

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ED MOODY

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this Thursday evening in Franklin, Tennessee, our community will gather to honor an extraordinary American. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ed Moody as he receives the Community Service Award from Williamson Christian College.

Ed Moody was born and raised in Kingston Springs, Tennessee. After serving in the Pacific Theater in World War II, he joined his brother in a tire re-treading business on Main Street in Franklin. That business would eventually relocate to Columbia Avenue and become an institution in our community, Moody's Tire & Auto Service.

Not content with running a business and raising a family, Ed embraced Rotary International and its motto of "service above self." In his 56 years of membership, Ed Moody has been a living example of Rotary's principles of encouraging service, promoting ethical conduct, applying the ideal of service in personal, business, and community life, and advancing understanding, goodwill and peace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Ed Moody and congratulating him and his family on this occasion. We would all do well to follow his example of leaving a small piece of the world better than we found it.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire set out on a campaign to exterminate the Armenian people. Between 1915 and 1923, the numbers were horrific. One and a half million Armenians were murdered and 500,000 deported from their homelands. At the end of these eight years, the Armenian population of Anatolia and Western Armenia was virtually eliminated, becoming one of the 20th century's darkest chapters.

While acknowledging the role played by the Ottoman Empire in killing Armenians, some have laid doubt to the claim of genocide, citing the subsequent deportation of the survivors as merely a movement of a people from one land to another. Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913–1916, saw it much differently. In his memoirs, Morgenthau recalls that the Turks, "never had the slightest idea of reestablishing the Armenians in (a) new country" knowing that "the great majority of those would . . . either die of thirst and starvation, or be murdered by the wild Mohammedan desert tribes."

I recall Morgenthau's words here because he saw first hand the atrocities wrought on the Armenians, and he had been told by Turks that they understood quite well that they had handed down a death sentence to the Armenian people. The Turks not only knew of what they were doing, but spoke quite freely of it. Eighty years later, however, many are still unwilling to recognize the killing for what it was: genocide.

The U.S. has long been a global leader in promoting human rights around the world. On the issue of the Armenian genocide, however, we lag behind. The French, Swiss, Swedish, Germans, and even the Russian governments recognize the Armenian genocide properly. As a global leader in human rights, it is imperative for the U.S. to stand on principle and recognize the annihilation of the Armenians.

However, it is no less important today to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it is. The deafening silence that came in its wake set the stage for a century that saw genocides occur in Europe, Africa, and Asia. While the Armenian genocide was the first of the 20th century, the blind eye cast to the slaughter of Armenians was a point used by Hitler who asked his joint chiefs of staff, "Who . . . speaks today of the [their] annihilation?"

To the critics who say that we should not dwell on history, I say it's much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong. The world's strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability, for actions present, but also past. It's weakened by denial of accountability of past acts. Not recognizing the Armenian genocide, as such, does just that.

THE OCCASION OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Today, April 24th, is the 93rd anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th Century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia,

and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earth Day.

On Earth Day, we celebrate the limitless gifts of our natural world—the incredible life-giving forces that sustain us through every single day of the year. It is all too easy to take the air we breathe, the water we drink, the earth we walk for granted. Today, we pause to recognize what precious gifts these are.

We need this reminder now more than ever. Our environment is fragile, threatened by global climate change, exploding demand for resources, and other serious challenges. Our future depends upon how we respond. Congress, the President, and every nation on the globe must commit to charting a new course toward sustainable and earth-renewing lives.

Earth Day reminds us that we must act to protect our environment not just out of obligation or self-preservation, but because it is simply the right thing to do for the next generation. We owe our children and grandchildren our strongest efforts to clean up pollution, preserve our wild spaces, and reduce the human footprint on our globe.

As Americans, we also owe a unique debt to Planet Earth. Our nation is responsible for 25% of the world's energy consumption—far more than our fair share. If we continue consuming at this rate as nations like India and China increase their resource demands, our planet will change forever in ways that will seriously impact all of our lives.

The United States must lead the urgent effort to find a different path. We must find ways

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to responsibly use the resources of our earth while simultaneously renewing our environment and making it stronger. We are more than up to the task—Americans have always been pioneers and innovators, and nature has always played a vital role in that frontier spirit. Our ancestors tamed the wilderness; now it is our challenge to sustain and preserve it.

In the 110th Congress, the House has passed historic legislation to protect our planet. We have acted to improve vehicle fuel efficiency, promote renewable sources of energy and invest in new energy-efficient technologies. In addition, we have proposed legislation to slow, stabilize and ultimately reverse greenhouse gas emissions. I urge the Bush Administration to partner with Congress and the American people to enact these bold proposals.

One of the greatest joys of my life has been sharing in the wonder of the natural world with my family, my friends, and especially my children. Whether a simple walk outside or a trek to the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, these experiences have renewed my spirit.

Future generations deserve the same opportunity. This will only be possible if we fully embrace Earth Day's challenge to recognize the immense value of our environment and our planet. As we celebrate sprouting leaves, sunlight, spring, and all the splendor of nature, we also commit to ensuring that we can enthusiastically enjoy every Earth Day to come.

CONGRATULATING ANNA  
CERVENAK AND MAX  
BARTIKOWSKY, HONOREES OF  
THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE  
SOCIETY OF FELLOWS, ANTI-  
DEFAMATION LEAGUE

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my distinguished colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Anna Cervenak and Max Bartikowsky, recipients of the Anti-Defamation League's Distinguished Community Service Award.

This award is presented to persons who are dedicated champions of human rights and have distinguished themselves by civic, philanthropic and other extraordinary activities.

Max Bartikowsky was born and raised in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. His celebrity began at an early age, being the impish inspiration for a shoeshine boy character called "Little Max" created by the famous cartoonist, Ham Fisher, who originated the "Joe Palooka" comic strip once syndicated in over 900 newspapers nationwide. Fisher was also a native of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Bartikowsky graduated from Wyoming Seminary after which he attended the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and Wilkes College. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951 to 1955. He went on to complete the Gemological Institute of America's Diamond Grading Class after which he took an active role as the third generation in the Bartikowsky family jewelry business. Today, he is president and CEO of Bartikowsky Jewelers, currently celebrating 121 years in business.

Bartikowsky has been especially active with the Jewish Community Center (JCC) where he has served as president, a member of the board of trustees and the board of directors. He is a supporter of the JCC's Fitness Center, JCC Camp, JCC Basketball Banquet and the JCC 5:30 Club.

He also serves on the board of Temple Israel where his grandfather was the first president in 1924. He is a past president of the Wilkes-Barre Lions Club and Jewish Family Services and has been a member of Masonic Lodge 655, Caldwell Consistory, and Irem Temple for 50 years. He is also a supporter of Wyoming Seminary.

Bartikowsky has been honored by the Knights of the Saber, JCC 5:30 Club, Wyoming Valley Family Service Association and the Jewish Family Service. He was also featured in articles in the Outlook and Pennsylvania Heritage magazines.

Anna Cervenak graduated from Forty Fort High School and College Misericordia where she earned a bachelor of social work degree. She went on to Marywood University where she earned a master's degree in social work. A member of Alpha Sigma Lambda, Social Work Honor Society, she was elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Cervenak started her career at Bell of Pennsylvania while still in high school. She worked as an operator, in engineering, employment and as the company's public speaker. When she retired from Verizon in 2007, she was Director of Community Relations/Public Affairs.

A past president of Junior Achievement, she is currently a member of its board of directors. She is also a member of the board of directors of Penn's Northeast, Great Valley Technology Alliance, Pittston Chamber of Commerce, Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Athena Award Committee, Victim's Resource Center, Catholic Youth Center, Catholic Social Services, King's College President's Council, Luzerne County Community College Foundation, Penn State-Wilkes-Barre, Step-By-Step, Boy Scouts of America, Blond Association, Circle 200 and the Mountain Laurel Center for the Performing Arts. Ms. Cervenak also chaired the Blue Ribbon Committee to save Tobyhanna Army Depot, Burn Foundation and the Jewish Family Service Advisory Board.

Her awards include Athena Award, Top 50 Business Women in Pennsylvania, Top Business Women in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Arthritis Foundation Community Leader of the Year, Susan B. Roebeling Distinguished Citizen Award, Wyoming Valley Woman's Pathfinder Award, NEPA Boy Scouts Woman of the Year Award.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Bartikowsky and Ms. Cervenak. Their extraordinary community service to northeastern Pennsylvania is both legendary and inspiring. They have clearly made a significant contribution to the improvement of the regional quality of life and, for that, we are all grateful.

### EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1117, supporting the goals and ideals of Earth Day. On this day we are reminded of the importance of protecting our environment for generations to come.

Established in 1970, Earth Day commemorates the birth of the modern environmental movement. Thirty eight years ago today, 200 million Americans from coast-to-coast took to the streets to demonstrate the importance of environmental stewardship and conservation. Their voices are still heard today, as we continue to celebrate Earth Day globally.

We must act responsibly and expediently to protect our environment by addressing global warming. Scientists worldwide agree that global warming is a reality and its consequences will be devastating and far-reaching.

Protecting our environment is not only crucial for this generation, but for the many generations to come. By implementing environmentally responsible policies today, we will ensure that our children and grandchildren will have clean water to drink and clear air to breathe.

We must focus on developing renewable energy, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, expanding access to sustainable resources, and increasing environmental consciousness. This Congress has taken great strides to these ends, but there is still much work to be done.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the goals and ideals of Earth Day. May we continue to make environmental issues a top priority of the 110th Congress.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
EAGER FREE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

### HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Eager Free Public Library, EFPL, for 100 years of service to the people of Evansville, WI. Since the doors first opened a century ago, the Eager Free Public Library has been an invaluable and vital part of the community.

During the 1890s, Wisconsinites embarked on a movement to secure free public libraries around the State. However, few were as passionate and dedicated to the cause as Mr. Almeron Eager. Eager's passion for libraries was evident when he passed away in 1902. In his will, Mr. Eager bequeathed \$10,000 to the city of Evansville to construct a free public library in his name. The library's cost would end up exceeding \$10,000 but his surviving family members contributed money to cover the remaining cost. After several years of searching for the proper site, the first construction shovel finally pierced the ground in May 1907 and the library was dedicated in June 1908. The prairie school style of the

building would become a trademark design of Claude and Stark, the architects of the EFPL.

One hundred years later, the library still stands tall, in large part thanks to the vision of Almeron Eager. As a communitarian, Mr. Eager knew that free public libraries are the cornerstone of our democracy. A library brings hope and knowledge to our children, fosters intellectual freedom, and makes important information readily available to all citizens. The mission of EFPL, and so many others, to provide equal access to resources makes free public libraries critical to fulfilling the promise of a democratic society.

Not only do our free public libraries provide intellectual enrichment but they also serve as an important community gathering place. Through a wide range of programs including discussion groups, computer classes, and family events, EFPL has worked tirelessly to give every citizen the opportunity to fulfill their potential and become an active participant in our democracy.

For the past 100 years, these overarching goals have been the foundation of the library's distinguished reputation and unwavering commitment to equality and education. I am proud to join the residents of Evansville in honoring the family of Mr. Almeron Eager and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Eager Free Public Library.

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HOLDING NORTH KOREA  
ACCOUNTABLE

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, in 2006 the world was alarmed when North Korea tested a nuclear device. Since then, North Korea has been pressured to reveal details about its nuclear program, but it has blatantly defied transparency deadlines and Six-Party talks have yielded few results.

North Korea has recently re-declared its intent to provide a "complete and correct" declaration of all its nuclear programs, but while the U.S. awaits this declaration, we shouldn't reduce the necessary pressure required to hold North Korea accountable to its promises.

The U.S. should not ease sanctions on North Korea until we have sufficient verification measures in place. Specifically, North Korea should not be removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism until it accurately declares the number of nuclear weapons and the amount of fissile material it has. We must continue to insist on full transparency and not acquiesce to deceitful North Korean rhetoric.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR DR.  
RONALD NUTT

**HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean on his 70th birthday whose scientific accomplishments have had an incalculable impact on the medical community and our Nation.

In 1969, Dr. Ronald Nutt received a PhD in Electrical Engineering at the University of Tennessee. In the nearly 40 years which followed, he pioneered technology which has saved countless lives and brought distinction to East Tennessee and the University of Tennessee.

Even those who have never heard of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) probably know someone who has been helped by it. PET is a non-invasive technique which can map the entire body with molecular imaging.

Pioneered and internationally marketed by Dr. Nutt, PET is a critical tool today in medicine, and the method is widely used in the fields of oncology, cardiology, and neurology. PET has saved countless lives by innovatively detecting tumors, improving biopsies, and helping to determine the stage of a disease. The effect of PET scanning was so extraordinary, Dr. Nutt was named Distinguished Scientist of the Year in 1999 and received the TIME Magazine Medical Innovation of the Year honor in December 2000.

Dr. Nutt's lifetime of developing this technology has led to many other discoveries. He is the holder of dozens of patents in the field of electrical engineering, with many more still pending. Prior to his work on PET technology, Dr. Nutt took a products business from a single employee to a \$10 million a year business in the 1980s. Today, he sits on the board of directors of several companies and continues to be a leader his field.

Dr. Nutt is not only an example of American ingenuity, but his work is also the benchmark for success in his field. His professional accomplishments are equal in scope only with his personal character and continued devotion to family, community, and many worthy causes.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the career of Dr. Ronald Nutt on the occasion of his 70th birthday. His work is far from over, but his impact is already certain.

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INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION  
TO OPPOSE THE IJC'S PROPOSED  
WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

**HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution concerning the International Joint Commission, IJC, and water level management on Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. I am deeply disappointed that it has come to the point where such action by Congress is necessary.

I have the distinct privilege of representing the entirety of the American span of the St. Lawrence River, as well as a significant portion of Lake Ontario. As a native of the area, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of the selection of an appropriate water level management plan to my constituents who live, work, and vacation along Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

The Great Lakes represent the largest supply of fresh water on the planet and this vast supply of fresh water flows out to the saltwater of the Atlantic Ocean via the St. Lawrence River. However, following the completion of

the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Moses-Saunders Power Project in the 1950's, there was no choice but to come up with a plan for "artificially" regulating this outflow. Unfortunately, the current water level regulation plan, known as "1958 D with Deviations," has resulted in significant negative environmental impacts on fisheries and wildlife throughout the region I represent in Congress. For example, the current regime has resulted in the substantial derogation of at least 33,000 acres of wetlands, allowing a thick cattail monoculture to expand and replace large areas of biodiverse meadow marsh, resulting in the loss of habitat for a wide range of aquatic, avian, and upland species.

Since 2000, the IJC's International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River, LOSL, study has spent more than \$20 million in taxpayer money to develop an approach to water level regulation that would best suit the environmental and economic needs of this vital natural resource. And, over the years, the IJC has devised plan after plan to achieve that goal—soliciting extensive public comment to fully vet these proposals with the residents who are most affected. Yet, for all of that effort, the IJC has chosen to waste years of research and millions of dollars in taxpayer money, in addition to ignoring significant amounts of public comment, by proposing a brand new water levels regime "Plan 2007." Moreover, I am very concerned that the lack of transparency in the IJC final development of "Plan 2007" was created in the shadows and with little or no outside input.

It is clear to anyone living in this region that the wrong approach to water level regulation can have significant negative impacts. We have all seen firsthand the devastating consequences that the existing regime has had on the environment. The status quo is simply unacceptable. We need a comprehensive and effective approach to regulate the water levels of both Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. Thus, like many residents along the lake and river, I invested time and effort to support the approach I believed best met the environmental and economic requirements of the region—Plan B+. I believe B+ appropriately balances sound environmental principles with the needs of both residents and recreational boaters, while, at the same time, providing benefits for the Moses-Saunders Power Project.

Virtually every regional and environmental organization that has examined this process agree that Plan B+ is based on sound scientific principles and is the one approach that best meets all the needs of the various stakeholders. Unfortunately, despite the public vetting of three proposed plans, on March 28, 2008, the IJC released "Plan 2007," which had not previously been submitted to the public for comment or fully evaluated by the scientific community and the State of New York, as the proposed water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

Plan 2007 does little to improve the existing water level management plan, both in terms of environmental protection and hydropower generation. Further, lessons learned from the LOSL Study will be used for the Upper Great Lakes Study to examine water levels on the St. Claire River and Lakes Ontario and Huron.

Therefore, today, along with the Gentlewoman from Western New York, Mrs. SLAUGHTER, a co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force

and trained biologist, I am introducing a resolution which calls on the Secretary of State to not approve Plan 2007. It further asks that the Secretary ensure that any plan which is adopted provide adequate environmental protection, maximize hydropower generation, and fully considers the views of the public and affected state governments.

For the record, I am including letters of support for this resolution from Alcoa-Massena Operations; Alliance for the Great Lakes; American Rivers; Audubon; Audubon New York; Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper; Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Ducks Unlimited—Great Lakes Region; Environmental Advocates of New York; Freshwater Future; Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association and Foundation; Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council; Great Lakes United; International Association for Great Lakes Research; International Water Level Coalition; Izaak Walton League—New York Division; Michigan United Conservation Clubs; Midwest Environmental Advocates; National Wildlife Federation—Great Lakes; Save the River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper; The Nature Conservancy—New York; The New York State Conservation Council; Thousand Islands Land Trust; and Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

I urge my colleagues to join with Mrs. SLAUGHTER and me as cosponsors of this resolution. I will continue to work with my colleagues and my constituents by using every legislative tool at my disposal to ensure that the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario continue to be vibrant natural resources for future generations.

ALCOA PRIMARY METALS/  
GLOBAL HARD ALLOY EXTRUSIONS,  
Massena, NY, April 22, 2008.

Congressman JOHN M. MCHUGH,  
Rayburn Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH: As a major North Country employer dependent upon hydropower for our production operations, we have a strong interest in the future of the St. Lawrence River and have closely followed the debate over various water level regulation plans.

We concur with you that it is imperative a plan be adopted by the International Joint Commission that takes into account environmental considerations and the concerns of the public, while at the same time maximizing hydropower production. As you recognize, all three of these issues—environmental considerations, public concerns regarding recreational uses and hydropower—are closely linked to the economy of this region. A St. Lawrence River water level management plan should clearly address these concerns in consideration of the economic future of the North Country.

We fully support your resolution regarding a water levels management plan that takes these three issues into account.

Sincerely,

WESLEY OBERHOLZER,  
Primary Location Manager,  
Alcoa Massena Operations.

AMERICAN RIVERS,  
Washington, DC, April 22, 2008.

Hon. JOHN M. MCHUGH,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES MCHUGH AND  
SLAUGHTER: On behalf of our 65,000 members

and supporters, I am writing in support of your resolution expressing the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that the International Joint Commission (IJC) should adopt an appropriate water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.

On April 17th, American Rivers named the St. Lawrence River as one of our Most Endangered Rivers of 2008. This annual report highlights the rivers of our nation that are facing the most uncertain futures. This year, the International Joint Commission has an opportunity to revise the deleterious 50-year-old water management plan for the Moses-Saunders Dam. The current plan has severely degraded river health and is threatening the river's lucrative tourism and recreation economy, and quality of life. The IJC must adopt a plan that provides 21st century solutions that benefit the millions of people who depend upon the river.

Research conducted by more than 180 scientists from the U.S. and Canada discovered that the current plan, which severely limits natural water level fluctuations, has significantly impacted the river environment. These conditions can be reversed by allowing the river to have a more natural flow as is proposed by Plan B+, a plan currently before the IJC. Plan B+ is widely supported by federal and state agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environment Canada and the New York Departments of Environmental Conservation and State, as well as numerous scientists, environmental groups, and federal, state and local lawmakers.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and for your leadership in ensuring that the most appropriate water level management plan is chosen for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence system.

Sincerely,

REBECCA R. WODDER,  
President.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY,  
Albany, NY, April 21, 2008.

Congressman JOHN MCHUGH,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn HOB, Wash-  
ington, DC.

Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn HOB, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH AND CON-  
GRESSWOMAN SLAUGHTER: On behalf of the  
65,000 members of The Nature Conservancy  
in New York, I write in strong support of  
your resolution on an environmentally sound  
and economically beneficial regulation plan  
for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence  
River.

The 650-mile coastline of Lake Ontario and  
the upper St. Lawrence River constitutes the  
largest coastal environment in New York  
State. Lake Ontario and the upper River har-  
bor more than 64,000 acres of coastal wet-  
lands, extensive barrier beaches, and other  
coastal habitats that have been shaped over  
thousands of years by the ebb and flow of the  
lake and river.

Sound water management is an essential  
step in preserving the ecological health of  
freshwater ecosystems like Lake Ontario.  
Healthy ecosystems enhance our quality of  
life, and provide the foundation for a healthy  
economy.

After six years of study, with stakeholder  
consultation and exemplary science, the  
International Joint Commission (IJC) has an  
historic opportunity to exercise principles of  
sound water management in the regulation  
of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence.

However, the proposed new regulation plan  
released for public comment by the IJC—  
Plan 2007—does not restore the 30-year cycles

that maintained the wetlands and dunes of  
Lake Ontario's coast prior to advent of  
water level regulation 50 years ago. The  
IJC's own 6-year study demonstrated that  
restoration of these age-old cycles could pro-  
vide clear ecosystem benefits, and also eco-  
nomic benefits to the people of the basin.

An alternative regulation plan that  
achieves these benefits—Plan B+—was devel-  
oped by the IJC study. The approach to  
water management of Plan B+ is to mimic  
Lake Ontario's natural hydrologic rhythm  
while dampening the extremes of high and  
low levels that can lead to economic dam-  
ages.

By suggesting a pathway toward the much  
greater environmental improvements of Plan  
B+, the IJC recognizes the scientific basis for  
the broad support this plan has received  
from the State of New York and from federal  
and state/provincial agencies and NGOs in  
the U.S. and Canada.

Your resolution takes an important step  
toward adoption of a regulation plan that  
provides ecosystem benefits, addresses the  
concerns of the public and the State of New  
York, and increases the economic benefits  
from hydropower production for all New  
Yorkers. The Nature Conservancy thanks  
you for your initiative in developing this  
resolution, and we will join with partner orga-  
nizations to bring concerned citizens to the  
public hearings in support of your efforts.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN MOSER,  
Acting State Director.

AUDUBON NEW YORK,  
Albany, NY, April 21, 2008.

Hon. LOUISE SLAUGHTER,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MCHUGH,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SLAUGHTER AND  
CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH: On behalf of Audu-  
bon New York and the National Audubon So-  
ciety, we write to you today in strong sup-  
port of your resolution calling for a strong,  
environmentally sustainable water level  
management regulation to be developed for  
Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River.  
This strong and timely resolution sends a  
clear message that the environmental needs  
of the Great Lakes Ecosystem must be ade-  
quately addressed and protected before any  
such regulation developed by the Inter-  
national Joint Commission (IJC) is ap-  
proved.

As you are aware, the Great Lakes are an  
amazing natural resources that is critical  
not only to the region's birds and other wild-  
life, but to the economy and quality of life of  
the 42 million people that live within its wa-  
tershed. More than 300 different bird species  
call the Great Lakes their home, but due to  
a host of factors, especially the loss of coast-  
al wetland habitat, the populations of many  
of these species are in serious decline.

Specifically in the Lake Ontario/St. Law-  
rence River ecosystem, as your resolution  
points out, over the last fifty years since the  
IJC began regulating water levels we have  
observed a fifty percent loss of coastal wet-  
lands in the region. The loss of these impor-  
tant habitats not only reduces nesting avail-  
ability for many species of birds, but also re-  
duces food availability through the loss of  
important fish spawning grounds.

It is very unfortunate that the IJC has  
missed this important opportunity to reverse  
the decades of decline, and develop a regula-  
tion that restores a more natural flow and  
fluctuation of water levels in Lake Ontario  
and the St. Lawrence River, which is needed  
to sustain these important coastal eco-  
systems. By ignoring the findings of their six

year, \$20 million study and proposing "Plan 2007", the IJC is proposing to maintain the status quo and change little from the current management plan. "Plan 2007" will not restore the natural cyclical rhythms of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River as was proposed in "Plan B+", the widely supported management proposal developed in the IJC Study that would provide significant environmental improvements to the region.

Audubon New York and the National Audubon Society applauds your attention to the need to restore the coastal ecosystems of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, and strongly supports your resolution calling for the adoption of a regulation that provides ecosystem benefits, and addresses the concerns of the public and the State of New York. We thank you for your strong efforts on this critical issue, and look forward to working with you and our partners throughout the region to ensure a sound environmental plan is implemented.

Sincerely,

ALBERT E. CACCESI,  
Executive Director.  
JOHN FLICKER,  
President.

DUCKS UNLIMITED,  
Ann Arbor, MI, April 17, 2008.

Congressman JOHN MCHUGH,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn HOB, Wash-  
ington, DC.

Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn HOB, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH AND CONGRESSWOMAN SLAUGHTER: On behalf of the 16,000 Ducks Unlimited members in New York, I would like to thank you for your initiative on developing the resolution regarding the water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. As you know, DU has been engaged in this issue for many years, and strongly encouraged the International Joint Commission to adopt Plan B+ for future water level management of the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence system. In our scientific opinion, Plan B+ delivered the best overall environmental, economic and social benefits to all affected interests.

In our opinion, Plan 2007 as presented by the IJC does not go far enough to remedy the past management regime, nor look forward enough to ensure multiple future benefits for the majority of affected people and resources. DU is mobilizing our membership to be present at the public information sessions and public hearings scheduled by the IJC so that our voice will be heard.

Therefore, Ducks Unlimited supports your bi-partisan House Resolution calling for the IJC to increase the level of environmental protections and benefits, fully consider the views of the public and State of New York when selecting the new plan, and maximize hydropower production (in line with Plan B+). Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue, and rest assured that Ducks Unlimited will be following this important environmental issue very closely.

Sincerely,

RAY WHITTEMORE,  
Director of Conservation Programs.

APRIL 22, 2008.

Hon. JOHN MCHUGH,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH AND CONGRESSWOMAN SLAUGHTER, We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our support for the house resolution you've developed that urges the International Joint

Commission to adopt a water management plan for the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario that takes into consideration environmental needs and the concerns of the public and affected States and urges the Secretary of State to reject any plan that does not do so.

Since the completion of the Moses-Saunders hydropower dam 50 years ago, the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River ecosystems have suffered consistent losses to their globally significant biodiversity due to unnatural and damaging water levels regulation. The current, 50 year-old regulation scheme has artificially constrained water levels, resulting in considerable damage to more than 50% of the region's coastal wetlands and significant impacts to many fish species and nesting water birds.

After more than five years of study funded by \$20-million taxpayer dollars, the IJC has the information necessary to select a scientifically-based and publicly supported management plan that would deliver significant environmental improvements to the region. Instead, the IJC has turned its back on the Lake and River environment by proposing a plan—Plan 2007—that continues, and perhaps even worsens, the environmental destruction of the Lake and River.

In a time of unprecedented momentum towards restoring the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system, the actions by the IJC that would reverse restoration programs are unacceptable.

We applaud your efforts to ensure that the environment of the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario are protected from further damage. By introducing and supporting this resolution, you are sending a strong signal to the International Joint Commission that the status quo, which has resulted in the significant losses of wetlands throughout the River and Lake ecosystem, is not acceptable.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Caddick, Executive Director, Save The River/Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper; Joel Brammeier, Vice President for Policy, Alliance for the Great Lakes; April H. Gromnicki, Esq., Director, Ecosystem Restoration, Audubon; Albert E. Caccesi, Executive Director, Audubon New York; Julie M. Barrett O'Neill, Esq., Riverkeeper and Executive Director, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper; Dereth Glance, Executive Program Director, Citizens Campaign for the Environment; Gildo M. Tori, Director of Public Policy, Ducks Unlimited; Katherine Nadeau, Water & Natural Resources Program Associate, Environmental Advocates of New York; Jill Ryan, Executive Director, Freshwater Future; Mary Muter, Vice President, Environment, Georgian Baykeeper for Georgian Bay Association and Foundation; Thomas Marks, NY Director, Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.

John Jackson, Director, Clean Production, Great Lakes United; Robert A. Sweeney, PhD, Executive Director, International Association for Great Lakes Research; Nancy Foster, Secretary, International Water Levels Coalition; Les Monostory, President, New York Division, Izaak Walton League; Robert M. Borchak, Director at Large, Michigan United Conservation Clubs; Karen M. Schapiro, Executive Director, Midwest Environmental Advocates; Andy Buchsbaum, Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation; Harold L. Palmer, President, New York State Conservation Council; Aaron R. Vogel, Executive Director, Thousand Islands Land Trust; Bill Pielsticker, Legislative Chair, Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

## TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND SIMPLIFICATION ACT (H.R. 5719)

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act (H.R. 5719). I want to thank Chairman RANGEL and Subcommittee Chairman LEWIS for bringing this legislation to the floor which modernizes IRS functions by responding to recommendations by the Taxpayer Advocate.

The Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act helps to simplify the tax process and protect taxpayers from abuses. It strengthens protection from identity theft and tax fraud by requiring the IRS to notify taxpayers if it suspects identity theft. H.R. 5719 also makes the tax process simpler by eliminating an outdated requirement for detailed records of calls made on employer-provided cell phones. It strengthens outreach to ensure that working families entitled to the Earned Income Tax Credit receive the refund they have earned and provides protections from predators.

H.R. 5719 helps to ensure tax fairness by closing an offshore loophole that allows government contractors, who receive millions or billions in taxpayers' dollars, to set up companies in foreign countries to avoid paying Social Security and Medicare taxes. For example, defense contractor KBR, has reportedly avoided paying over \$100 million in Social Security and Medicare taxes by creating shell companies in the Cayman Islands.

This important bill also puts an end to the use of private debt collection agencies to collect Federal income taxes and ensure that this critical government function is performed by public servants on behalf of American taxpayers. Despite aggressive tactics, contractors only brought in a little more than half of what it cost the IRS to implement the program. IRS agents can do this more efficiently and ending this program prevents the possible misuse of confidential taxpayer information. Our constituents deserve to know that the person contacting them on behalf of the Federal Government is a public-servant, who is held to the highest standards of accountability and confidentiality, not a person whose paycheck depends solely on the number of collections they make.

I urge my colleagues to support the Taxpayer Assistance and Simplification Act.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY-BASED OUTPATIENT CLINIC IN OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to recognize the grand opening on April 25, 2008, of the Department of Veterans Affairs Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Okaloosa County, located in the First Congressional District in Northwest Florida.

This momentous occasion has been a long time coming for the ever-growing veterans' population along Florida's Emerald Coast. With the highest veterans' population of any congressional district in the Nation, many of the residents of Okaloosa County and the immediate areas have had to drive significant distances for some of the most basic outpatient care from the VA. This area was identified years ago as an underserved area for VA healthcare, and was marked as a priority location for future VA construction. Now completed and ready to receive patients, this CBOC will alleviate travel time and provide efficient access to VA healthcare for those veterans.

Beautiful beaches, warm weather, and friendly neighbors encourage many to call the Florida panhandle "home." With five military installations in my district alone it is little wonder that active and retired military and nearly 110,000 veterans make up a tremendous portion of my constituency. While many already saw the need for improved access to VA care, it took a coordinated effort from many interested parties to make this event a reality. There was no doubt that this facility is what our area's veterans needed and deserved.

A co-sharing agreement between VA and the Department of Defense has been a huge factor in bringing about this moment. By using land on Eglin Air Force base, in close proximity to the base hospital, veterans using the VA clinic have access to various DoD resources and active servicemembers stationed there have access to part of the clinic's specialty care. In addition, the use of DoD land ensures that VA does not have to deal with finding and acquiring land, resulting in the best deal for taxpayers and veterans alike.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the efforts of all who worked toward bringing this important facility to Okaloosa County, Florida. We have an eternal debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, and this much-needed VA clinic is one way that we can begin to say thank you for ensuring that the liberty continues to shine a bright light over our country.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide and to celebrate a people who despite murder, hardship, and betrayal have persevered.

Throughout three decades in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, millions of Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of three thousand years and deported or massacred. From 1894 through 1896, three hundred thousand Armenians were ruthlessly murdered. Again in 1909, thirty thousand Armenians were massacred in Cilicia, and their villages were destroyed.

On April 24, 1915, two hundred Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arbitrarily arrested, taken to Turkey and murdered. This incident marks a dark and solemn period in the history the Armenian peo-

ple. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate Armenians. In eight short years, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through atrocities such as deportation, forced slavery and torture. Most were ultimately murdered.

Many of our companions in the international community have already taken a final step towards healing and reconciliation. The European Parliament and the United Nations have recognized and reaffirmed the Armenian Genocide as historical fact, as have the Russian and Greek parliaments, the Canadian House of Commons, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the French National Assembly. It is time for America to join the chorus and acknowledge the Armenians who suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. And let me stress that I am not speaking of the government of modern day Turkey, but rather its predecessor, which many of Turkey's present day leaders helped to remove from power.

As I have in the past, as a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the Armenian-Americans in my district to promote investment and prosperity in Armenia. And, I sincerely hope that this year, the U.S. will have the opportunity and courage to speak in support of the millions of Armenians who suffered because of their heritage.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 1.5 million men, women and children who were killed and the 500,000 survivors who were expelled from their homes during the Armenian Genocide. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the beginning of a systematic effort carried out by the Ottoman Empire, which ultimately resulted in the elimination of ethnic Armenians from their historic homeland.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman authorities arrested approximately 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Istanbul. Following this episode, the military proceeded to round up hundreds of thousands of Armenians and force them to march hundreds of miles into present day Syria, denying them food and water along the way. Those that were not slaughtered and survived the treacherous journey were brutally raped and beaten along the way.

The root of this occurrence can be attributed to an official policy of discrimination, which culminated in genocide. I urge my colleagues to read Samantha Powers widely acclaimed book, *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, which clearly describes this as genocide.

May we all take a moment to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, one of the most horrible tragedies of the 20th century. We remember, not so that we may dwell on the events of the past, but so that we may renew our personal commitments to never stand idly by and let such a tragedy happen again.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker. I wish to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 23, 1915, the world suffered its first deliberate act of systematic mass murder of people of one culture by another—and the unspeakable crime of genocide was born. The massacre and mistreatment of approximately 1.5 million Armenians in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire epitomizes the depths of inhumanity that the human race is capable of.

Out of this wretched episode of history, we have made a determined effort to move beyond hatred, to recognize mistakes, and to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. It is our obligation to learn from lapses in moral judgment and forge safeguards for all oppressed, vulnerable, and subjugated peoples.

I would like to express my sympathy to the survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide. I hope we can all take time to reflect on this solemn day of remembrance.

HONORING TURKEY'S SHARED  
COMMITMENT TO SPREADING  
DEMOCRACY AND DEFEATING  
EXTREMISM

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a strong friendship that has proven enormously important since the beginning of the Cold War. Time and time again, the Republic of Turkey has stood firmly with the United States as we have pursued our shared goals in a region where we have few steady allies. Turkey, a fellow NATO country, is a vital partner in our fight against extremism and an example of a vibrant democracy in a region burdened with inequality.

Turkey's assistance in supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has been instrumental in our efforts to bring opportunity and prosperity to millions of people. Its proximity to both countries has made it an ideal place to coordinate logistics and center supply routes. Over 74 percent of the air cargo that reaches American forces in Iraq passes through Incirlik Air Base in Southern Turkey, and around 4,000 trucks carrying fuel, food, and water cross into Iraq from Turkey every day.

The Turkish government also has provided over \$50 million for reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and another \$100 million for Afghanistan. Turkey has committed over 800 troops and assumed command of the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) Regional Reconstruction Team in Kabul. Their Provincial Reconstruction Team has trained over 1,900 members of the Afghan army, treated 650,000 patients at two fully equipped hospitals and four clinics, and educated 37,000 young minds at

the more than 30 schools it has constructed. In Iraq, Turkey's training programs for both Shiite and Sunni officials alike has been able to fill an important void in encouraging cooperation and reconciliation between the two rival factions.

Of course, our common bond goes deeper than mere military and political cooperation in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have in Turkey an ally that has proven it shares our commitment to spreading democracy, both within its own borders and amongst its neighbors. Their 70 million citizens have rejected an extremist version of Islam in favor of a secular, democratic government. Turkey also has been a valuable contributor to United Nations peace-keeping missions intent on halting the bloodshed in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Sudan.

Madam Speaker, Turkey has earned our respect, friendship, and gratitude, and deserves recognition for its crucial assistance over the last 60 years. I look forward to strengthening this important relationship as we continue working toward our mutual interests.

TRIBUTE TO TORREL HUSKEY

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of my constituent, Mr. Torrel Huskey. Mr. Huskey is a 91-year-old World War II veteran living in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1943, Mr. Huskey was assigned to the 3496th Quartermaster Brigade as a truck driver on the "Red Ball Express," ferrying men, supplies and equipment to the front lines of battle as part of Operation Overlord.

During these missions, Mr. Huskey often dodged obstacles such as barbed wire and land mines and repeatedly came under attack from enemy small arms fire, mortar fire, artillery barrages and strafing runs by the German Luftwaffe. It was during one of these attacks that Mr. Huskey was wounded from enemy mortar fire.

With shrapnel embedded in his legs, and at the insistence of his commanding officer, Mr. Huskey bandaged his own wounds and carried on with his duties. He continued driving, despite his wounds, risking death or permanent injury because that was his job—to keep the wheels of the battlefield moving forward as the Allies raced to the Rhine.

When the "Red Ball Express" ended in September 1944, Mr. Huskey was assigned the arduous task of locating hastily buried comrades and transporting them to the U.S. gravesites sprinkled throughout France, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe.

In June 2006, I was contacted by Mr. Huskey's oldest daughter, Lynda McClelland, with a request for assistance to obtain the Purple Heart medal for her father.

After nearly 2 years of researching medical records, reviewing morning reports and hearings before the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records, I learned that Mr. Huskey's files were destroyed during the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. There exists no record of Mr. Huskey's injuries or treatment for the wounds he sustained in action either in his medical records file or in

existing morning reports. Therefore, the recommendation for the award of the Purple Heart was denied.

It is a shame that Mr. Huskey is still without the Purple Heart Medal, despite the fact that the Department of Veterans Affairs has found Mr. Husky to be service-connected for both Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and scars from the residuals of shrapnel embedded in his legs and knees.

It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Torrel Huskey. Without the service and sacrifice of Mr. Huskey, and all of the men and women of the "greatest generation," our Nation would not be the resilient and flourishing country it is today. By continuing his mission, despite being wounded, Mr. Huskey lent great credit to himself, the Army Motor Transport Brigade and the United States of America.

HONORING NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF RICHLAND COUNTY

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Neighborhood Housing Services, NHS, of Richland County for the 25 years of service this agency has provided to its communities. As America's first Rural NHS, Richland County has partnered with numerous entities in the areas of housing, insurance, and construction, allowing this agency to offer comprehensive services and assistance to area residents.

NHS of Richland County is able to revitalize communities and address current needs. Recent initiatives have addressed the mortgage crisis and the August 2007 flood in western Wisconsin. With interest rates rising and property values decreasing, many hardworking families have had an increasingly difficult time making their mortgage payments, thus now more than ever it is especially important that our local communities have the necessary resources to provide affordable housing for those who need it most.

NHS of Richland County responded to this need and in 2007 when in spite of this downturn in the housing market they assisted 81 households with loans and maintained a near zero percent foreclosure rate. NHS also created the Responsible Homeownership, R-HOME, initiative. This project is a comprehensive mortgage loan program created to better serve the needs of consumers with little or no credit history. In addition to the above endeavors, when the flood of August 2007 hit, NHS was part of local flood recovery effort in providing critical assistance to families.

