

Honor



Semper

Sovereign Order of Cyprus

Victor Wallace Farris

*Knighted this sixteenth day of March
Nineteen hundred and seventy-two
with the rank of Commander*

*at Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
Palm Beach, Florida*

*Reception at his residence, "Casa del Mar"
840 South Ocean Boulevard
Palm Beach, Florida*



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 90th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Sovereign Order of Cyprus

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. FRANK J. BRASCO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 14, 1967

Mr. BRASCO. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks.

The Sovereign Order of Cyprus, one of the four oldest orders of chivalry, was founded in the year 1192, by Guy de Lusignan, King of Cyprus and Jerusalem, and confirmed by Pope Innocent III in the year 1200, who imposed upon it the dual mission of spreading the Christian faith and acting as a bulwark of Christendom in the eastern Mediterranean. The order was created on the model of the Hospitaller and military orders such as those of the Temple, and of St. John, installed in the Holy Land. Three hundred men of noble birth were inducted as knights in the new order and allowed to wear the red, eight-pointed cross of the order at the throat. They were obliged to defend the island route to the Holy Land and to prevent attack and infiltration by the infidels. The order also consisted of men-at-arms, chaplains, and serving brothers who, with the knights, were organized in commanderies. The distinguishing mark of the knights was a blue mantle with the red cross of the order upon it. The order attracted to its ranks some of the most vigorous nobles of Christendom, and these knights were to take an active interest in the affairs of the Holy Roman Empire and of the Byzantine Empire in addition to their defense of the pilgrims and their charitable works.

Under a succession of able grand masters, for more than three centuries, the deeds and influence of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus were enormous and its members played an important role as a stabilizing force in the political life of the Levant. After the annexation of Cyprus by Venice, the order entered a period of decline and its members dispersed throughout the Balkan States and Western Europe. More recently the order was reactivated by the descendants of some of its most illustrious knights with the blessings of the Holy See and dedicated to the unique values of Christian civilization and

the spirit of ecumenism. Its reorganizers, like their famous ancestors, felt obliged, in the face of the many dangers which beset our culture and our institutions, to reestablish this venerable and tradition-laden order of chivalry, springing from one of the most respected shrines of Western thought, affirming in this way, the continuity of Christian effort against terror and injustice.

The Sovereign Order of Cyprus, today a modern organization, based on ancient principles and traditions, is dedicated to the building of schools, hospitals, churches and other charitable, spiritual, and educational institutions. It honors writers, artists, men of science, culture, education, and medicine; leaders of the free world from every walk of life, regardless of race, color, creed, or national origin. However, in its nearly 800-year history only 900 men have received this coveted knighthood and cross. For the propagation and spread of its principles, the order has created an Institute for the Study of Moral Philosophy and Social Sciences—Academie des Etudes Superieures—which it subsidizes.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me particular pleasure to inform this House that it was in recognition of the dynamic spirit of American patriotism, and the modern day crusade in which we Americans seek to bring freedom from oppression to the peoples of the world, that Michel Paul Pierre Count de Valitch, grand chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus, heir to the rich traditions of this ancient order, authorized the establishment of an American commandery of the order more than 3 years ago. Count de Valitch personally attended to its inauguration and has, since then, personally overseen its affairs.

At this point, I would like to enter in the RECORD the names of some of the outstanding members of this order both in the United States and abroad:

His Royal Highness Prince Louis de Bourbon.

His Imperial and Royal Highness Prince de Ligny Luxembourg.

His Excellency Paul P. Barrenechea, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of Peru.

His Excellency Stephan Brunet, Secretary General, Union of War Veterans, France.

Mr. Francis Bellon, distinguished industrialist, Paris, France.

Archbishop Charles Brearley, Sheffield, England.

His Excellency Baron Francesco Caponera, Diplomat, Rome, Italy.

Dr. Charles P. Covino, Space Research Pioneer, New Jersey.

Archbishop Louis Canivet, Paris, France.

General James H. Doolittle, United States Army, Retired.

Right Reverend Monsignor Aloysius C. Dineen, New York City.

Honorable Joseph Eden, Diplomat, London and Paris.

Mr. Henry Evans, Author and Professor of International Relations, New Jersey.

Monsignor Patrick B. Fay, New York City.

Honorable Ludovic Huybrechts, Conseiller de Commerce, Antwerp, Belgium.

Honorable Jean-Louis Jammet, LL.D. Professor of Law, Paris, France.

Dr. Serge Korff, Professor of Nuclear Physics at New York University and President of the Explorers Club of New York.

Dr. Hugh R. Kailan, Professor of Education, London, England.

Honorable Edward Thompson, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

Dr. Pasquale Zaccara of New York City.

Mr. Monty Winslow, President of Transjet Tours of New York.

Mr. Lowell Thomas, Author, New York.

Honorable Enrique De Los Heros, former ambassador of the Republic of Peru in Spain.

Rear Admiral Gordon McLintock, Commandant, United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York.

Mr. Georges Levai, distinguished authority on Art, Paris, France.

Mr. Nicolas Alexandre Manic, industrialist and patron of the arts, Paris, France.

Colonel Le Baron R. Matyn de Lionel, Grand Chancellor of the renowned Royal Order of St. Georges de Burgogne of Belgium, Brussels, Belgium.

Rear Admiral Alfonso Navarro Romero, Republic of Peru.

Count Stephen Potocki, diplomat, Paris, France.

His Highness Prince L. Radziwill, Rome and London.

Reverend Frederick P. Erhardt, D.D., New York City.

These distinguished contemporaries typify the caliber of men holding this high honor.

I wish to congratulate Count de Valitch and the members of the Sovereign Order of Cyprus and to wish them continued success in their efforts toward bringing about a better and more peaceful world.