the Colton community and a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend, Barbara "Bobbie" Eloise Earnest.

Bobbie was born in Indio, California on January 30, 1930. After moving as a child, she became a lifelong resident of Colton, California. Her mother, Gertrude Valenzan, was the first female Mayor Pro-Tem of Colton.

Bobbie graduated from Colton High School in 1948. An enterprising young woman, long before women were encouraged to work outside the home, Bobbie began working at the age of 16 in the mail room of the Retail Clerks Union, which would later become the United Food and Commercial Workers Union UCFW. For nearly forty years, Bobbie worked tirelessly for the UCFW, rising through the ranks from what she called "an envelope licker" to Insurance Department Supervisor for the UCFW for all of San Bernardino County. She was also the recorder for all of the minutes of all the union meetings for all of those years.

After retiring in 1985, Bobbie took up golf. Always insisting on walking, never using a cart or caddy, she famously walked all 18 holes 3 or 4 times a week well into her seventies. She was known in her neighborhood as a caring, compassionate woman, the "Mother Teresa" to her friends.

A devout woman, Bobbie was an active member of Immaculate Conception church in Colton, CA. Also a family woman, she raised her three children Nick, Larry, and Becky by herself. In 1980, she met and married Leroy Johnson and shared in a loving relationship for 28 years. Bobbie's true pride was her 12 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

In her youth, Bobbie was known as a first-rate dancer, and had once been a dance partner of the great Johnnie Bracia. And it was with that same spirit of grace, style and elegance that Barbara Eloise Earnest touched the lives of all those around her.

Let us take a moment to remember this amazing woman and her admirable dedication to others and leading an exemplarily life, one of whose footsteps we all hope to follow. Having known her for over twenty years, the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara, my family and I are with her loved ones at this time.

Madam Speaker, the community of Colton has lost one of its greatest native daughters, but she will forever live on in the hearts of those that knew her. God Bless Bobbie Earnest for love of country and mankind.

ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH
INVASION OF CYPRUS**HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, this year we mark the 34th anniversary of the Turkish

invasion of Cyprus, a day in which the freedoms and human rights of the island's Greek Cypriots were violated. 200,000 Greek Cypriots lost their homes and almost 5,000 were killed in the invasion. Today, 43,000 Turkish troops maintain an illegal occupation in gross violation of international laws. Amazingly, there are more Turkish military personnel on the tiny island than U.S. troops serving in Afghanistan. Since the beginning of the occupation, thousands of Cypriots have been killed and many families were torn apart as a result of the invasion. Religious artifacts, many dating back to the 8th Century, were stolen, desecrated or destroyed. It is our duty to remember this anniversary so that we can move forward in bringing a resolution to the Cyprus Problem.

In 1997, I had the opportunity to travel to Cyprus. I saw the barbed wire that divides free Cyprus from occupied Cyprus and hoped for a day when Cyprus would be unified. Turkey's violation of international law and the United Nations' peace treaties remains an injustice. Free Cyprus has been a crucial ally to the United States in the War on Terror and has provided million in economic aid to Turkish Cypriots. In Congress it is our responsibility to stand up for those Cypriots who have stood with us for so many years. It is our duty to speak for the hundreds of thousands of silenced Greek Cypriots who are threatened with oppression in Turkish occupied Cyprus. There is a reason to feel hopeful about a solution to the Cyprus Problem. Preliminary discussions have taken place between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders to hopefully lay the groundwork for official negotiations. It is my hope that Turkey allows these discussions to go on undisturbed and for the Turkish military to retreat back to its own nation. The next time I visit Cyprus, I want that barbed wire to be a distant memory. I want Cyprus to be free again. Together, with cooperation from the United States and the international community, we will see that day.

HONORING KYLE WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Kyle Williams of Grain Valley, Missouri. Kyle is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1362, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Kyle has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Kyle has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Kyle Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE U.S. AIR FORCE
B-52H STRATOFORTRESS CREW
LOST ON JULY 21, 2008**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives and service of Major Christopher M. Cooper, aircraft commander; Major Brent D. Williams, navigator; Captain Michael K. Dodson, co-pilot; First Lieutenant Joshua D. Shepherd, navigator; First Lieutenant Robert Gerren, electronic warfare officer; and Colonel George Martin, flight surgeon, who were the crew of a B-52H Stratofortress that crashed off the coast of Guam on July 21, 2008. The crew was assigned to the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron based at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana and were deployed to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam as part of the Air Force's continual bomber presence in the Pacific. Colonel Martin was the on-board flight surgeon and deputy commander of the 36th Medical Group at Andersen Air Force Base. The B-52 was preparing to fly over Guam's annual Liberation Day parade, commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Liberation of Guam during World War II after thirty-two months of occupation by enemy forces.

This tragic event reminds us of the constant dangers that are faced by our men and women in uniform. The loss of this crew is felt by the Air Force family throughout the world and our island community of Guam. The people of Guam will always remember this crew on Liberation Day and their untimely passing gives us all the more reason to appreciate our freedom and the many sacrifices made by the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces defending our nation.

In their honor, I would like to recite the poem "High Flight" by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.:

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered
wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tum-
bling mirth
Of sun-split clouds—and done a hundred
things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and
flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy
grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew—
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of
God.

I offer my deepest sympathies and prayers to all the families of these brave airmen who gave their lives in the service of their country.

God bless the families of these brave men, God bless the men and women defending our freedom, God bless Guam, and God bless our country, the United States of America.