Foreclosure prevention, homeownership seminars, flood recovery assistance and establishing renewable energy systems are just a few of the programs contributing to the success of Richland County's Neighborhood Housing Services. Since 1983, NHS of Richland County has responded and assisted over 3,000 households by building 39 affordable, energy-efficient homes, repairing more than 40 homes in the tornado stricken town of Viola, Wisconsin and constructing a 25-unit apartment complex for low-income seniors.

I applaud Neighborhood Housing Services of Richland County for providing invaluable

support for homeowners in western Wisconsin, being a leader to housing services around the country and most importantly, upholding their motto of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

HONORING REID COLLIANDER AND REID'S LEMON-AID RIDE FOR RESEARCH

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from my Congressional District, Reid Colliander, for his hard work and dedication to raising money for Children's Memorial Hospital Brain Tumor Research.

Reid was diagnosed with a brain tumor when he was just 7 years old. As a benefactor of brain tumor research, he underwent brain surgery and over 3 years of rehabilitation. Today Reid is happy, healthy, normal, and active in basketball and baseball.

Reid's journey did not end when he was cured. In 2005, he formed Reid's Lemon-AID stand, which seeks to raise money for brain tumor research at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, and develop a lifestyle for local youth of charity and service. To this date, Reid has raised over \$45,000.

As part of Lemon-AID, Reid, along with friends and family, visits several local communities to build awareness on the critical need for the funding of brain tumor research and to gain support for his organization.

More than 100 children, ranging in age from 5 to 12, have participated in various Reid's Lemon-AID fundraising events, learning citizenship and much more along the way.

One such event is the second annual Reid's LemonAid Ride for Research event. During this event, more than 100 kids will lead as many as 700 cyclists on a 5K bike ride through downtown Glen Ellyn, Illinois this Saturday April 19th.

This family fun bicycle ride is working to hit Reid's ultimate goal, \$1 million for research of brain tumors.

Reid Colliander truly has turned what was once a tragic moment in his life to an outstanding service project, benefiting many children who are stricken with brain tumors.

To honor Reid, I encourage my colleagues to sign onto H. Res. 424, a resolution that calls for the recognition of National Brain Cancer Awareness Month in May.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Reid Colliander and all that he has done for brain tumor research.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TILSNER CARTON COMPANY IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Tilsner Carton Company of St. Paul, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

For such a long-lasting business, Tilsner Carton Company's beginnings were decidedly modest. Isadore Tilsener started collecting and reselling used boxes from liquor stores around St. Paul in 1918 to earn a living. As time passed, Tilsner Carton Company began manufacturing its own boxes with a same day delivery that became its trademark. Tilsner's son, Mike, took over Tilsner Carton Company as his son Joel Tilsner would do in 1986. Joel continues to operate the business and owns 100 percent of the company.

The corrugated box business has changed radically since Isadore Tilsner opened his warehouse in a garage 90 years ago. A few large manufacturers dominate today's market, but Tilsner Carton Company has continued to prosper through its responsive customer service, speedy production, and diversity of products. The company pays good jobs in our community as its customer base has grown both in size and geographic reach—today the business ships product displays all the way to Puerto Rico.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Tilsner Carton Company and its three generations of family ownership, and it is my honor to submit this statement for the official CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND  
WORK OF DALE WEN-CHIEH JIEH

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, this month, our nation's Capitol will lose a good friend in Dale Wen-chieh Jieh, Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO). Dale will be leaving Washington for his new post as Director-General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Kansas City, Kansas. Dale has served as Director of the Political Division since July 15, 2005, as well as Director of the Congressional Liaison Division since July 1, 2006. During the last three years in Washington, D.C., Dale has made many friends in the administration and on Capitol Hill. He is well known for his scholarly demeanor, warm personality and quick grasp of the issues. He is truly a diplomat's diplomat.

Born in Taiwan, Dale was destined for academic excellence. He attended the National Cheng-chi University in Taiwan and the Graduate Institute of International Relations in Geneva, earning his Master of Arts in International Relations at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium. In addition to Mandarin Chinese, Dale is fluent in English and French.

Dale joined Taiwan's government service in the 1980's. He was a Specialist for the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (1986–1987); Assistant to the Vice Foreign Minister (1987–1989); Third Secretary, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago; Second Secretary, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Thailand (June 1993–August 1995); Second Secretary on home assignment, Department of African affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Section Chief, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (June 1997–November 1998); Director, European Union Affairs, Taipei Representative Office in Belgium

(November 1998–July 2002); Principal Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (July 2002–April 2003); Deputy Director General, Department of International Organizations, MOFA (2003); Director, Political Division, TECRO (2005) and currently serves as Director of the Congressional Liaison Division, TECRO, a post Dale has lead with honor and distinction since 2006.

Though he will be missed in the halls of Congress, I trust Dale will continue to be an effective representative of the Taiwan government in his new post in Kansas City. I am confident Dale will continue to strengthen the relations between Taiwan and the United States in his new post, a task as important as ever as America continues to trade and do business with our friends and neighbors around the world. We will forever call upon the dedicated service of people like Dale to foster better, stronger and more valuable relationships between the United States and its allies.

So today, Madam Speaker, I rise to commend and congratulate my friend Dale Wen-chieh Jieh for his service to his country and also to the United States of America. I will always treasure my friendship with Dale and wish him, his charming wife and two beautiful daughters the best of luck as they journey west to their new home in Kansas City.

HONORING THE THIRTEENTH  
QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION OF  
THE SLAVONIC BENEVOLENT  
ORDER OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the Thirteenth Quadrennial Convention of the Slavonic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas SPJST, which will be held on June 8–11, 2008. For 111 years, SPJST has served as a fraternal organization and an educational tool for Czech immigrants to learn the democratic process, the value of free speech, and the importance of voting in their newly adopted homeland.

Today, there are more than 47,000 members of the SPJST in 120 lodges throughout the state of Texas. In recent years, SPJST has expanded to include youth activities and community service programs. As a result, many SPJST projects and members have been recognized by the Texas Fraternal Congress for their service and contribution to communities throughout Texas. SPJST has provided its members with identity and support throughout the years. In lodges all over the State of Texas, members are committed to helping those in need by working in hospitals, providing scholarships, and supporting drug abuse programs and other charities. The members of SPJST have upheld the tradition of helping people to care for their families and their communities.

With its great commitment to its members, communities, and organizations that it serves, SPJST embodies the value and tradition of the great State of Texas.

HONORING THE 2008 ST. PAUL CENTRAL  
HIGH SCHOOL MINUTEMEN  
GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, 1 year ago, I rose to congratulate the 2007 St. Paul Central High School Minutemen girls basketball champions. Today, I have the privilege again—congratulations to the 2008 St. Paul Central High School Minutemen girls basketball team for winning the State championship! The Minutemen girls team successfully defended their title by defeating the same team, the number one top-seeded Minneapolis South Tigers, in the final State championship class 4A on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at the Target Center.

Although the St. Paul Central High School girls basketball Minutemen were trailing by 9 points at half-time, they fought back hard and overpowered their opponents in the second half with their outstanding talent, power, speed and resiliency. The Minutemen went on to beat their opponents with the final scores of 49–44 over the Tigers.

I am so proud of these fine young athletes and wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to them and the entire Central High School community. These back-to-back championship titles bring the school's record to four State championship titles, including 1976 and 1979. Last year, the Minutemen had a perfect season record of 32–0 and set a new record in post-season of Minnesota girls basketball championship history with the final score of 81–63 over the Minneapolis South Tigers. This year, the Minutemen are ranked third in the conference and were defeated by the Tigers once during the regular season, but in the post-season the Minutemen once again proved that they are the champions.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the students, teachers and staff of Central High School as well as the entire St. Paul Public Schools District, please join me in honoring the 2008 St. Paul Central Minutemen girls basketball State champions.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE  
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus to honor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, one of our own who served as a Representative of California's 37th Congressional District from 1973 to 1979, and is retiring at the end of this year, after an impressive 50-year career as a public servant in the State of California.

On the occasion of Mrs. Burke's retirement from public office, we wish to extend to her sincere congratulations for the decades of dedicated service that she has given to her nation, her State, and her County, most recently as Chair of the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, the largest county in the

nation with a population of over 10 million. For the past 15 years, she has served with distinction as the Supervisor of the Second District, representing nearly 2.5 million residents.

Indeed, Mrs. Burke has blazed a path for African-American women in public service that had its genesis during her high school years when, as a teenager, she got involved in public speaking and competitive contests, earning scholarships to the University of California-Berkeley and later to the University of California-Los Angeles.

In 1953, she was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the University of Southern California Law School since its founding in 1928. Upon graduation from Law School, inasmuch as many private law firms showed no interest in hiring women as attorneys, particularly African Americans, she opened a law practice, specializing in civil rights and laws regarding housing, immigration, eminent domain, and the licensing of residential care homes for children and adults.

Mrs. Burke was active in the Civil Rights Movement, with memberships in various local and national organizations, and served as a staff attorney on the McCone Commission that investigated the causes of the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles. She became a spokesperson for the underrepresented and, through a grassroots campaign, won her first political office in 1966 as a California State Assemblywoman, a position she held for the next six years.

In 1972, Mrs. Burke was the first African-American woman, west of the Mississippi River, to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and, one year later, she was the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. In 1978, she ran for Attorney General of California winning the Democratic nomination, but subsequently losing in the general election. The Governor of California in 1979 appointed her to a vacancy on the Fourth Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. She also was appointed by the Governor in 1982 to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of California. In 1984, Mrs. Burke was selected to serve as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Olympics Organizing Committee, before becoming the first African-American elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1992.

Notably, Mrs. Burke served as the Vice Chair of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, and she played a significant role in the 2000 Democratic National Convention in hosting an event for hundreds of African-American elected officials nationwide.

She has received innumerable awards and honors both as an African American and as a woman, including being selected as one of Time Magazine's "America's 200 Future Leaders" in 1974, as The Los Angeles Times' "Woman of the Year" in 1996; UCLA's "Alumni of the Year" also in 1996, and UCLA's "Local Legislator of the Year" in 2008. She has served on the Boards of numerous prestigious organizations and corporations.

While these are just some of Mrs. Burke's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, the House of Representatives, and the State of California, we extend our deepest gratitude for her important contributions throughout her illustrious career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Mrs. Burke upon her retirement from elective office. We are pleased to join her many

co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

In conclusion, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's exemplary record testifies that she is a woman of indomitable compassion, courage, character, and faith. We believe that she will be remembered for the beneficial changes she made in people's lives.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

Today we declare once again that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide.

The tragic events began on April 24, 1915, when more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 93rd anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Two years ago I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Along with Representative ANTHONY WEINER, I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The United States must join the parliaments of Canada, France, and Switzerland in passing a resolution affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs took an important step last year in passing H. Res. 106, and I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. Government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. This year I have joined with my colleagues in requesting no military aid for Azerbaijan in the FY09 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We also have

requested \$70 million in economic assistance for Armenia and \$10 million for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia.

American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important east-west trade corridor.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

HONORING KATHRYN FLYNN

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kathryn Flynn, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is being honored on May 2, 2008, with its 2008 Heritage Preservation Award for individual achievement from the New Mexico Cultural Properties review committee.

For the past 17 years, Kathryn has been committed to preserving the history and legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and its enormous impact on New Mexico and the Nation. She has labored tirelessly to locate, restore and document the undertakings of the Works Project Administration, WPA, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, in New Mexico. Functioning on shoestring budgets, Kathryn enlisted New Mexico volunteers to help in this effort and then went nationwide, state by state, to convince others to do the same. This resulted in the formation of the National New Deal Preservation Association, of which Kathryn was unanimously elected executive director, a position she holds today.

Through Kathryn's leadership, skills, talents and passion, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised in private and public funds for conserving New Deal art in New Mexico. This funding has allowed for the restoration and conservation of five Santos at the Palace of the Governor's Fine Arts Museum, seven Helmuth Naumer pastels at the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, the Bronson Cutter bronze statue on the Santa Fe capitol grounds, seven paintings and etchings in the Taos public schools, and seven murals in the Ilfeld Auditorium at Highlands University. Conservation work is currently underway on public art works at New Mexico State University and Silver City, and numerous other preservation projects have been conducted because of Kathryn's remarkable leadership and efforts.

Kathryn's and the National New Deal Preservation Association's efforts culminated into the honoring of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal. Several meetings in our Nation's capital have taken place among many departments, including the Library of Congress, various organizations and private citizens, who have joined the association in this noble project. During 2008, various events and activities will be held nationwide to call attention to the New Deal and the extraordinary time in which it took place in our nation's history.

It is appropriate that I also call attention to Kathryn's distinguished professional career. Earning a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling/Psychology, she served the State of New Mexico in health and rehabilitation services, as executive director for the Carrie Tingley Hospital and Foundation, and as executive director of Open Hands, Inc. She then became Deputy Secretary of State, where she edited for many years the Blue Book, an invaluable resource for such information as New Mexico history, landscape, government, educational institutions, political leaders, Native Americans and state attractions.

It was in the role of editing the Blue Book that Kathryn "found her true calling." She wanted to include a piece of WPA art for inclusion in the 1991 edition of the Blue Book, but it was nowhere to be found. The search for this artwork led to Kathryn's realization that much of what was created during the New Deal was being lost, not only through physical deterioration, but also as a legacy to younger generations. Kathryn wanted to ensure that the New Deal's history, artistic beauty, public works and, perhaps most importantly, the encouragement and hope that it created in the minds and hearts of millions of citizens who were out of work during the Great Depression, be preserved for posterity.

Kathryn Flynn is considered by many as our nation's leading authority on the New Deal, and she is well deserving of recognition. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her upon receiving New Mexico's 2008 National Preservation Heritage Award. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend our deepest appreciation for all Kathryn has done to protect and preserve the history and all that the New Deal created for generations to come.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA  
PROGRAM OF VITAS INNOVATIVE  
HOSPICE CARE

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding community service provided by the volunteers of The Philadelphia Program of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care on the occasion of their annual volunteer celebration dinner taking place on April 30, 2008. This annual event is part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week from April 27 to May 3, 2008. National Volunteer Appreciation Week was created in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteerism.

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care has been a pioneer and leader in the hospice care move-

ment since 1978 and is the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. The Philadelphia Program of VITAS, which started in 1993, has four inpatient units and serves the five-county Philadelphia area.

More than sixty Philadelphia-area volunteers perform numerous services and serve more than 350 patients a day. The volunteers are both young and old and provide a variety of services for the elderly. These services range from running errands and placing reassuring phone calls, to spending quality time with the elderly. The volunteers serve patients in their own homes, in hospitals, and in nursing homes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking The Philadelphia Program of VITAS volunteers for their exemplary service to the citizens of Southeastern Pennsylvania. May their work be an inspiration to us all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today we remember the 1.5 million innocent victims of the Armenian genocide who horrifically lost their lives 93 years ago. The tragedy of the Armenians was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last. Now, in a 21st Century rife with renewed ethnic and religious hatreds, the memory of the Armenian victims must remain fresh in our minds. It was Adolf Hitler who asked his generals, after deciding to brutally attack Poland in 1939, "Who still talks nowadays about the Armenians?" By remembering the Armenians on this day, as well as the millions of other victims claimed by genocides worldwide, we can individually and collectively contribute to the prevention of future atrocities and the end of genocide once and for all. I'd like to thank the Armenian-American community and the millions of others who have worked to ensure the American people never forget the victims of the Armenian genocide.

STATEMENT ON THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF  
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were murdered in Constantinople by the government of the Ottoman Empire. This event marked the beginning of a systematic mass murder of 1.5 million Armenian people and the displacement of nearly 500,000 refugees. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the beginning of an 8 year siege against the property, dignity and lives of the Armenian people.

We are here today to fully recognize the impact of this event. More than a dozen other

countries including France, Canada, Austria, Sweden, and Greece have acknowledged genocide and passed resolutions similar to H. Res. 106, commemorating those who lost their lives in Armenia between 1915 and 1923. Yet, despite the great suffering of the Armenian people, they have overcome adversity and continue to preserve their culture, traditions, religion and history. The United States and Armenia have had a strong, long-lasting relationship, including U.S. humanitarian and technical assistance to Armenia totaling nearly \$2 billion to date. With the recent election of President Serge Sargsian, Armenia continues to demonstrate a maturing democracy. Armenian-American citizens have contributed to our society in countless ways and the memory of their ancestors deserves to be honored. Acknowledging the 1915-1923 genocide as a tragic piece of Armenian history is a stepping stone in preventing future atrocities from taking place around the globe.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the in paying tribute today to those who lost their lives in this horrible event against the Armenian people and honoring the survivors who continue to commemorate the memory of their lost family and friends.

HONORING THE CAREER AND AC-  
COMPLISHMENTS OF CAPTAIN  
JAMES C. HOWE

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I take this occasion to honor Captain James C. Howe for his service to the United States House of Representatives and for his 27 years of service to our country in the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Howe was assigned as Chief of the Office of Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs in July 2005, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him. In my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues, my staff and I have often relied on Captain Howe's knowledge and understanding of the operational missions, the current day-to-day challenges, and the roles and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard.

During his career he spent 11 years at sea, conducted over 200 search and rescue cases, saved dozens of lives, interdicted nearly 1,000 illegal migrants, and seized 16 drug-laden vessels carrying more than 75 tons of marijuana and cocaine.

Captain Howe began his career at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, where he graduated in 1981. Ensign Howe was assigned to his first unit as a Deck Watch Officer aboard USCGC *Active* in New Castle, New Hampshire, conducting search and rescue and fisheries patrols in the North Atlantic. He then was assigned as Executive Officer of USCGC *Petrel* in Key West, Florida, which proved to be an extremely action-packed tour of duty. In one drug case, his crew seized three smuggling vessels simultaneously, and in another he embarked a seized go-fast vessel to hunt down a second go-fast, chasing it at speeds in excess of 40 knots; his crew also pulled 265 Haitian migrants off a

small sailboat found mired in a coral reef in the Bahamas.

Following these assignments at sea, then-Lieutenant Howe served from 1985 to 1988 at the First Coast Guard District Operations Center in Boston, Massachusetts, as a search and rescue coordinator; at night, he earned a master's degree from Harvard University Extension School.

Because of his genuine love of the sea and expertise in Coast Guard operations, he earned command of the newly-commissioned USCGC *Metompkin*, homeported in Charleston, South Carolina. On *Metompkin's* first patrol, the cutter sped 140 miles at top speed across 25-foot waves to rescue three fishermen whose boat had been swamped; later, his crew rescued several fishermen whose vessels were destroyed during the height of Hurricane Hugo.

In 1991, he was assigned as Public Affairs Officer for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, Florida, a position he held until 1995, and during which he acted as media spokesman for three mass migrations, two huge oil spills, a plethora of high-profile migrant and drug cases, and the Coast Guard response to Hurricane Andrew. After leaving the Seventh District, then-Lieutenant Commander Howe was assigned as Executive Officer aboard USCGC *Northland*, homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Due to his in-depth understanding and mastery of naval operations, he was then detailed as the Coast Guard Liaison to the Naval Doctrine Command in Norfolk, Virginia, where he conceived and wrote from scratch the Coast Guard's first ever tactical manual for counter drug and migrant interdiction operations. Next, Commander Howe earned command of the 270-foot cutter *Tampa*, homeported in Portsmouth, Virginia, leading his crew to several notable drug seizures and receiving the highest readiness evaluation ever achieved for a like-sized cutter.

Following command, Commander Howe was selected to attend the prestigious U.S. Marine Corps War College in Quantico, Virginia, where he earned a second master's degree and was named one of two Distinguished Graduates. He then served as the Deputy Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs from 2002 until 2003.

After this challenging assignment, Captain Howe was chosen to serve at the highest levels of government, working in the Office of the Vice President as a Special Advisor for homeland security, focusing on border and transportation issues. Finally, Captain Howe was assigned as the Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs.

Captain Howe has earned numerous military decorations during his 27 years of active duty, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Meritorious Service Medals, five Coast Guard Commendation Medals, and 12 unit and team awards. He has also received a number of other honors, including the Harvard University Derek Bok Prize for public service, along with the Thomas Jefferson, Alex Haley, and Commander Jim Simpson Awards for excellence in media and public relations.

This week, Captain Howe will leave his post and retire after 27 years of honorable service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He will be missed in the United States House of Rep-

resentatives. It has been my pleasure to work with Captain Howe. On behalf of all who have also been fortunate to work with him, we wish Captain Howe, his wife Shira, and his five wonderful children (Margaret, Marc, Mary, James, and Iris) the best in all of their future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Armenians throughout the United States, Armenia, and the world in commemorating the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, one of the darkest episodes in Europe's recent past. This week, members and friends of the Armenian community gather to remember April 24, 1915, when the arrest and murder of 200 Armenian politicians, academics, and community leaders in Constantinople marked the beginning of an 8-year campaign of extermination against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire.

Between 1915 and 1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed and more than 500,000 were exiled to the desert to die of thirst or starvation. The Armenian genocide was the first mass murder of the 20th century, a century that was sadly to be marked by many similar attempts at racial or ethnic extermination, from the Holocaust to the Rwandan genocide and now the ongoing genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

While today is the day in which we solemnly remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, I believe it is also a day in which we can celebrate the extraordinary vitality and strength of the Armenian people, who have fought successfully to preserve their culture and identity for over a thousand years. The Armenian people withstood the horrors of genocide, two world wars, and several decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. Armenia has defiantly rebuilt itself as a nation and a society—a triumph of human spirit in the face of overwhelming adversity.

It is my firm belief that only by learning from and commemorating the past can we work toward a future free from racial, ethnic, and religious hate. By acknowledging the Armenian genocide and speaking out against the principles by which it was conducted, we can send a clear message: never again.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON THEIR 10,000TH FRANCHISE WIN

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Chicago Cubs on their 10,000th franchise victory. Last night, the Cubs were away from the friendly confines of Wrigley Field, located in the heart of the Fifth

Congressional District, and beat the Colorado Rockies in Denver to reach this historic milestone.

My hometown Cubbies are one of only two teams in MLB history to win 10,000 games. This year marks the Cubs 138th season, and 100th anniversary of our last World Series Championship, but like all Cubs fans, I have faith that this is our year.

Almost 142 years ago today, the Cubs played their first game in the National League as the Chicago White Stockings, and they finished in first place in that 1876 season. In 1902, the team officially became the Cubs, and northsiders have been rooting for our Cubbies ever since.

The Cubs' home, Wrigley Field, is located at 1060 W. Addison in my district, and is the oldest National League ballpark and second oldest in the majors. Countless memories have been created at Wrigley Field as Chicago families and fans across the country have come to watch the wins and losses of our Cubs.

Chicagoans are very excited about our Cubs this year, with the team playing great baseball and sitting in first place in the Central with a record of 15–6. Manager Lou Pinella has done a terrific job with an outstanding complement of players, from pitchers Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly, and Carlos Marmol to Derrek Lee, Aramis Ramirez, newcomer Kosuke Fukudome, and last night's hero, Ryan Theriot.

Great players have filled Cubs lore over the years, and we will never forget legends like Ernie Banks, Gabby Hartnett, Ron Santo, Billy Williams, Mordecai "Three Finger" Brown, Ryne Sandberg, Mark Grace, and others.

Last night's victory was hard fought, with the Cubs defeating the Rockies in 10 innings to earn that 10,000th victory. Madam Speaker, as the Representative of Wrigley Field and all the residents of the 5th Congressional District of Illinois, as well as hundreds of thousands of Chicago Cubs fans, I congratulate the Cubs on this wonderful milestone. I'm looking forward to many more victories and hope to see that "W" flag flying at Wrigley Field throughout the summer and fall.

A TRIBUTE TO JUNIUS NORFLEET, A PIONEERING ARTIST, MUSICIAN AND AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, on this day it is my esteemed honor to enter into the RECORD a heartfelt tribute to a great artist, musician and a Chicagoan for most of his life, the late Junious Norfleet. America may not know Junious Norfleet's name but they surely know his music. Junious, also known as "Bud," was the youngest brother of the famed Norfleet Brothers whose artistry—a skillful mix of R&B, jazz and gospel—grew in popularity in the 1950s. Junious provided the jazzy, sultry but powerful voice of a tenor whose tone, skillful delivery and showmanship propelled him to the lead of this pioneering musical group. Junious' life on Earth ended on March 25, 2008, following complications from a stroke. He leaves behind his wife, Janet Norfleet, Chicago's first female postmaster, and thousands

of adoring family members, friends and fans, like me, throughout our Nation.

As a fan and admirer of Junious Norfleet, when I think of his life as an African American in these United States, I think that, in many ways, it mirrors the challenges, growth and triumphs of our nation. Junious was born in the town of Marion, Alabama on March 20, 1926 to the union of Jake and Indiana Norfleet. He was the youngest of 15 children, a "PK," or preacher's kid, who grew up in a loving, but disciplined home in the segregated South. Junious came of age enjoying his childhood. He learned the value of hard work while living in a large, rural environment where he was responsible for the care and upkeep of his own portion of land. There, his parents grew sweet potatoes, cotton and other produce and he recounted many days of happiness from enjoying something as simple and refreshing as watermelon on a hot summer day. He did share with his friends, though, that no children of his would ever have to perform such rigorous, manual labor. And he, indeed, delivered on that promise for his family.

With a father as a minister and the youngest of 15 children (ten boys and five girls), the church was always a big part of Junious' life. He grew up singing with his older brothers on the family farm in Marion, Alabama. They would perform at any time, anywhere, so long as people were around to listen. Junious was handsome and charismatic, the perfect lead for any music group. He possessed a booming voice that made others stop and take notice. As word of the Norfleet Brothers' talent began to spread, they gained their first taste of commercial success by hosting a 15-minute radio program which broadcast every Saturday afternoon from Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. It was in Tuscaloosa where The Norfleet Brothers recorded their first record.

As their singing abilities began to be recognized, in 1948, after some of his older brothers completed tours of duty in WWII, The Norfleet Brothers began to travel. They sang in churches and town halls in Tennessee, Cincinnati, Ohio and Chicago while driving across the country in their cherished, fiery red Chevy. Junious along with his brothers, Peter Young, Arthur and Joseph, his nephew, Wilson, cousin Nathaniel and their friend, George, made quite a name for themselves while building an adoring fan base. Their notoriety had a bit of a downside as, after performing in Chicago, they found that their red Chevy had been stolen. But their loss was Chicago's gain as they decided to make Chicago their home.

Never afraid of hard work, Junious and his brothers worked a variety of jobs while continuing to sing. A patriotic American, like his brothers before him, Junious served, state-side, in the Army from 1953 to 1956. During this time he continued to balance love of country, love of family and a passionate desire to build a career in music and entertainment. Like other talented African American artists at that time, Junious and his brothers had to struggle with unscrupulous record labels and managers during an era when Jim Crow segregation remained the law of the land. Still, the Norfleet Brothers continued their rise to prominence in the 1950s with a traditional, four-part harmony gospel sound that was backed with guitar. The group maintained this structure even as gospel moved toward heavier instrumentation and more of a "shout out" style of singing, according to author Bob Marovich

who is writing a history of gospel in Chicago. Songs on which Junious was featured as lead tenor included "Through it All" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." According to his wife, "Wade in the Water" was his favorite. During this time the group cut an album, "Shadrach," and were widely known for the song "None but the Righteous."

According to published reports, the cast of the group was fluid and they began touring in the late 1940s. Over time, The Norfleet Brothers were joined by other family members and an occasional outsider and, later, the sons of the original members also sang with the group. In 1957, they won the first place prize on the Morris B. Sikes Amateur Hour, a local television program. They appeared on several television programs and were hired to sing television commercials for a local auto dealer.

In 1963, The Norfleet Brothers became the host of the Emmy award-winning "Jubilee Showcase," Chicago's longest running television program (1963–1984). The Norfleet Brothers performed as the headlining act for 21 years! The group continued to perform at various churches and events. They held their annual gospel concerts at Hartzell Memorial United Methodist Church during the 1980s and early 1990s. In 1988, The Norfleet Brothers celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the music business with a concert at Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago.

Junious is survived by his loving wife, Janet, and by several children, grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and a legion of fans, young and old, who will miss his charming smile and his wonderful voice. In addition to this reflection, Junious Norfleet's legacy will live on as, in recent years, his grand nephew, Ronald Norfleet, his grand niece, Toni Reed, took the time to gather oral history from Junious that preserves the rich musical and family legacy he leaves behind. Reed, a Chicago-based documentary film producer, is working on a documentary feature film about her uncle's remarkable life.

My prayers and best wishes are forever extended to this large and loving family. I wish Ms. Reed and her family all the best in sharing the artistry, courage and musical gifts of Junious "Bud" Norfleet with family, friends and fans throughout the world.

#### SAN JACINTO DAY

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most important events in Texas history. Monday, April 21, Texans celebrated San Jacinto Day. In the past I have missed this event because I had to be in Washington for votes, but this year I was able to be at home in Texas, and actually be at the battleground where Sam Houston and Santa Anna fought over one hundred and seventy years ago.

On that day in 1836, approximately 900 Texan and Tejano volunteers overpowered a larger, professional Mexican army of conscript soldiers, after defeats at Goliad and the Alamo. These outnumbered volunteers succeeded because they were fighting against tyr-

anny and they were fighting for their homeland. In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

The Texas Revolution proved the bonds of freedom are stronger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos sacrificed their lives for Texas' freedom at the battles of Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, and San Jacinto. The war was not between Anglos and Hispanics, it was a struggle between all Texans and the military dictatorship in Mexico City. Texans and Tejanos knew then what we know now—freedom requires sacrifice. Our young people going to or coming back from fighting in Afghanistan or Iraq are very aware of this hard fact of life.

Texas culture places high honors on heroes willing to sacrifice their lives for a better life for their fellow man, and Texans are known around the world as an honorable people who respond to the call of duty. While our young people are answering today's calls of duty, we should not forget those who have bravely answered the call in the past.

In that spirit, I want to highlight the work by the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Texas Republic, who made the preservation of the San Jacinto Battleground possible by petitioning the Legislature to purchase the acreage and by donating their treasury to complete the sale in 1900. The San Jacinto Chapter of Daughters and the Texans Veterans Association did tremendous work to ensure that the legacy lived on, and the importance of the park has only expanded since then.

The park not only has the San Jacinto Monument to recognize the brave men that defeated the military dictator General Santa Anna, it is also home to the Battleship Texas, which is a symbol of Texans' sacrifices in World War I and World War II. Thankfully, through federal appropriations and state and local funding, the restoration and preservation of Battleship Texas is moving forward as part of a multi-year effort to collect the necessary funding for the restoration of this great historical site. The funding will help with the Battleship Texas Foundation's plans to restore the Battleship Texas and convert it into a museum. This is an important project not only to honor those in our past, but to educate future Texans who may have to answer future calls to service about our tradition of defending freedom.

As part of our historical preservation efforts, we are also working on the Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area, which will stretch from Buffalo Bayou in East End Houston to San Jacinto Battleground, including the Ship Channel and the Baytown Nature Center. The Heritage Area will help the history of the establishment of the Texas republic. The restoration of the Battleship Texas and the establishment of a Buffalo Bayou National Heritage Area will go a long way to ensure that new generations of Texans know their tradition of bravery.

With an understanding of where they came from, future Texans will continue to respond to calls to service, and Texans will continue to be respected and admired around the world.

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began on this date ninety-three years ago. From 1915–1923 the Ottoman Empire carried out the deportation of approximately 2 million Armenian men, women, and children from their homeland of which 1.5 million were killed. And to this day, neither the Ottoman nor Turkish governments have been held to account for their involvement.

The 20th century witnessed some of the worst violence and atrocities in history: the attempted extermination of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, Tutsis slaughtering Hutus in Rwanda, Stalin's campaign of mass murder and starvation, the killing fields of Cambodia, and, of course, the Armenian genocide. Millions upon millions of innocent people were killed solely because of the color of their skin, the tribe they belonged to, or the religion they practiced.

As you know, too often in the past the world has stood by or looked the other way when genocide was taking place. And now we see it happening once again in Darfur. We must stop this horrible violence taking place in Sudan at once and make sure genocide is never repeated anywhere around the world. The call of "never again" must not just be exclaimed but rather acted upon.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, today we observe the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, a tragic persecution of Armenians that was both a systematic and intentional ethnic cleansing.

Before this tragedy, Armenians had only limited freedom living under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Armenians did not have the liberties that Americans consider to be self-evident. In particular, they were limited in public practice of their Christian faith. Because the international community paid little attention, the conditions of Armenians deteriorated throughout the 1800s.

In the late 1800s, the situation became worse. Ottomans began to provoke, exploit, and murder many Armenians. Europe and North America took notice, but were weary of the economic and political consequences of intervening.

On this day in 1915, hundreds of influential and important Armenians were taken from their homes, imprisoned, and stripped of their remaining freedoms. The Ottoman military marched crowds of Armenians to be deported or exterminated. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians were victims of this massacre, and an exact number of casualties is still unknown.

The systematic, state-sponsored extermination of these good, decent people dem-

onstrates the need for protection of individual liberties and from injustice.

Years later, Adolf Hitler referenced the Armenian genocide, "the physical destruction of the enemy," as an example of the rest of the world forgetting or ignoring. My hope is that we can recognize these stains from the past and learn an important lesson from history. We must never forget about those in other lands who do not enjoy the freedoms found in America. We must not forget to stand for what is right and stand beside widows, orphans, and our fellow brothers.

Madam Speaker, today we honor the lives lost during the Armenian genocide and in their memory pledge to protect liberty and freedom by preventing similar injustices in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at the funerals of two dear friends in my district, I was absent for all twelve recorded votes on Wednesday April 23, 2008 (rollcalls 208–219). I wish to offer the following explanations for how I would have voted.

Had I been present:

On rollcall 208, the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 209, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 210, Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 211, Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 212, the Rule providing for consideration of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 213, the Matheson amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 214, the Capito amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 215, the Foster amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 216, motion to recommit, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 217, passage of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 218, ordering the previous question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 219, the rule providing for consideration of Coast Guard Authorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE  
HONORABLE BILL SANDBERG,  
MAYOR OF NORTH SAINT PAUL,  
MINNESOTA

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor to speak about my dear friend, my mentor, and a tremendous Minnesota civic leader, Mayor Bill Sandberg of North Saint

Paul. Mayor Sandberg passed away earlier this week to the great sadness to all who loved him and worked with him. For 30 years Bill served as North Saint Paul's mayor and his extraordinary leadership, warm smile and soft laugh will be missed.

Mayor Sandberg was profoundly committed to his family, our community, and his country. Having lived in North Saint Paul and raised my children there, I can say the success and well-being of our city was in large part due to Bill's hard work and his pride in serving his neighbors. Bill loved North Saint Paul and his constituents loved him.

All of us who worked with Bill Sandberg over the years were fortunate and blessed. We are all better for his friendship. In the mid 1980s it was Mayor Sandberg who encouraged me to stay involved in politics after I lost my first election and he created the opportunity for me to enter public life with an appointment to a city committee. Even though he was a Republican and I am Democrat, it didn't matter to Bill who always put public service and common sense first. He went out of his way to work with me and I am a better public official because of him.

In 1987, I was elected to the North Saint Paul City Council where I served with Mayor Sandberg for the next four years. After that, in the Minnesota State House and in Congress, I have had the honor of representing North Saint Paul and working closely with the mayor to keep the city strong and vibrant.

Bill Sandberg was also a devoted family man. His love and lifelong companion, Dolores, was a wonderful person who Bill cared for throughout her life. Bill was also blessed by a loving daughter, Karen, and son-in-law, Jack, have two wonderful children who also loved their grandfather very much.

Madam Speaker, I personally feel a great personal loss with Bill's death and I will miss him profoundly. He was a kind, loving man who was a blessing in my life and the lives of the many who he served over the years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHETS

**HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Gene Miller and the Washington High School Hatchets on their 2008 3A Division Indiana State Basketball Championship. The title is their fifth State title in school history and was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season.

The Hatchets defeated the Fort Wayne Harding High School Hawks in the championship game by a score of 84–60, capping off an impressive 23–2 season.

Their victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. The team and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals.

The Washington Hatchets are shining examples of the idea that success in life comes to those who are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Washington, Indiana community who have followed their progress this season.

Go Hatchets!

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

In September of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson spoke of his vision of a future Armenia. He said, "Armenia is to be redeemed . . . So that at last this great people, struggling through night after night of terror, knowing not when they may come out into a time when they can enjoy their rights as free people that they never dreamed they would be able to exercise."

The Armenian people finally have the ability to enjoy the rights that President Wilson hoped they would have so many years ago, and for that we are all thankful.

The nights of terror that President Wilson spoke about, the Armenian genocide, was the first genocide of the 20th century. It was the opening chapter of what was arguably the most violent period of human history. In the decades following this initial genocide, the world witnessed genocidal acts against the Jews and against the Roma in World War II, and subsequently in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in too many wars to list here. Today, the world is witnessing genocide yet again in Darfur.

There is no more important way to commit ourselves to preventing the genocides of the future than to commemorate and never forget the genocides of the past. As such, I would like to note my continuing support for House finally passage of H. Res. 106, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. In my view, it is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the massacre of one and a half million Armenians in early in the 20th century for what it undeniably was: a genocide.

Countries all around the world have adopted similar resolutions to ensure that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people are properly recognized as genocide. Canada, France, Switzerland, Greece, and Poland have passed resolutions affirming the recognition of the Armenian genocide. Properly recognizing the Armenian genocide here in America is essential to ensure that all past genocides are never forgotten and all future atrocities are never permitted. This House must afford the proper recognition to the Armenian genocide. We must do so not only because of our solemn obligation to recognize those that were lost, but also because of our duty to those that can still be saved.

A STUDENT'S THOUGHTFUL ESSAY

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, every present and former college student knows that writing a solid essay or research paper is not easy.

So, I think it's appropriate to recognize the careful effort displayed by Theresa Snyder in

an essay published last month in the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper.

Ms. Snyder is a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Her topic is a proposed water-delivery project called the Southern Delivery System, which would pipe water to that city from the Pueblo Reservoir—part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project—with return flows back to the Arkansas River via Fountain Creek.

Because of the complexity of the project, I joined others in asking the Bureau of Reclamation to provide additional time for comment on it—a request that I am happy to say has been granted.

I think Ms. Snyder's essay, written in connection with a class in Western Water Policy, reflects well on her and on the quality of instruction at Colorado College.

For the benefit of all our colleagues, here is the full text of her essay:

[From the Pueblo Chieftain, Mar. 16, 2008]  
SPRINGS NEEDS TO CORRECT FOUNTAIN CREEK PROBLEMS

(By Theresa Snyder, Colorado College Student)

First things first . . .

In a time when water is becoming increasingly scarce, Colorado Springs has failed to explore its many options for responsible water use. The Springs, which has experienced rapid population growth in the past 40 years, is expected to grow by an additional 250,000 people by 2025.

To supplement water supply for this urban development, a \$1 billion project known as the Southern Delivery System has been proposed by Colorado Springs Utilities. The project includes storing water in Lake Pueblo and running a 43-mile long pipeline from Pueblo Dam to Colorado Springs.

The city, while possessing all the required water rights to use the additional 78 million gallons a day from Lake Pueblo, currently is completing an Environmental Impact Statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Drafts of the statement led the citizens of Pueblo to wonder about their future as downstream water users.

The focus of Pueblo's concern is Fountain Creek. This watershed begins as Monument Creek in Colorado Springs, flows south and joins Fountain Creek, continues to Pueblo and eventually joins the Arkansas River in Pueblo.

The creek has long been used to channel return flow wastewater from Colorado Springs. As a result of the Southern Delivery System, return flows from the city into Fountain Creek would greatly increase.

Anyone who walks along the creek can see the obvious problems with erosion, sedimentation and water quality already present in the creekbed. Current return flows from Colorado Springs have altered this previously intermittent stream to a year-round flow, and are to blame for the multitude of other problems in Fountain Creek.

Increased sedimentation along the creek bed produces stretches of dirt with no trace of vegetation. Other sections of the river have channelized as severely as 20 feet below previous flow lines. The result is a creek that looks sprawled in some areas and like a small canyon with steep, abrupt walls in others.

The Southern Delivery System would only increase average flows and consequently the sedimentation and erosion that results in an unappealing creek with muddy water. Where does all of this poor-quality, heavy-sediment water go? Downstream to Pueblo.

As Colorado Springs Utilities officials prepare to launch a \$1 billion project, they have

failed to address a serious issue that will only worsen upon completion of the project. Clean-up of Fountain Creek should be first on the list of projects to tackle. Colorado Springs brings in the majority of its water from the Western Slope of Colorado. Seventy percent actually comes from Fryingpan-Arkansas water storage projects across the Great Divide. This means fresh, crisp mountain water. Yet the city passes on poor-quality water and disregards the negative effects the flows have on a natural ecosystem and downstream municipality.

Pueblo has begun to speak up and demands that Colorado Springs dam Fountain Creek to control the overall flow of the creek. A dam would control flooding as well as mitigate the negative effects from erosion and sedimentation.

Yet Colorado Springs Utilities has cited cost as the primary reason for not damming the creek. How is cost an object when the utility is prepared to shovel out \$1.1 billion for more water? It seems selfish and unfair of a municipality to not only ignore a problem such as Fountain Creek but to propose a huge project that only worsens the situation.

Colorado Springs is considered the "big bully" in this ongoing water issue. It's time for them to take a step back.

First things first: Colorado Springs officials should address the issues at hand such as Fountain Creek. They should become responsible water users before they gain access to more of the precious commodity.

Though they may have the legal rights to follow through with the Southern Delivery System, it's unfair and irresponsible to ignore the current mess and follow through with a project that brings more detrimental effects.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER  
AWARENESS WEEK

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week increases awareness about the effects of cancer in minority communities and is dedicated to emphasizing the importance of early cancer detection.

Today, minorities are more likely to be diagnosed and die from cancer in comparison to the rest of the United States population. According to the American Cancer Society, African American men have a 37 percent higher cancer death rate than white men, and death rates for African American women are about 17 percent higher than rates for white women, despite the fact that African American women have lower cancer incidence rates than white women.

Disparities in breast cancer for minority women are among the most common. Studies have highlighted that African American women are 1.9 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. Hispanic women are 1.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. It is clear that, although there have been efforts to eliminate disparities in breast cancer related care, substantial disparities remain.

Today, in accordance with National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, I introduce, the Eliminating Disparities in Breast Cancer Treatment Act of 2008. This legislation will promote the implementation of standardized health care practices for breast cancer patients and help to eliminate inequities based on race, education, income, and health insurance status.

In order to eliminate unacceptable gaps in treatment quality, it is necessary that we create real incentives and requirements for doctors to provide the best care. All patients should receive the best treatment for their conditions. Quality care should be provided for everyone, not just patients that know to ask for it.

TRIBUTE TO THE MOUNT CARMEL  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

**HON. NANCY E. BOYDA**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas on its one-hundredth anniversary.

Mount Carmel is a fixture in the city of Topeka. It has thrived within the Capital City of Kansas throughout many adversities, both national and local. The past 100 years has offered our Midwestern State many challenges. The Great Depression, two World Wars and a Dustbowl to name a few. We have needed a place of refuge when things seemed their worst. Whatever the cause for prayer happened to be, Mount Carmel's doors have always been open to Kansans in need. They have been a provider of faith, hope and comfort . . . three products which come free and can never be overproduced.

I would be remiss to not mention the happiness born within this church as well. Babies have been baptized in recognition of life's beginnings. Countless weddings and social gatherings have taken place within its walls. Friends and loved ones have gathered around to say 'goodbye.'

It has been a meeting point for good community members. It has been a rallying point for those who make up the backbone of our Kansas communities.

I offer my sincerest congratulations to Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church and I truly hope they are there to serve the good people of Kansas for another hundred years.

HONORING MANAMI KITAZAWA

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. DOYLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the artistic ability of a young woman from my Congressional District, Manami Kitazawa of Woodland Hills High School.

Manami is the winner of the 2008 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania's High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Manami's artwork, an intricately detailed charcoal drawing, was selected from a

number of outstanding entries to this year's competition. Fifty works from ten different high schools were submitted to our panel of respected local artists.

Manami is an exchange student from Japan who is spending a year attending high school in my district in Pennsylvania. I am certain that her family in Japan and her host family here in the United States are both proud of her artistic talents as well as this accomplishment.

Manami's artwork will represent the 14th Congressional District of Pennsylvania in the national exhibit of high school students' artwork that will be displayed in the United States Capitol over the coming year. I am certain Manami had no idea that one of her drawings would hang in the U.S. Capitol when she applied to study in the United States.

I encourage my colleagues as well as any visitor to Capitol Hill to view Manami's artwork, along with all of the other winning artwork that will be on display in the Capitol tunnel. It is amazing to walk through this corridor and see the interpretation of life through the eyes of these young artists from all across our country—and in Manami's case, from across the globe.

I would like to recognize all of the participants in this year's 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery." I would like to thank these impressive young artists for allowing us to share and celebrate their talents, imagination, and creativity. The efforts of these students in expressing themselves in a powerful and positive manner are no less than spectacular. I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF PAUL MOLÉ

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Paul Molé, a family man, a Marine, an entrepreneur and a long-time friend to my wife, Janice, and I, as well as our children, who died too young this week at age 60.

I met Paul more than 30 years ago while I was mayor of Simi Valley, California. A retired Marine and Purple Heart-decorated Vietnam War veteran, Paul served as the Marine bugler at Veterans Day and other veteran community events in Simi Valley and elsewhere throughout Ventura County. He founded the Marine Corps League Ventura County Detachment 597 to help active and retired Marines.

The restaurant he and his wife, Roseann, purchased from Roseann's parents in 1974 and which they renamed Paul's Italian Villa, became a mainstay of community activity. Not only was it a meeting place—official and unofficial—for the Marine Corps League, it served as the collection site for the annual Toys for Tots campaign for disadvantaged children, which Paul helped organize every year.

In addition, the Royal High School football team carbed down on spaghetti at the restaurant and were treated to Marine cheers from Paul before every game. Like many in Simi Valley, my tie to the restaurant is also personal—my daughter, Shannon, was one of the many Simi Valley teens and young adults

who found work at the restaurant. Once you became part of Paul's and Roseann's extended family, you never left.

In addition to the restaurant, Paul was building a business repairing musical instruments, which grew out of his 1940s-style swing band, Paul Molé's Late Night Big Band. Paul played trumpet with 19 other professional musicians at community events and professional venues.

Paul Molé's a man with a huge heart accented by a lively sense of humor and a love of life. He is survived by Roseann, his wife of 38 years; two grown sons, Peter and Paul; two grandchildren; and too many friends to count. Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me offering our condolences to Roseann, Peter, Paul and the rest of the Molé family, and all who knew him and called him a friend.

Godspeed, Paul.

HONORING MERCY HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR RECEIPT OF THE 2007 MALCOLM BALDRIDGE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mercy Health System for receiving the highly prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Award yesterday at a special White House ceremony with the President. This award was created by Congress in 1987 in honor of former Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige who had a passion for instilling quality and excellence in U.S. products and services. The award recognizes those in the private sector that help improve quality and productivity. It honors U.S. companies and non-profits for organizational innovation and performance excellence.

Mercy Health System started 18 years ago as a stand-alone hospital and transformed into a vertically integrated health system with 63 facilities serving 24 communities throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Mercy now sees over 1 million patients annually, and employs 3,856 partners, 285 of whom are employed physicians. Mercy has added nearly \$1.1 billion in industry economic sales, which has created an additional indirect 1,200 jobs in their service area. In the 16th District of Illinois, Mercy has a 77-bed acute-care hospital in Harvard, Illinois, along with 17 health care clinics in McHenry County, Illinois.

It is obvious that Mercy Health System did not reach these achievements by resting on its laurels. They have met the challenge of growth by developing a holistic approach to quality and a commitment to organizational excellence. Their actions back up their Four Pillars of Excellence: Quality, Service, Partnering, and Cost. I am impressed by their servant-leadership model as exemplified by Javon Bea, President and CEO of Mercy Health System.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the employees and the patients of the Mercy Health System. They richly deserve to share in the high honor of the Malcolm Baldrige Award.

BELLEVUE: THE #1 CITY IN  
AMERICA FOR SMALL BUSINESS

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bellevue, Washington, for being named the best place in the Nation to live and launch a business by Fortune Small Business. Anyone who has visited in the past decade couldn't help but notice the abundance of construction cranes throughout the downtown area. They would also quickly realize that Bellevue embodies the true spirit of American innovation. I'm proud to represent this city that lies within the Eighth Congressional District of Washington.

Bellevue is a worthy recipient of this honor, with its growing downtown and natural beauty thanks to its proximity to the Cascade Mountains and breathtaking Mount Rainier. Citizens can enjoy the 90 city parks or nearby views of Lake Washington. With multiple high-tech corporations in the city, Bellevue draws a talented, high-tech workforce that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that grows our economy and creates jobs.

As we celebrate the achievements of small businesses across the Nation during "Small Business Week," it is my hope that cities across the country follow Bellevue's lead and embrace their entrepreneurial spirit. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and provide the key to our economy's resilience in uncertain economic times. Today, I'm proud to honor the City of Bellevue for its achievements in creating one of the finest places in America to live and work.

I ask for unanimous consent to insert the following article into the record.

THE NO. 1 CHAMPION: BELLEVUE, WASH. ABUNDANT TECH TALENT. GORGEOUS VIEWS. (BUT COSTLY HOMES AND TAXES.)

(By Mina Kimes, March 26, 2008)

BELLEVUE, WASH. (FORTUNE Small Business)—Earl Overstreet, Chief Executive Officer of General Microsystems (GMI) in Bellevue, travels fewer than five times a year for business. But he visits the Mercer Slough Nature Park, across the street from his office, every day on his lunch break. He walks across a wooden bridge, gazes at Bellevue's rising downtown—and then turns away.

Over the past ten years Overstreet has watched the city evolve from a bedroom community into an urban center of skyscrapers and 117,000 inhabitants (the latest population figures, according to the local chamber of commerce), but he's more eager to point out blackberry bushes and red-tailed hawks.

"When you're surrounded by mountains and nature," he says, "you can't help but be content."

Overstreet, 60, and his wife, Barb, the firm's CFO, spend free time hiking, kayaking, and biking around the area. While new businesses are cropping up quickly, most office buildings are still enveloped by greenery—the city boasts 90 parks and 50 miles of trail. "Taxes [including a 0.1496% business tax on gross receipts] and property costs are high," says Overstreet, "but it's a premium for the living conditions."

The median home sale price hovers at \$500,000 (the metro area averages about \$400,000), but Bellevue, lying 20 minutes from Seattle, also boasts low crime rates, great

schools, and excellent health care. Nearly 60% of locals over 25 have at least a bachelor's degree. The city expects to add 15,500 jobs by 2010, up 11.5% from 2006. Bellevue's strategic location helps tire growth. GMI, whose revenue rose from \$6 million in 2002 to \$28 million last year, is based near its suppliers—Hitachi, Symantec, Sun Microsystems—as well as customers such as Boeing and Starbucks.

"Many of our employees came from our clients," Overstreet says.

The city is also a font of tech talent, thanks to the Microsoft campus in nearby Redmond. Many former Microsofties have launched startups in Bellevue. Current employees pour wealth into a growing service sector.

Overstreet points out that many small businesses in Bellevue operate globally—not surprising considering that 40% of the population is nonwhite or foreign-born. "We do have a glittering downtown now," he says, "but it's the diversity that attracts entrepreneurs like me."

COMMEMORATING THE SURVIVORS  
OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN, Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began in 1915 and lasted until 1923. Over the course of 8 years 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were murdered and over 500,000 were forced into exile. On this day we should take a moment to think of the survivors and commend them for the bravery they continue to show in the face of the memories they carry of that awful time.

We are told to never to forget the egregious acts that human beings commit against other human beings, especially when they come in the form of a calculated mass extermination of a single people. In remembering the Armenian genocide it is important to keep in mind that we are not pointing fingers at Turkey. Modern day Turkey is no more the Ottoman Empire than today's Germany is the Third Reich. But we must not banish the truth from the world stage. What was done to the Armenian people was atrocious, nothing less than a crime against humanity. As such, it is our responsibility to accurately describe what happened between 1915 and 1923 and admit that what was done to the Armenian people was genocide.

As each year passes the number of survivors of the Armenian genocide diminishes further. And while there is nothing that can be done to alter the past, we can and should ensure that generations to come know how the Armenian people suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It is also important that this day be marked to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide so that their fight for survival is honored and revered rather than forgotten and ignored.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating the survivors of the Armenian genocide on its 93rd anniversary.

INTRODUCTION RESOLUTION  
REGARDING TSA RAIL SECURITY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution regarding the role of the Transportation Security Administration in securing our Nation's rail and mass transit lines. This resolution reaffirms the Congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 that the Transportation Security Administration enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

I am pleased to have Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as an original cosponsor of this resolution. Chairman THOMPSON has been a leader in our efforts to secure against terrorist threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

Each weekday 11,300,000 passengers depend on our Nation's mass transit lines as a means of transportation.

Our Nation's mass transit lines serve as a target for terrorist attack as evidenced by the March 11, 2004, attack on the Madrid, Spain, mass transit system, the July 7, 2005, attack on the London, England, mass transit system, and the July 11, 2006, attack on the Mumbai, India, mass transit system.

The Transportation Security Administration has, through the development of its National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program, furthered its ability to provide security against terrorist attacks on the Nation's transportation systems by preventing and protecting against explosives threats.

It is imperative that our Nation's rail and mass transit lines remain secure from terrorist attack as they are critical to the functioning of our Nation's economy and serve as a means of transportation on a daily basis for millions of hard-working Americans.

JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED  
GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE  
AREA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the RECORD regarding S. 2739, the Consolidated National Resources Act, which includes the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Requesting Member: Congressman Frank Wolf.

Bill Number: S. 2739.

Provision: Title II, Section 2010.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 77, Waterford, VA 20197.

Description of Request: The legislation authorizes the appropriation of up to \$1,000,000 a year for the purpose of carrying out a management plan, which must first be approved

by the secretary of Interior. The management plan will describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the Area. The authorization is limited to \$15 million total. The legislation also requires a non-federal cost share match for each dollar contributed by the federal government. The Partnership must also submit an annual report to the secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives federal funds under this subtitle, which specifies the performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity and other related information, including uses of funds and amounts of non-federal funds leveraged in the effort. The Partnership is authorized, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, to use federal funds made available under the legislation to make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area; enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other interested parties; hire and compensate staff, and other purposes related to the national heritage area.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is the designated local coordinating entity for this national heritage area. The Partnership is comprised of over 150 partners, including every elected body within the four-state region, including Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the convention and visitor associations of each of the included 15 counties, and the directors of tourism from each of the four states.

The legislation does not permit the Partnership to use any federal funds provided under the Act to acquire any interest in real property. In addition, Section 408 of the Act sets forth numerous safeguards for private property and makes unmistakably clear that nothing in the Act abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, April 22, and much of Wednesday, April 23rd for personal reasons. Had I been present Tuesday for votes, I would have voted "yes" on each of the three votes taken: H.R. 5151, H.R. 831, and H. Res. 981. Had I been present Wednesday for votes, I would have voted "no" on the motion to adjourn and "yes" on both H.R. 5613 and H. Con. Res. 322. I would also have voted "yes" on ordering the previous question and passage of the rule, H. Res. 1125, and "yes" on all three amendments to H.R. 5819.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

However, there is still debate around the world, including here in our Nation, on whether this incident actually qualifies as genocide. On April 26, 1915, the New York Times reported on the first reported purges of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey. Later in 1915, the Times ran a front page article about a report from the Committee on Armenian Atrocities discussing exactly what was happening to Armenians in Turkey. "The report tells of children under 15 years of age thrown into the Euphrates to be drowned; of women forced to desert infants in their arms and to leave them by the roadside to die; of young women and girls appropriated by the Turks, thrown into harems, attacked or else sold to the highest bidder, and of men murdered and tortured."

One can debate specific historical incidents, but growing up in Fresno, California, the land of William Saroyan, I heard stories shared by grandparents from the Kezerian, Koligian and Abramian families about being forced to leave their homes, the stories of the long marches, and the random murders. Clearly, they believed there was a systematic approach to eliminate the Armenian communities in places that had been their homes and farms for centuries. My Armenian friends believe this systematic approach was among the first genocides of the 20th century, and so do I.

Around the world, in the single, longest lasting and far-reaching campaign of genocide denial, Turkey seeks to block recognition of this travesty. It's against the law to even mention the Armenian genocide in Turkey. The Armenian Genocide involved the issue of man's injustice to mankind, and it continued to occur throughout the 20th century in the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and now in Darfur. As leaders, we must confront this and not allow Turkey to continue to stand alone and ask us to believe that the Armenian genocide was not genocide.

In standing up to this policy of denial, we, of course, honor the martyrs of the genocide and we encourage our Turkish allies and friends to come to terms with their past. And, in a very powerful and significant way, we reinforce our own vital role, as Americans, in leading the international community toward unconditional opposition to all instances of genocide.

Last October, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H. Res. 106, a resolution

to recognize the Armenian genocide in the United States. Unfortunately, this bill has yet to come before the full House for a vote. Supporters of this resolution are constantly told that now isn't the time to recognize the genocide, that scholars, not Congress, should determine if this event was genocide, or that passage of this resolution will hurt our relationship with Turkey. I could not disagree more with these statements.

First, there is never a "right time" to recognize genocide. Ninety-three years have passed since the start events occurred, and we cannot wait around for a convenient moment to recognize this truly catastrophic historical event. Secondly, the scholars have spoken and the historical record is clear and thoroughly documented. And finally, we have seen over and over again that Turkey's warning of disastrous consequences are dramatically overstated. In fact, in nearly every instance, Turkey's bilateral trade has gone up with each of the countries that have recognized the Armenian genocide—including Canada, Italy, France, Russia, and Belgium.

Genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say, "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 106 to recognize the Armenian genocide in our Nation.

93RD ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Since being elected to the U.S. Congress, I have come to the floor of the House every year to solemnly remember the atrocities that began on April 24, 1915—when the Ottoman government ordered the deportation of 2.5 million Armenians and oversaw the murder 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Today, as I stand for the 10th time in recognition of the Armenian genocide, I do so with one major distinction from years past. This year is different because the House Foreign Affairs Committee has formally recognized the Armenian genocide. Last October, under the leadership of the late Chairman Tom Lantos, the Committee passed House Resolution 106.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I was proud to have been a part of this vote. And, as a strong supporter of the Armenian community, I will be proud when the full House of Representatives considers H. Res. 106.

In 2003, during my first visit to Armenia, I planted a tree at the genocide memorial and paid homage to those who perished and suffered. It was a somber day, just like today's anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We not only participate in these events to remember the past, but also so we never forget.

We must never forget the horrific events that took place 93 years ago. We must never

forget those who were wrongly imprisoned, those who suffered and died, or those who lost their families and loved ones. And, most importantly, we must never forget that we must never let such atrocities occur again.

Madam Speaker, today, as we commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I urge the House to prevent history from repeating itself by finally recognizing the past.

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RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as a proud co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 322, which recently passed the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel, I wish to take an opportunity to reflect on this truly monumental event. Since the time of its creation 60 years ago, Israel has served as an example of democracy and equal rights for her neighbors. Israel has also proved to be steadfast ally to the United States in a variety of ways, particularly within our country's diplomatic efforts in the Middle East.

Since its founding in 1948, the modern State of Israel has served as a democratic anchor in the Middle East. Like the United States, the Israeli Declaration of Independence protects freedom of speech, freedom of religion, a free press, free elections, and many other tenets of a free society. Israel established a democracy in the midst of a politically tumultuous region and by guaranteeing the basic rights of her citizens, sets herself apart from her authoritarian neighbors.

Israel prides herself on women's rights and equal pay for women in the workforce. The first female Prime Minister, Golda Meir, was elected in 1969, just 21 years after the formation of modern Israel. Women now serve as the foreign minister, speaker of the Knesset, and chief justice of the Israeli Supreme Court. Furthermore, Israel has recognized the necessity of providing equal rights regardless of gender or race and deserves to be commended.

Not only is Israel an example for her neighbors as a thriving democracy, where citizens' rights are protected through the rule of law, she has also been an avid supporter in the global war on terror. The U.S. and Israel are continually working together to develop sophisticated military technology and improve Israel's defense systems and soldier protection. In the interest of global freedom I hope, and am confident that, this friendship will continue in the future.

It is with great joy that I extend my best wishes for the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel and wish them a prosperous future.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHELE BACHMANN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering H.R. 5613, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This legislation would place a moratorium on certain rules promulgated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS. While I applaud CMS for looking for ways to reduce the burden on taxpayers and to root out fraud which is regrettably rampant in the Medicaid program, some of these proposed rules simply go too far. They shift too great a cost to the States and leave many vulnerable Americans more vulnerable still. And so I will support this temporary stay to give the administration time to consider ways to meet its goals in a less draconian manner.

To be sure, the Medicaid program has been abused. For instance, a CMS Inspector General report found \$3.8 million in undocumented services in the targeted case management program, one which is impacted by these very rules. And CMS's regulations would certainly combat instances of waste and fraud. However, implementing a 1-year moratorium will give CMS an opportunity to review the regulations and give States and local providers an opportunity to prepare for pending implementation, each knowing that real reform is on the horizon. While I believe it is important to rein in entitlement spending, these rules, as currently formulated and immediately imposed, would jeopardize needed care for some of the most vulnerable populations of Americans.

That being said, I am pleased that to address abuses of the Medicaid program, H.R. 5613 provides for anti-fraud enforcement activity in the interim. The bill also provides for the Department of Health and Human Services to hire an independent contractor to produce a report by March 1, 2009, on the proposed regulations and their impact on States. Moreover, all of these costs, as well as the foregone savings resulting from this moratorium are fully offset, meaning H.R. 5613 will not increase the national debt.

The Medicaid program has helped millions of America's neediest individuals, including seniors, foster kids and the disabled, gain access to quality care, and while there have indeed been instances of misallocated funds, H.R. 5613 finds balance between regulatory restraint and financial flexibility, and it maintains a strong partnership with the States.

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COMMENDING CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great artist whose love of liberty inspired him to adorn the United States Capitol with beautiful frescoes. That man, of course, is Constantino Brumidi.

Brumidi's work adorns one House committee room and five Senate committee rooms

in the Capitol. His work also decorates the Senate Reception room, the Office of the Vice President and most notably, the President's room which for many represents Brumidi's supreme effort.

Constantino Brumidi emigrated to the United States in 1849 and took up residence in New York City where he plied his trade as a portrait painter. That was soon followed by more important commissions in St. Stephen's Church. Those works include a fresco of the Crucifixion as well as works depicting the Martyrdom of St. Stephen and the Assumption of St. Mary. But it was on a return trip from Mexico that Brumidi stopped in Washington, DC and toured the Capitol building. He found in it a canvass that inspired him for the remainder of his life. Brumidi suggested to Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs that the walls of the Capitol be decorated and Meigs agreed giving Brumidi the commission as well as making him a captain in the cavalry.

Brumidi's first work was in the meeting room of the House Agriculture Committee. He received \$8 a day, but was soon given a raise to \$10 a day by then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis since his work was receiving such favorable mention. Along with the raise came further commissions in the Capitol which include the Apotheosis of George Washington in the dome as well as other allegories and scenes from American history.

Brumidi died in 1880 but we have the benefit of seeing his work everyday we are here. And Americans who travel to our Nation's Capitol can also enjoy Brumidi's work, yet few know him or his story. That's why I believe all members should support two important bills pending before the House that will honor Constantino Brumidi and his work here in the Capitol. The first is H.R. 1609 introduced by Representative BILL PASCRELL. H.R. 1609 would posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to Constantino Brumidi and authorize the striking of duplicate medals for sale to the public. The second is H.R. 1313, introduced by Representative GUS BILIRAKIS to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a statue of Constantino Brumidi for display in the Capitol Visitors Center. Both of these bills will honor the memory of a great artist and so I ask all my colleagues to join me in supporting them both.

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LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL 100-YEAR CELEBRATION

**HON. KEVIN BRADY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the city of Livingston and the Livingston Independent School District, as they celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Livingston High School. Since graduating its first class of three students in 1908, Livingston High School has been a place devoted to the single purpose of educating young people.

Since the city was established in the 1840s, education of youths has been of great public importance. In fact, the earliest recorded free school system in Livingston was established in 1849 and funded by the Trinity Masonic Lodge No. 14. Classes were held on the first floor of

the Lodge building until the late 1880s. A school term during that time only lasted 3 months so as to enable the students to assist their families with farming activities.

The first structure solely devoted to public education was built in 1888 and was located on Jackson Avenue. The high school, which at that time allowed students to attend grades 9 and 10, was not initiated until 1906. Even though the size of that first graduating class was small in number, their accomplishments were far and reaching. The first female to graduate, Mrs. Myra Lewis (Green), became a schoolteacher and taught in Livingston and Raymondville. Mr. Brown L. Meece went on to attend Texas A&M University and later became Vice-President for both Global and Sinclair Oil Companies. After graduating from Livingston High School, Mr. Ralph Feagin attended the University of Texas and later served as Executive Vice President of Electric Bond and Share Company in New York City and later in his life he became a partner at the law firm of Baker, Botts, Andrew, and Wharton.

Today, Livingston High School is home to approximately 1200 students that attend the ninth through the twelfth grade. Students at the school have the ability to enrich themselves academically, culturally, and athletically by participating in many different clubs and extracurricular activities.

Livingston High School has worked hard to prepare its students for the rigors of a college education. Additionally, Livingston High School serves as an off-campus center for Angelina College which enables the students to earn college credits while still in high school.

Looking back at the 100-year history of Livingston High School there is much to be proud of. Graduates of Livingston High School have excelled in all areas of life and made many positive contributions to our country. We can rejoice, however, because with great teachers and administrators there are many more positive years ahead for Livingston High School.

Madam Speaker, our Nation's high schools are places that prepare the youth of our great country to lead prosperous lives, and it is an honor to represent a high school that has such a distinguished record on doing just that in the U.S. House of Representatives. I urge you to join in congratulating Livingston High School on 100 years of excellence in educating the youth of Polk County.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I wish to acknowledge and honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day, a national day of recognition instituted by President Clinton in 1998 to raise awareness about the wage disparity and discrimination between men and women.

America has made some strides in narrowing this disparity in the workplace, but the fight for equal pay for equal work still remains prevalent and pertinent today. Thirty-five years

ago, when President Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act of 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. In 2006, women earned 77 cents for every dollar earned by men; the figures are even more unsettling for women of color. This data demonstrates that the wage gap has narrowed by less than half a cent per year. An 18 cent increase over 35 years indicates a significant wage disparity between working men and women that leaves a great deal of work for the employers and decision makers of today.

In the state of Texas, between 2004 and 2006, the average annual salary of men with a college degree or more was \$63,000, while their female counterparts only received an average annual salary of \$45,000 with the same credentials. In comparison, during that same time frame, the national average annual salary for men with a college degree or more was \$66,000, while their female counterparts received only \$50,000. Therefore, the state of Texas is about 5 percent below the national average in narrowing the wage disparity between men and women.

A great woman and former congresswoman from Texas, Barbara Jordan once said that, "If the society of today allows wrongs to go unchallenged, the impression is created that those wrongs have the approval of the majority." To take the late Ms. Jordan's advice: we who live in today's society must not allow the wrongs created by wage discrimination continue to discount minorities and women.

I ask my colleagues and employers nationwide to take up the fight of eliminating the wage disparity between men and women as we all honor the 10 year anniversary of Equal Pay Day.

YORK-ADAMS COUNTY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL 19TH ANNUAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York-Adams County Central Labor Council, for helping to bring safety awareness to the issue of worker safety.

Every April for the past nineteen years, the York-Adams Central Labor Council has celebrated Workers Memorial Day by sponsoring public events to recognize workers who have been killed or injured on their job.

While the workplace fatality rate has decreased significantly since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, OSHA, in 1970, we must remain vigilant in working to ensure that workers are employed in safe environments. As a Member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I believe that ensuring worker safety should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Congress must appropriate adequate funding for OSHA so that representatives can carry out safety inspections and enforce safety regulations within workplaces across the Nation. It is imperative that employers understand OSHA regulations and comply accord-

ingly to maintain the safest work environments possible.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the York-Adams County Central Labor Council for its strong commitment to promoting safety in the workplace and look forward to joining them in honoring injured and deceased workers everywhere.

RECOGNIZING GERALDINE "JERRE" MCPARTLIN

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Geraldine "Jerre" McPartlin for receiving "The 2008 Sister Huberta McCarthy, R.S.M. Woman of Mercy" award. Mrs. McPartlin is the fifth woman to have the honor of receiving the "Woman of Mercy" award, and I congratulate her on this achievement.

This award has been presented by Mercy Hospital and Medical Center's Women's Board in honor of Mrs. McPartlin's work carrying forth the mission of Mercy Hospital throughout her professional and private life.

In 1852 Mercy Hospital and Medical Center was founded as the State of Illinois' first hospital and Chicago's first chartered hospital. For the last 155 years, Mercy has helped treat countless Chicagoans from all backgrounds, income levels, and educations seeking medical care.

Jerre, as she is known to her friends and family, was raised on the West side of Chicago and educated at Resurrection Grammar School and Siena High School by the Sisters of Mercy. She began her career working with the local labor movement as a business agent for the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union. This union serves thousands of workers in the hospitality and food service industries in the Chicagoland area. In 1985 she became the First Vice-President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and in 1995 was named "Labor Woman of the Year" by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Jerre has given her time to a long list of worthwhile charities, including Concern Worldwide USA, Misericordia, and Mercy Home for Boys and Girls. She has been a member of the Mercy Women's Board for several years, as well as Vice President of the Women's Board from 2003-2005.

Amazingly, she has managed to give so much of her time and energy to others while also being devoted to another sizable organization—her family. Jerre has 12 children, 23 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren, and I am as impressed with the size of her family as her commitment to service.

Madam Speaker, because of Jerre McPartlin's tireless commitment to our community, she has touched the hearts and lives of thousands of Chicagoans. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I thank her for her service to the people of Chicago and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

SCHEDULE FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE VOTING IRREGULARITIES OF AUGUST 2

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, the Select Committee would like to give the Members a brief update on the activities of the Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2. The Select Committee held a series of briefings and hearings designed to inform the members of the Select Committee of the mechanics of conducting a record vote on the House floor, the electronic voting system, and the precedents and procedures relevant to the voting process. The Select Committee has been conducting a thorough investigation of rollcall 814, including the motion to reconsider that vote (rollcall 815). The Select Committee has completed 18 staff interviews and 4 Member interviews, perused almost 5000 pages of documents related to rollcall 814, and engaged in discussions on possible recommendations of changes to the rules and procedures of the House as mandated by the Select Committee's authorizing resolution (House Resolution 611). In the next month, the Select Committee will hold two public hearings relative to its investigation, one public hearing relative to its recommendations, and one public meeting on its final report. The Select Committee intends to file its final report by the end of May.

OBSERVING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today we mark a sad anniversary, the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, April 24, 1915 was the day that over two hundred Armenian political and intellectual leaders were arrested by Ottoman authorities. Subsequently, the systematic killing of Armenians resulted in well over one million deaths. This horrible mass killing is well-recognized and well documented, including in the United States' national archives, and it has been confirmed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

It is important to commemorate those who lost their lives. And it is important to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it was. At the time, the United States government and its citizens acted with generosity and diplomatic support in response to the mass killing. Today's observance is a continuation of that response. And only by recognizing and studying past cases of genocide will we have a chance of preventing them in the future.

93RD COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

In 1915, Henry Morgenthau, America's ambassador stationed in Istanbul described a "systematic attempt to uproot peaceful Armenian populations." He warned Washington of the government's plan to "crush the Armenian race."

After these warnings from Morgenthau, the U.S. Government took action and responded to the Armenian genocide. During a time when hundreds of thousands were left orphaned and starving, a time when a nation was on the verge of complete extermination, the United States took the lead and proudly helped end these atrocities. In fact, Americans helped launch an unprecedented U.S. diplomatic, political and humanitarian campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors.

Yet, 93 years later, the United States has not officially recognized the Armenian genocide. We owe it to the Armenian-American community, to the 1.5 million that were massacred in the genocide and to its own history—to reaffirm what is fact.

Last October, the Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Armenian Genocide Resolution, giving full recognition to the genocide, but, since then, the bill has stalled due to the deep pocketed and well oiled Turkish lobby.

By not recognizing the Armenian genocide for what it was, the government sponsored, systematic killing of a people, we fall prey to the Turkish government's threats. At the expense of truth, we buckle to Turkey out of geo-political convenience.

Refusing to recognize the Armenian genocide only erodes our international reputation as human rights leaders. By remaining silent, we encourage Turkey to continue denial. While we look the other way, the Turkish government continues to prosecute those who speak out about the Armenian genocide in Turkey. This cannot continue. We must stop pandering to Turkish government.

Fortunately, there are citizens of Turkey who refuse to deny the facts of the Armenian genocide. The Human Rights Association of Istanbul opposes the government muzzle. They recognize that state denial is the continuation of genocide, depriving the decedents of the Armenians the right to mourn their loved ones.

We cannot let denial continue. By doing so, we show the international community that not only is genocide accepted, but that we are indifferent. Recognizing the Armenian genocide is crucial to helping end the cycle of genocide that has continued to plague civilization. If no one is held accountable, if America and the International community fail to act, then we allow these atrocities to continue.

A large majority of our colleagues want to support this resolution. Members want to reaffirm the United States' record on the Armenian

genocide. Unfortunately, the strong Turkish lobby is making it difficult for this House to take a firm stance for the truth.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide will bring closure to a people and send the message that crimes against humanity cannot be silenced.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ERNEST MUNTZ

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Ernest Muntz. Dr. Muntz left Wheaton College during his second year to join his fellow countrymen in defending freedom around the globe. Seeing his country in peril, simultaneously fighting a war on two fronts, Dr. Muntz enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 because he believed that it was "the right thing to do."

During Dr. Muntz's time of service in the Army Air Corps, he played a key role as a cryptographer in the Pacific Theater. He received and deciphered messages as part of the Army Airways Communications System, saving lives with each decoded message. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 with the rank of full Colonel.

After the war, Dr. Muntz decided to complete his education at Wheaton College, graduating in 1948. He continued his education at the University of Rochester, earning his doctorate in history in 1960. Dr. Muntz held various professorships and contributed his knowledge and passion for academia to institutions of higher education. He had a distinguished career as a full professor of history at the University of Cincinnati and then dean of the Raymond Walters College.

I am honored to have Dr. Ernest Muntz as my constituent, and I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and scholarship that he has set.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, every year we mark the anniversary of a terrible event that took place over the years of 1915–1923, during the First World War, when 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered and over half a million survivors were forced to leave a homeland they had inhabited for over two millennia. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 106, a resolution which simply affirms a historical fact. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive records, open to the public, which meticulously document the Armenian genocide. Furthermore, the post-World War I Turkish government indicted leaders who were involved in these killings which

it labeled a "massacre." On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia issued a statement charging the Ottoman government of committing a "crime against humanity." President Ronald Reagan in proclamation number 4838, dated April 22, 1981, said, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten."

The Armenian genocide resolution is offensive to some simply because it characterizes that massacre as "genocide." We do not use that term loosely, but violence on such a tremendous scale has earned that terrible title. These deaths were not caused by the inevitable hostility of war, but by systematic murder aimed at eliminating a people. We gain nothing by pretending it was anything less.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum includes a quote from Adolf Hitler who justified his own atrocities by saying, "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Shortly thereafter, the world would learn of the horrors of the Holocaust.

I wonder whether the horrors of the Second World War may have been averted had people loudly and with conviction condemned the Armenian genocide of the First World War. We cannot erase the events of history, and we ignore them at our peril. In the United States, we are still dealing with the consequences of slavery—a blight on our own historical record. But we cannot be committed to the principle of "never again" if we do not acknowledge the evil that first committed us to make that vow.

RECOGNIZING MARIO AND JOE SIMOES FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**HON. DEVIN NUNES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize these two brothers, Mario and Joe Simoes, for their accomplishments as both immigrants and farmers.

After the death of their mother when they were only 9 years old, Mario and Joe, aged 15, along with their father and younger sister, emigrated from Portugal in search of a better life for their family. Their first jobs were with the Manuel Faria and Sons Dairy in California. In 1970, some 20 years after coming to America, Mario and Joe bought their first dairy farm from this same family. Today, Mario and Joe, along with their extended families, own more than 10,000 cows and farm around 3,000 acres between them.

These brothers, born only 12 minutes apart, embody the hard work and perseverance that are so emblematic of the first American immigrants. They have always shared a special bond that has pushed them to share both their lives and livelihoods with each other. They even share the same wedding anniversary, although Joe was married four years after Mario.

Because of their active involvement in the agricultural community, Mario and Joe were both named as the 2007 Dairyman of the Year

by the Tulare High School's SOPAS Club. Both brothers have served as president of the SPDES and both are members of the TDES, Land O' Lakes Tulare Division, the Dairy Farmers of America, and the St. John's of Tip-ton Men's Club.

On April 25, Mario and Joe will be honored as "Farmers of the Year" at the annual Kiwanis Luncheon in Tulare, CA. On behalf of myself and Mr. COSTA, it is an honor to recognize their hard work and dedication to community. Mario and Joe serve as a constant reminder of the values of this Nation and the unbreakable spirit of the American people.

L. NATHAN WINTERS RECEIVING GIRL SCOUTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. L. Nathan Winters of Harlingen, TX, for receiving the Award of Distinction from the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas.

Mr. Winters has been a valuable member of our community and is known for his hard work and dedication to the Girl Scouts and numerous nonprofit organizations. When serving on the board of directors he was instrumental in acquiring Camp Bayview to serve girls all over South Texas. He also served as president of the Girl Scouts Tip of Texas Council, which later merged with the Paisano Council.

Not only is Mr. Winters dedicated to the advancement of the Girl Scouts, but he is also a remarkable husband, father, and grandfather.

The Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas serves more than 9,200 members in the 4-county area, including girls in low-income public schools, housing authorities, the Texas Migrant Council, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

We are now in an era where more women serve as leaders in our government, corporate board rooms, and communities. The Girl Scouts of America have done extraordinary work in molding young women into positions where they go on to achieve great things. Their mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who—as women, leaders, sisters, and mothers—will make the world a better place.

I commend the good work done by the Girl Scouts of America, and the Girls Scouts of Greater South Texas Council for awarding Mr. L. Nathan Winters their Award of Distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment

of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Over the last 60 years, Israel has built a nation, forged a new and democratic society, and created thriving economic, political, cultural and intellectual life. For six decades now, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship and the U.S. continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

On the House floor this week, H. Res. 322, reaffirmed Congress's support for Israel and the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel and commits to strengthening those bonds. I too support Israel, its continued stability, democratic principles and its important role in the Middle East by extending the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

2008 RETIREES FOR NORTH CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS, MENOMINEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize four dedicated educators at the North Central Schools in Menominee County, Michigan. These four individuals will be retiring at the end of the current school year and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring their decades of service to educating children.

Deborah Bedogne came to North Central Area Schools (NCA) in 1985 after teaching at Marquette Area Public Schools. She has served as a guidance counselor and taught many different courses throughout her tenure at North Central. Her assistance in helping students choose their career path has impacted many lives, as has her dedication to the district and the students. Debbie's guidance will be greatly missed by the NCA community.

Janice Hafeman started her career in education in the North Central community with the Northern Menominee Community School program in 1989. She later came to North Central Area Schools in 1994 and has served as a Teacher of Special Education and Adult Basic Education. Both in and out of the classroom Janice treated all of her students with the utmost respect and kindness.

Donald Palmer began his career at North Central Area Schools in 2006 after serving as Superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools in Hesperia, Michigan. Although Mr. Palmer's time with NCA schools was short in years, it was great in impact, including a column that he wrote in the Escanaba Daily Press about his role as superintendent of schools. Throughout his career he has served as a teacher, principal and a Superintendent at several schools throughout the State of Michigan.

Mark Veeseer was a dedicated and loyal teacher at North Central Area Schools for 31 years. He has taught in the very same community that his mother, Nell Veeseer, and brother, Greg Veeseer, also taught. His wife Barbara continues to teach there as well. Mark

Veeseer not only shared his gift for teaching with the students of North Central Area Schools, he also shared his gift of coaching with hundreds of NCA students throughout the years. For 28 years he coached the Jets in many capacities. The lessons he taught his players on and off the field will live on forever. Coach Veeseer led the following teams: 19 years with Varsity Football, 7 years with Junior Varsity Football, 4 years with Girls Track, 3 years with Junior High & Freshman Boys Basketball, 3 years as a referee and one year each with Junior High Girls Basketball and Varsity Boys Track.

Madam Speaker, the dedicated men and women who devote their careers to educating the next generation seldom receive the praise they deserve. I ask that you and my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking these four outstanding individuals for their service and in wishing them well in their retirement.

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA TECH  
AND COLUMBINE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, was the anniversary of the tragic events on the campus of Virginia Tech that took the lives of 32 people and wounded many more. Sunday, April 20, 2008 marked the 9th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre. These events rank second and third among the deadliest school shootings in the history of the United States. At the same time, from the wreckage has emerged a strong desire to prevent violence of this magnitude in the future.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 808, to establish a Department of Peace and Non-violence, because this bill seeks to make non-violence an organizing principle in our society. This cabinet-level department would address the myriad forms of violence that affect our Nation and the global community. As the disasters at Columbine and Virginia Tech have shown, violence has deep and lasting consequences that must be addressed by looking at root causes and endeavoring to find preventative solutions that are both dynamic and comprehensive. The Department of Peace and Nonviolence would provide a systematic tool to accomplish this admirable goal.

We can all agree that violence in our schools, among youth and adults alike, is an ongoing problem that must be addressed. H.R. 808 is a way to address not only violence in our schools but the violence that exists in our homes, workplaces and institutions throughout our communities both nationally and internationally.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, April 24th, marks the 93rd anniversary of the begin-

ning of the Armenian genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported most Armenians from Turkish Armenia, ordering that they resettle in Ottoman Syria. Many deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the "killing fields" of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Kosovo, and massacres and wholesale destruction of villages in Darfur to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contribution of the Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

With the arrogance of absolute impunity, Adolf Hitler famously urged his commanders to attack Poland with no fear of history's judgment because, as he put it, "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 2830, COAST GUARD AU-  
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1126, the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007. I also strongly support the underlying legislation, which will provide our Nation's Coast Guard with the resources it needs in order to successfully execute all of its missions.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressmen OBERSTAR and CUMMINGS, for introducing this bill, as well as the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman THOMPSON, for his leadership on this important issue. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to work with Chairman THOMPSON and offer an amendment during our Homeland Security Committee markup to this important legislation, which I felt improved the bill. My amendment mandated the creation of a strategic plan to utilize assistance programs to assist ports and facilities that are found by the Secretary not to maintain effective anti-terrorism measures. I am also offering an amendment on the House floor today calling on the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the challenges and delays faced by transportation workers seeking to obtain TWIC cards at enrollment sites and mandates the development of timelines and benchmarks for implementing the findings of this assessment.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I believe protecting our Nation by air, land, and sea to be critical to our national security interests. This bill, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, sets forth various provisions that will be beneficial to our maritime interests, and consequently to our national security. Included in the provisions are the establishments of grants for international maritime organizations, the establishment of the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee, and codified various provisions relating to Coast Guard personnel matters.

For some years now, I have been concerned about the diversion of Coast Guard resources from their historic missions of search and rescue and marine safety, to homeland security missions. Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Coast Guard's inclusion in the Department, one of the greatest challenges has been ensuring that the funds that the Coast Guard have traditionally received in order to perform their duties remain intact so that they can fulfill the responsibilities that American citizens rely on them to perform, namely ensuring the safety of our nations seas, lakes, rivers, and ports.

We have to ensure that the Coast Guard will get their full funding needed to carry out their responsibilities, and that is precisely what this legislation does. This act authorizes appropriations for FY2008 for the Coast Guard. Furthermore, this act also authorizes the FY2008 levels of Coast Guard active duty military personnel and average military training student loans, allowing for sufficient human resources for the Coast Guard to achieve its

designated goals. This bill explicitly authorizes end-strength by 1,500 members to 47,000 and increasing Coast Guard funding to \$8.4 billion which has not been done since the 1970's.

The act also includes provisions regarding shipping and navigation, vessel size limits, maritime drug law enforcement, fishing vessel safety, liability limits for natural gas deepwater ports, claims against the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, dry bulk cargo residue, merchant mariner matter, and security.

Mr. Speaker, every year, 95 percent of the goods coming into the United States arrive at our nation's seaports. These goods are shipped from ports around the world, some from developed countries and others from developing countries. I am particularly concerned about ports in developing countries. Developing countries have limited resources which means their ability to maintain effective anti-terrorism measures is limited.

We can not allow terrorists to exploit this limitation. Rather, we should work with developing countries and others to build up their anti-terrorism measures. This assistance will benefit all of us. The developing countries will gain the support they need, and we will close a potential gap in our own supply chain. Every gap we close is one less gap that can be exploited by terrorists. I am pleased that this bill requires the Department of Homeland Security to develop a strategic plan to utilize existing assistance programs to assist foreign ports and facilities that are found by the Secretary not to maintain effective anti-terrorism measures. This bill furthermore authorizes the Coast Guard to lend, lease, and donate equipment and provide technical training to non-compliant foreign ports or facilities. The multiple layers of security enhancement authorized in this legislation will minimize the ability of terrorists to target to maritime commerce and negatively impact the global supply chain.

I am pleased that the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007 includes specific provisions relating to Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). Within this legislation, MSIs are defined as a historically Black college or university, a Hispanic serving institution, a Tribal College or University, a Predominantly Black institution, or a Native American-serving institution. Section 901 of this important legislation states that the Commandant shall establish a management internship program for students at MSIs, enabling them to intern at Coast Guard headquarters or Coast Guard regional offices in an effort to support the development of civilian, career-midlevel, and senior managers for the service. This legislation furthermore instructs the Coast Guard to work with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium to create this internship program and authorizes \$2 million to be appropriated to this program.

Mr. Speaker, I have long stressed the importance of including this nation's MSIs in the effort to secure our nation. Section 903 of this legislation states that the Commandant shall establish a Coast Guard Laboratory of Excellence-MSI Cooperative Technology Program at three minority serving institutions to focus on priority security areas for the Coast Guard, such as global maritime surveillance, resilience, and recovery. It also calls on the Commandant to encourage collaboration among the minority serving institutions selected to

participate in the cooperative technology program and institutions of higher education with institutional research and academic program resources and experience. These and other measures included within this bill are absolutely imperative as the Office of Workforce Planning has recently revealed that only 5 percent of the officer corps is African American and only 12 percent of the officer corps is comprised of ethnic minorities, while in the last 3 years the numbers of minority ascensions have actually decreased.

The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007 also increases oversight and efficiency of the TWIC program, which was originally mandated six years ago, yet continues to flounder. To date only 230,000 out of an estimated 845,000 applicants have enrolled in the TWIC program, while the deadline for enrollment is September 25, 2008. While this provision of the Coast Guard Authorization is both timely and important, there is still more which must be done in order to ensure that the program is both effective and efficient, which is why I have offered an amendment.

I would like to reiterate only few of the obstacles that workers have faced in my state of Texas as well in my district of Houston. For example, a marine worker enrolled at the Houston Port enrolled on December 13, 2007. To this date, he still does not yet have a TWIC card. He remained on hold for 4 hours and 10 minutes and was finally told by the operator that he would have to return to Houston to be fingerprinted again after APR. Incidentally, a representative of Higman Marine Services, Inc., asked the same question about their employee, and she was told that he should not return until June. This blatant inconsistency in service and information is simply unacceptable. Furthermore, another transportation worker went to the Beaumont center about 3 weeks ago to pick up his TWIC after being notified it was ready. He traveled from Hemphill, TX (117 miles), and was told that the card was accidentally shipped to Houston and he could drive there (85 miles) to pick it up. He presently does not have his card. The list of incidences in which workers have to continually overcome structural impediments is too long for me to name. It is from my concern for these workers that I have introduced my amendment.

My amendment calls for the Secretary of Homeland Security to compile an assessment of the enrollment sites for transportation security cards issued under section 70105 of title 46, United States Code within 30 days of enactment. The assessment should, at minimum, examine: The feasibility of keeping those enrollment sites open 24 hours per day, and 7 days per week, in order to better handle the large number of applicants for such cards; the feasibility of keeping those enrollment sites open after September 25, 2008; and the quality of customer service, including the periods of time individuals are kept on hold on the telephone, whether appointments are kept, and processing times for applications.

My amendment furthermore calls on the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop timelines and benchmarks for implementing the findings of the assessment as the Secretary deems necessary. By identifying the areas in which enrollment sites for homeland security cards are ineffective and inefficient and creating a timeline through which to implement necessary changes and benchmarks

to ensure their progress and accountability, we will make this Nation a safer place accessible to labor and operations alike.

Long before the horrific events of September 11, 2001, citizens of America relied upon the Coast Guard to ensure the safety of our waterways, and we depend on them still. Therefore, I urge my fellow members of Congress to also support the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007 and ensure this rich and necessary tradition remains a thriving and useful part of not only our national defense strategy but also to protect us and the environment from those threats by sea.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying legislation.

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RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Nation of Israel.

I join a bipartisan group of my colleagues in support for H. Con. Res. 322—a measure recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel. This measure passed the House of Representatives earlier this week by a vote of 417 to 0.

As a member of the Democratic Israel Working Group, I am proud to commend Israel and her people on the occasion of this significant milestone.

We and the international community are grateful to Israel for her contributions in the fields of agriculture, technology, and medicine to name a few. Furthermore, Israel is a true democracy in an unstable region of the world, and the nation has long been an ally of the U.S.

Again, I join my colleagues in commending Israel and in looking forward to a future of continued friendship.

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SUNSET MEMORIAL

**HON. TRENT FRANKS**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial. It is April 24, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun sets today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Madam Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,876 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood

of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution, it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,876 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 24, 2008, 12,876 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF BETHESDA HOS-  
PITAL IN SAINT PAUL, MN

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bethesda Hospital on its 125th anniversary in Saint Paul, MN. Since its founding in 1883, this hospital has been a leader in our community in providing quality health care services through a compassionate and holistic framework. Bethesda Hospital is now the largest long-term acute care hospital in the region and has earned a national reputation for excellence and innovation in health care.

In 1883, Bethesda Hospital was established by Reverend A. P. Monten, D.D., pastor of the first Swedish Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, along with the sponsorship of the Tabitha Society of the Swedish Lutheran Minnesota Conference. Rev. Monten and his fellow Swedish Lutherans converted a single family home near Lake Como in Saint Paul into a hospital with 20 beds to serve individuals who were impoverished and sick.

Today, Bethesda Hospital stays true to its deep roots, still helping those with illnesses recover, regardless of their ability to pay. Bethesda Hospital has also remained in Saint Paul these past 125 years. It has expanded its capacity since its modest origins, now providing 262 beds for patients, employing 740 staff, and treating about 1400 patients on an annual basis.

Bethesda Hospital has grown greatly throughout its history. In 1892, Bethesda moved from its Lake Como neighborhood to downtown Saint Paul at 9th and Wacouta Streets, near the Union Depot. This new facility featured two operating rooms on the third floor which were known to be the best operating rooms in the whole state.

Despite additions to Bethesda's facility at 9th and Wacouta, it eventually outgrew that location. By 1932, after an intense fundraising campaign to construct a new hospital, it reopened at what is still its current home, just steps away from the State Capitol.

As Saint Paul and its surrounding area has changed over the years, Bethesda Hospital has also adapted to meet the community's developing needs. During the closing and consolidation of hospitals in 1986, Bethesda joined together with St. John's and St. Joseph's Hospitals to merge under the newly created HealthEast Care system. Three years later, Bethesda was officially designated as a Long-Term Acute Care Hospital to focus on treating patients who require extensive and rigorous therapy to recuperate.

Bethesda Hospital is now a specialty hospital serving a wide-range of patients of all ages and illnesses, such as student football players with concussions, car accident survivors, and patients dealing with multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Bethesda Hospital's inter-disciplinary teams of trained professionals develop individualized treatment plans for patients that may not only include behavioral, cognitive, occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies, but also a variety of recreational therapies such as art therapy, pet therapy, and virtual therapy.

Bethesda Hospital has been widely acclaimed for its award-winning programs and services. In particular, the Brain Injury of Minnesota as well as The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities have paid tribute to the hospital's outstanding service in the area of brain injury.

Building on its specialty in treating brain injuries, Bethesda Hospital continues to respond to the serious health care needs we face. Currently, Bethesda Hospital is collaborating with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Minnesota National Guard, the Department of Defense, and the Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC to identify ways that Bethesda Hospital can serve the veterans and injured soldiers across our nation who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I am so pleased that Bethesda Hospital plans to answer the call and serve our troops and veterans who have served us so honorably. Bethesda Hospital has the expertise to conduct critical predeployment baseline cognitive skills testing and follow-up post deployment testing to evaluate our veterans' health conditions and track their recovery.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the legacy of caring that the dedicated donors, staff, patients, and volunteers at Bethesda Hospital have created, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 125th anniversary of Bethesda Hospital.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZEN  
AND COMMUNITY PREPARED-  
NESS ACT OF 2008

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Citizen and Community Preparedness Act of 2008, which reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to helping our communities prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

I am glad to be joined today in introducing this bipartisan bill by the Ranking Member of my Subcommittee—the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response—the gentleman from Pennsylvania, CHARLIE DENT.

I am also pleased to have Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as well as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, as original cosponsors of this legislation. They are true leaders in the area of emergency preparedness and have been instrumental in the drafting of this bill.

If a disaster—whether large or small—occurs in a community, local responders and disaster-relief organizations will be there to help, but citizens need to be ready as well.

In fact, when individual citizens, families and communities are prepared, the fear, anxiety,

and loss that accompany disasters is substantially minimized.

It is imperative that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency and be ready to either shelter in place or evacuate their homes.

People must be ready to care for their basic needs should they be displaced for a period of time.

As we move toward the 3-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the 7-year anniversary of 9/11, we must not lose sight of the lessons learned from these disasters.

While I recognize that the most effective emergency preparedness programs and messages are delivered locally and not from Washington, we must ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is working with State and local partners, providing them with the tools they need to get the message out.

Following the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, Federal, State and local government officials agreed that the formula for ensuring a more secure and safer homeland consists of preparedness, training, and citizen involvement in supporting first responders.

As a result, the Citizen Corps Program and Ready campaigns were created.

To date, with limited resources available, over 2,000 communities in all 56 States and territories have established Citizen Corps Councils to help inform and train citizens in emergency preparedness, and promote volunteerism.

However, I think these programs can be improved.

The legislation I am introducing today formally authorizes the Citizen Corps Program and provides it with the necessary funding to be effective.

It also authorizes key Citizen Corps components administered by the Department of Homeland Security—Fire Corps and CERT.

Fire Corps promotes the use of volunteers to assist fire and rescue departments in non-operational roles such as fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support.

The Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, program concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985 and has since spread to over 1,000 communities nationwide.

Under the CERT Program citizens are training citizens in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

As our Nation continues to glean lessons from the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government must ensure that preparedness efforts help our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

To that end, this legislation requires the Secretary to work closely with organizations representing the elderly, the disabled, the hearing and visually impaired, communities with language and income barriers, and children to promote preparedness.

This legislation will also create a pilot program to enhance citizen preparedness at primary and secondary schools, as well as on university or college campuses, by providing training, exercises, and public awareness campaigns.

Finally, my bill directs the Secretary to carry out a public affairs campaign utilizing diverse media outlets to get the word out to the public

to assist them in preparing for acts of terrorism and other emergencies.

Addressing the issue of citizen preparedness continues to be a major issue for our Nation.

In fact, the National Governors' Association 2007 State Homeland Security Directors Survey, which polled the 56 State and territorial homeland security advisors, cited citizen preparedness as one of the top 5 priorities for their States.

It is now time to stop paying lip service to the issue of citizen and community preparedness and to start acting.

In closing Madam Speaker, let me say that our citizens' lack of preparedness is often cited as an impediment to an effective emergency response. I believe this legislation will make strides to change that fact and I urge my colleagues to support it.

## SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5819) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act. Enactment of this bill will extend important programs that improve American competitiveness in the world, and I urge its adoption.

The State of Colorado houses a strong and vibrant collection of cutting-edge small businesses, and businesses in my own district employ SBIR awards to promote advanced research in aeronautic, biotechnology, and other important industries. This bill will ensure that small businesses and research firms will continue to have access to the capital that enables them to compete with large firms both at home and abroad. Ultimately, this bill is about increasing competition and ensuring that good ideas are not lost for a lack of resources.

This bill also modernizes the SBIR and STTR programs in order to better suit the needs of small businesses, ensuring that small businesses that receive funding from venture capital firms are allowed to receive SBIR grants. Though some suggest that this policy undermines the spirit of the program, the reality for many small businesses is that their most consistent sources of funding are from venture capital firms and the SBIR program. This bill proposes sensible limits on the participation of venture capital firms so that small businesses can continue to rely on these two important sources of funds.

As co-chair of the House Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus and a representative of a district with a major research institution, I support this legislation because it will help keep America more technologically and economically competitive. I commend the committees for their hard work on this legislation, and I look forward to its enactment.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were killed by Ottoman authorities during World War I.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government began its genocidal plan by arresting and murdering over 250 Armenian intellectuals and political figures in Istanbul. In the interior of the Ottoman Empire, where the bulk of the Armenian population lived, the government then arrested and killed village leaders. Meanwhile, most able-bodied Armenian men, who had been conscripted into the Ottoman army, were separated into labor battalions and subsequently murdered. Next, in various provinces, gendarmes and the army massacred Armenian villagers outright, while in other provinces, the remaining Armenian population of women, children and the elderly were forcibly deported over the mountains and into the scorching deserts of Syria, without food and water. Many of the female deportees were raped and killed en route, while other deportees died of starvation and dehydration. By the end of 1915 the centuries-old Armenian civilization of eastern Anatolia no longer existed.

U.S. diplomats who were stationed in Anatolia at the time were some of the main eyewitnesses and chroniclers of that horrific period. U.S. Consul Leslie Davis, stationed in Harput in eastern Anatolia, wrote the following in a cable to U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, dated July 24, 1915: "It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race, but the methods used have been more cold-blooded and barbarous, if not effective, than I had first supposed." He also wrote in this same cable: "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has been conceived in the mind of man."

This cable, and many others of a similar nature, is housed in the U.S. National Archives only a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol and the White House. They provide unambiguous, documentary evidence of what occurred. Yet there are those who still refuse to properly characterize what happened to the Armenian people during World War I as genocide. Although the word "genocide" was not invented in 1915, what these diplomats described was indeed genocide of a people.

I am deeply disappointed that many of our current officials avoid characterizing what occurred as "genocide." This avoidance does a disservice to the memory of the victims and their descendants, and hurts our moral standing in the world. I hope that one day soon, this legislative body and the U.S. Administration will properly characterize what happened to the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

Many of the survivors of the Armenian genocide settled in the United States. Bearing painful physical and emotional scars, they

nonetheless re-established their lives here, worked hard, and became proud American citizens, thankful for the opportunity to live in freedom. Many of their descendants have become leaders in the fields of science, business, academia, and the arts, and have served their country bravely in military uniform. They have also created a vibrant community. Yet they also bear the pain of what their parents and grandparents went through and are actively engaged in the effort to seek proper recognition of what happened to the Armenian people in 1915. Today, as we recall the events of the Armenian genocide and pay homage to the victims, we also honor the Armenian-American community for its unwavering commitment to this human rights struggle.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF FIRST SERGEANT LUKE J.  
MERCARDANTE

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of United States Marine First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante.

Luke Mercardante was the First Sergeant for Combat Logistics Battalion 24, the logistics element of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Luke was 35 when killed in the line of duty on April 16th in Kandahar province of Afghanistan while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

First Sergeant Mercardante's position required him to serve as a leader, but leadership came naturally. He is remembered for his love for country and ability to inspire those around him. Other Marines described him as the "picture-perfect Marine."

Mercardante enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1992, graduating from Parris Island as the company honor graduate. He later served on a deserter apprehension team and was responsible for apprehending more than 130 deserters. As a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Mercardante trained more than 1,200 men, turning them from civilians into Marines. Later, he served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as the training chief and brig security for the base. He was assigned to the Virginia Military Institute as the assistant Marine officer instructor and was voted an honorary member of the class of 2007, as well as faculty mentor of the year in 2005.

First Sergeant Mercardante's personal decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 3 gold stars in lieu of 4th award, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with 1 gold star in lieu of 2nd award, and the Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

Luke was engaged to Kimberly Hull and planned to marry when he returned from Afghanistan. He is survived by Kimberly, his mother Gertrude, father Patrick, brothers Patrick Jr., Frank and Mark, sister Bridget and his children Luke II and Cailin.

On behalf of the people of the United States whom he served with courage and valor, we honor and commemorate the life and service of First Sergeant Luke J. Mercardante.

HONORING DR. LON NUELLE'S PAS-  
SION FOR THE ARTS AND EDU-  
CATION

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. Lon Nuell, who passed away March 12.

Leon Richard Nuell served on the Murfreesboro City School Board for 12 years and taught as an art professor at my alma mater, Middle Tennessee State University, for 37 years. He was up for re-election to the school board this year and received nearly 400 votes posthumously as a testament to his legacy.

Lon did many things to improve the quality of education for children in Murfreesboro, including banning the practice of corporal punishment, championing full-time art teachers in each city school and establishing the Murfreesboro City Schools Foundation, an organization that fundraises for local schools.

Lon was a founding member of Congregation Micah in Nashville and the Tennessee Holocaust Museum. He facilitated the acquisition of two exhibits to educate the public through art—exhibits the Tennessee Holocaust Museum is now releasing to tour the United States. Lon was the faculty advisor of MTSU's Hillel and helped establish Friends-in-Faith, an interfaith group with members representing almost every religion in Middle Tennessee.

Prior to his unexpected passing, several community programs—Read to Succeed, Success by 6 and Project Pass—were establishing a literacy center in a space provided by First Baptist Church on East Main Street in Murfreesboro. It is fitting tribute that they have named the center the Lon Nuell Family Literacy Center. Lon believed in education for everyone and in the strength of collaboration.

Lon will be sorely missed by the community, his friends and family; wife, Christie and three sons, but his legacy will live on.

**AGGIE MUSTER**

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I may not exactly be the biggest Texas A&M fan around. And, I possibly ruffle a few maroon feathers from time-to-time poking fun at the Aggies. But, one thing I can say without a doubt is that there is no school known to man that has as loyal a following and dedication to tradition as Texas A&M. Trust me I know, I hear about every little quirky thing they do from my friend and former case manager, Patti Chapman—or "Aggie Mama" as her license plate proudly reads, and from Congressman Louie Gohmert from East Texas, with his maroon boots adorned with the Aggie logo.

You can always spot an Aggie, either from their personalized license plate, their maroon pickup adorned with A&M stickers, or the ring—don't forget the ring! And I have yet to meet an Aggie that doesn't work in to any

conversation that you are having that they are an Aggie and what year they graduated, especially if you are not one. But with all their whooping and hissing, comes one tradition that I have the greatest respect for—Aggie Muster.

Last week, on April 21st, Aggies all around the world paid tribute to those that have gone before them. This time honored tradition began in June of 1883 as a reunion of sorts of former students reliving their college days from the ball field to the battlefield. By 1889 it had evolved into a celebration of Texas Independence, and in 1922 it became the official ceremony it is today that is held every year on April 21st—San Jacinto Day—the day Texas won its independence in 1836—to account for every Aggie around the world by honoring the "Roll Call of the Absent."

According to tradition, "if there is an A&M man in one hundred miles of you, you are expected to get together, eat a little, and live over the days you spent at the A&M College of Texas." The most famous example of this edict was the Muster of 1942 under the command of General George Moore during World War II. Amid fierce enemy fire, General Moore and 25 fellow Aggies mustered in the trenches on Corregidor in the Philippines. A war correspondent observed the make-shift ceremony and the world was introduced to the Aggie spirit.

During times of war, Muster is especially poignant. Texas A&M has produced more officers in the United States military than even West Point. It has the distinction, other than West Point, of having more Medal of Honor winners than any other university in the United States. When General George Patton was in Europe going to combat in the Third Army, he made a comment about the Texas Aggies and the soldiers that he had under his command. He said, "Give me an army of West Point graduates and I will win a battle. You give me a handful of Texas Aggies, and I will win the war."

The Aggies' long tradition of duty and service to our great nation dates back their beginning, to the days when A&M was an all-male military academy. Texas A&M trained nearly 4000 troops during World War I and over 20,000 Aggies served in World War II, 14,000 as officers. The entire graduating classes of 1941 and 1942 enlisted in the military. The Aggie War Hymn was written by Aggie Marine J.V. "Pinky" Wilson while standing guard on the Rhine River during World War I and it remains the most recognizable school fight song across the country—probably the world.

Today, Muster is observed in more than 400 places worldwide and this year's "Roll Call of the Absent" honored 970 people around the world, including those remarkable young men and women who gave their lives for our country today. While this is a time to honor those that have died, it also is a time when Aggies, young and old, come together to reconnect and celebrate a way of life known only to those that proudly call themselves an Aggie.

Muster means different things to different people. Every Aggie will tell you something different, something personal about what it means to them as an Aggie. One thing that is consistent in every answer is their dedication to tradition. It is the rich heritage of tradition that sets Texas A&M apart from all the rest. It is the Corps, the Aggie War Hymn, the 12th Man, Midnight Yell, Bonfire, State pride, and

as much as it pains me to say it—it's TU. It's the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Silver Taps and "Hallabaloo, Canek, Canek." It's the Junction Boys, Howdy, Gig'em, Reville, the Dixie Chicken and of course, the ring. But above all else—it's Muster.

Gig'em Ags!  
And that's just the way it is.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, each year on April 24, Armenian communities around the world commemorate the start of the Armenian genocide. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of this ominous date in history when Ottoman authorities began rounding up leaders of the Armenian community. The arrests were followed by eight years of massacres, death marches, and forced deportations to rid the Ottoman Empire of its Armenian population.

At the time, American diplomats, under the leadership of U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr., recorded and reported information about these atrocities. While the calls for international action were soon eclipsed by the tumult of World War I, the State Department's historical records of these accounts are a remarkable example of the important role our diplomatic corps play as human rights observers around the world.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 106, a resolution affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide, which calls for our foreign policy to reflect the U.S. record relating to this painful chapter of history. As we mourn the victims of the Armenian genocide and pay tribute to the survivors, let us look forward to the opportunity for the House to consider H. Res. 106 and stand up to those who seek to deny the genocide that took place.

THE DAILY 45: 41 PEOPLE SHOT IN 5 DAYS IN CHICAGO

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. In light of the shocking turn of events in the last five days in Chicago, I can imagine a day in the near future when this number may rise.

Yesterday, just seven blocks from my office, in the heart of my own congressional district, this Southside community was left reeling because five people—five people—were found shot to death in one home! As I mentioned yesterday, 36 people were shot in Chicago over a 48-hour period of time last weekend.

That's 41 people shot or killed, in only five days, in one American city. Who will tell their stories? Who will care about them?

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45."

When will Americans say enough is enough, stop the killing!

JOHN ARCHIBALD WHEELER

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 2008, America lost one of its greatest scientific minds. Dr. John Archibald Wheeler influenced generations of scientists (including me) and his imprint on the field of physics and our collective understanding of the universe we inhabit cannot be overstated.

Wheeler began his career in the company of men whose names are well known to history—Niels Bohr and Albert Einstein. Wheeler, who earned his Ph.D. in physics at age 21, went to Denmark a year after earning his degree to study under Bohr, who at the time was on the cutting edge of nuclear research. It was only after Bohr fled Denmark in 1939—just months before the Nazi occupation of the country—that Wheeler learned of the research Bohr and others had been conducting into the possibilities and ramifications of nuclear fission.

Ultimately, Wheeler would join Robert Oppenheimer and others on the Manhattan Project, turning America into the world's first nuclear power. Later, Wheeler would play a key role the development of thermonuclear weapons and become an advocate of the war in Vietnam and of the creation of a ballistic missile defense system for the United States. But for all his work on weapons of war, his passion was trying to understand the workings of the universe.

We owe the term "black hole" to Wheeler, who initially resisted the idea of the existence of these stellar phenomena but was ultimately persuaded of their existence by the mathematical work of Dr. David Finkelstein and others. In this, Wheeler demonstrated the traits of the best scientists: a willingness to challenge, and ultimately change, his views based on the facts and evidence.

When he reached Princeton University's mandatory retirement age in 1976, Wheeler was not ready to walk away from the profession he loved. He moved to Texas, taking up residence at the University of Texas at Austin and continued his investigation into the workings of the universe, seeking to understand "how everything fits together." He continued to teach, lecture, and write for many more years, and his influence on at least two generations of physicists will be felt for generations to come.

Dr. Wheeler's wife of 72 years, the late Janette Hegner Wheeler, passed away in October 2007 at age 99. The Wheelers are survived by their three children, Ms. Lahnston and Letitia Wheeler Ufford, both of Princeton; James English Wheeler of Ardmore, Pa.; 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren and 11 step-great grandchildren.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring John Wheeler through H. Res. 1118. We can honor him best by recommitting ourselves to making America the world leader in scientific research and achievements, and I will certainly do all I can to make that another of Dr. Wheeler's lasting achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Israel is not only a close military ally and trade partner, it is also a true friend of the United States.

The United States shares Israel's commitment to peace and freedom. We share a commitment to democracy, the Rule of Law and we share a culture that honors life—not that glamorizes death. Perhaps more than any other people, Israel understands the insidiousness of evil and the need for good people to remain vigilant against it. We share a great deal, Madam Speaker. It is no accident that the United States and Israel are such great friends.

Despite frequent and cowardly attacks, this young country has withstood every missile, every grenade, every car bomb, every suicide bomber. Israel has weathered the violence of terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which have vowed Israel's destruction and which receive copious funding from Iran and Syria. Israel must combat these constant and cowardly attacks, but rarely does the world acknowledge the restraint shown by Israel in defending itself, trying always to wage this war of survival with reverence for innocent life.

While rockets rain down on Israel from terrorists operating in Gaza, Israel continues to allow the delivery of food and medicines across the Gaza border. Although Hamas seizes humanitarian aid for its own nefarious uses and exploits humanitarian vehicles to smuggle weapons and explosives, Israel continues to allow aid to flow across its border with Gaza. While Israel's enemies purposely target the innocent, Israel responds with tactical strikes against terrorists, their weapons bases, and their command centers to protect the innocent. While the forces of extremism and terrorism continue to barrage freedom-loving people in Israel and around the globe, I am heartened to see that the forces of evil have failed to destroy the basic goodness of those who struggle against terror so that they may live in peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate Israel for its tremendous contributions to the world and to express my profound gratitude for Israel's unwavering friendship with the United States.

40 YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING, THE PEACE CORPS CONTINUES ITS MISSION WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM MAINE

**HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, in March, we marked the 47th anniversary of the founding

of the Peace Corps. This unique service organization continues to fulfill its mission across the globe, bringing people together, and enlightening both American volunteers and the people and communities they serve.

After President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, 51 Americans stepped forward to assume the challenge to serve.

Today, there are over 8,000 volunteers serving in over 74 countries around the world. They work in areas such as education, business development, environment, health and HIV/AIDS, and agriculture. They live the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. They are both young and seasoned, but all contribute enormous skills, knowledge, compassion and commitment to help people help themselves. Over the years, Maine has contributed many volunteers to the Peace Corps. Current Maine residents now serving are:

Cassandra M. Atwood in Tonga, Michael T. Berg in Armenia, Clarissa L. Brundage in Togo, Selina H. Carter in Ecuador, Andrea D. Danielson in Gambia, Shawn C. Donohue in Mali, Greg N. Dorr in Malawi, Laura N. Dow in China, John M. Engler in Guatemala, Jeffrey E. Frank in Belize, Rebecca B. Friedrichs in Togo, Joseph P. Guglielmetti in Zambia, Benjamin C. Hatch in Mali, Clint O. Benslev in Romania, Richard E. Higgins in the Philippines, Sarah W. Holt in Ecuador, Matthew P. Krannig in Nicaragua, Jessica E. Lampron in South Africa, Karen A. Lee in Swaziland, Joshua D. Lincolns in Bolivia, David A. Ludman in Benin, Ran L. Mastropaolo in the Eastern Caribbean, Joshua R. Meservey in Zambia, Matthew A. Mowatt in Kazakhstan, Joel L. Patterson in Senegal, James Perlow in South Africa, Nancy L. Sherrill in South Africa, John W. Shryock in Bulgaria, Emily E. Silver in Tanzania, Jessica J. Sleeper in Vanuatu, Zoe J. Underhill in Ecuador, Aaron A. Weiss in Moldova, Cheney J. Wells in Costa Rica and Nicholas B. Wilson in Gambia.

I am proud that Maine, a small state in population, is making such a big difference in the world. My deep gratitude goes to these volunteers for serving their country, the Peace Corps and world peace.

#### 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate one of the most tragic chapters in human history: the Armenian genocide, whose 93rd anniversary is marked today. From 1915 to 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign of massacres and forced deportations of Armenians from their homeland. All told, 1.5 million innocent men, women and children were murdered in this genocide, and 500,000 became refugees and displaced persons.

And sadly, we see this pattern—of genocide—repeating itself today. It is no coincidence that on this very day of commemoration, the news from Darfur grows only worse. While the world's worst humanitarian and human rights crisis continues to unfold, the re-

gime in Khartoum continues to stymie the implementation of a peacekeeping force, and the peace process has ground to a halt. From the U.N. come frightening new figures—300,000 dead and the vast majority of the region's population, 4.27 million out of 6 million, now "seriously affected" by the conflict.

Clearly, patterns repeat themselves. Which is all the more reason why, in commemorating the 20th century's first genocide, one cannot help but feel compelled to redouble our efforts to resolve the 21st century's first genocide—that of Darfur.

The Genocide Convention speaks not only of addressing genocide after it has happened—but also of preventing genocide. This day of commemoration should remind us all that we have a responsibility not only to honor the victims of genocide and their families, not only a responsibility to the past, but to the future. In the face of continuing genocide, we have a responsibility for action—not apathy.

In a July 24, 1915 cable, American Consul Leslie Davis said of the genocide of Armenians, "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man." Today, those words strike us not only as tragic—but as outdated. The troubled 20th century showed us, again and again and again, that the mind of man is more than capable of such diabolical schemes.

Today, burdened by the memory of those crimes, we remember and rededicate. Today we return to the origin of genocide, and we honor the dead. Let us find in their memory not only grief, but new resolution—to speedily end today's atrocities, to prevent those of tomorrow, and to punish all those who would attempt or carry out evil on such a scale.

#### TRIBUTE TO ERNEST LEROY PETERSON

#### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotic public service and self sacrifice of Ernest LeRoy Peterson.

Ernest LeRoy Peterson was born on December 28, 1920, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Oscar and Nora Peterson. He was the second eldest son of eight children. As a child, he moved to the eastern plains of Colorado, where his family was involved in farming.

In August 1942, he was drafted into the 531st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, 30th Army Division, as a private. He completed basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas and then advanced combat training at Camp Coxcomb, California. He later advanced to the rank of sergeant and section chief of Squad 13, Eighth Gun Crew.

On February 12, 1944, his battalion sailed out of Boston Harbor aboard the RMS *Empress of Australia*, bound for England. The ship, one of the largest transport vessels, held 6,800 troops. Ernie's bunk was in the swimming pool due to the lack of space. After 10 days on the high seas, the unit debarked at the bomb-scarred city of Liverpool.

On June 4, 1944, General Eisenhower spoke to Ernest and thousands of other troops over a loud speaker telling them an invasion of France would begin on June 6 and said, "Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied expeditionary force, you are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. . . . I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

Ernest landed on Omaha Beach with the 531st on June 15th, nine days after D-day. Facing fierce battles along the way, Ernest's division first encountered the Germans at Isigny, France. During his march to Germany, Ernest participated in the Battle of the Bulge, which started on December 16, 1944. Three powerful German armies with over 500,000 men plunged into the heavily forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. The Americans were able to stop them at Malmedy.

Ernest dug in his defensive position at Malmedy not more than 100 yards from where 86 American prisoners had been massacred by the Germans the day before. For 5 days in a row his unit was under air attack in Malmedy by Americans who thought the city had fallen to the Germans. Ernest eventually marched into Germany and met up with Russian soldiers on April 17, 1945.

Ernest's unit also went to Buchenwald concentration camp. They found piles of human bones and piles of eyeglasses five feet tall, as well as lamp shades made out of human skin. The prisoners that remained were skin and bone. Ernest did occupational duty as a guard at a prison in St. Marc, France, before returning to the United States. He received an honorable discharge from the Army on November 14, 1945.

For his service to this Nation, Ernest was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, the Sharpshooter Badge and Rifle Bar and the Marksman Badge and Submachine Gun Bar. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French for volunteering to go on a special mission to push the Germans back across the Rhine River as well as the Fourragère of Belgium for his part in the liberation of Belgium.

On April 13, 2008, Ernest LeRoy Peterson passed away at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Charlotte, his two children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Peterson and other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "Greatest Generation," I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Mr. Ernest LeRoy Peterson.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JAMES “CHOPPY” SAUNDERS, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MIDDFFEST INTERNATIONAL

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of James “Choppy” Saunders, a leading citizen of Middletown, Ohio and to express my appreciation for his

dedication and commitment to public service. Since 1986 Choppy has given freely of his time and talents to Middfest International and for that I offer him my utmost congratulations and thanks.

Choppy’s love for his community goes far beyond his involvement with Middfest and his 17 years as its General Chairman. He has served on many boards and commissions. He is the past President and First Vice-President of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Planning Authority and Regional Council of Governments, President of the Middletown Board of Health, President of the Middletown Area Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of the

Middletown Area Neediest Youth and of course was the first African American elected to the Middletown City Commission.

Choppy’s record—as a committed community man and as a good neighbor helping those in need—will leave an enduring legacy in Middletown. His leadership will be missed, but the footprint he has left will inspire many to emulate his good works.

Choppy, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for your long and successful career in public service. I wish you well in your retirement, and I hope you continue to achieve happiness and success wherever your life journey may lead you.