

social interests and community projects. The Avon Club also established itself as a service organization willing to raise money to support civic improvements and other charitable community organizations.

Each year the Avon Club hosts two major fundraisers to support its many community service activities. An annual fall festival is sponsored in early October and this event features a celebration of the creative, musical, and culinary talents of local district residents. The annual fashion show and luncheon provides an opportunity to enjoy food and good conversation while viewing the latest from the fashion world. In addition to these fundraisers, the Avon Club has published a community telephone directory since 1952. Members canvass their local neighborhoods and all residents, local businesses, and merchants are invited to be listed in this valuable community resource.

Avon Club member dedicated the proceeds from these fundraising activities to the support of several charitable activities. Since 1990, these charitable activities have been managed by the Avon Club Foundation, a nonprofit organization which manages both fundraising activities and the distribution of funds. In 1994, the Avon Club Foundation gave away \$7,671 and brought the total level of philanthropic contributions throughout their 50 years to over \$100,000.

The Avon Club Foundation is guided by long-range goals emphasizing service to education, recreation, the environment and social responsibility. The foundation has donated funds to local parks, schools, sports organizations and also provides assistance to charitable organizations serving women and children. Members of the Avon Club have also volunteered with local recycling efforts and community cleanup days.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting for the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join in saluting an organization like the Avon Club. The Members of the Avon Club are to be commended for their energy and neighborhoods together to the benefit of all local residents.

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. MIKE TRACY
AND SGT. TOM VANDERPOOL

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 15, the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police will honor over 100 police officers from across the Nation who were slain in the line of duty. Among those officers are two courageous men from the 36th Congressional District of California who gave their lives to protect others. It is with deep sadness that I join in paying tribute to these individuals, Capt. Mike Tracy and Sgt. Tom Vanderpool.

Mike Tracy and Tom Vanderpool were both gunned down by a robber on February 14, 1994, while they attended a management seminar for employees of the city of Palos Verdes Estates, CA. Both men were model police officers who leave behind family, friends, colleagues, and a community made all the better by their service.

Mike, who was raised in Torrance, CA, first joined the PVE Police Department as a reserve officer in 1966. His colleagues described him as a "cop's cop": instinctive, professional, and supportive of his fellow officers. Those close to him say he liked to "live life to the fullest," and many were touched by his humor and humanity. In his spare time, Mike counseled teenagers in trouble. He was also a husband, and father of two.

Tom spent his early years in law enforcement with the Los Angeles Police Department before beginning 13 years of service with the PVE Police Department. He was respected by his colleagues and occupied a special place in the hearts of needy children in the community. Every Christmas, he would use his patrol car to deliver toys, blankets, and clothing to these children and their families. A husband and father of three, Tom was preparing to celebrate his 36th wedding anniversary shortly before he was killed.

My heart fills with sadness when I think of the tragic circumstances surrounding the deaths of these two officers. The job of our law enforcement officers has changed dramatically from earlier times in our Nation's history. Not only must these officers protect our citizens against dangers unimaginable, but they must increasingly protect themselves from mindless expressions of rage and frustration. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those men and women who do the job of law enforcement every day.

A luncheon to award the South Bay Medal of Valor was recently held in my district to honor those who have performed heroic acts in the line of duty. Capt. Mike Tracy and Sgt. Tom Vanderpool were both awarded the medal posthumously. I only wish the legislative schedule had permitted me to be there, as I was when hundreds of Californians including my Governor attended their funeral.

To their families and friends, and to the families and friends of all officers slain in the line of duty, your loved ones were patriots. They gave their lives for ours.

IN HONOR OF GILBERT HERRERA,
OUTSTANDING YOUNG TEXAS-EX

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to rise today to pay tribute to Gilbert A. Herrera, a recipient of the 1995 Outstanding Young Texas-Ex Award. Gilbert was a page in the Texas Senate during the time that I was a Texas State Senator, and we have been great friends ever since. Gilbert's intelligence, enthusiasm, and commitment to excellence have served him well, culminating with this prestigious honor.

The Outstanding Young Texas-Ex Award has been presented annually since 1980 by the Ex-Students' Association to four alumni under the age of 41 who have excelled in their chosen fields of endeavor and have shown loyalty to the University of Texas. The 1995 award will be presented during UT's spring commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 20.

Gilbert graduated from UT in 1978 with a B.B.A. degree in finance. He is a principal of

G.A. Herrera & Co., a private investment banking firm with offices in Houston and Austin, and he is also a consultant on corporate governance. Gilbert previously served in a variety of corporate finance and banking positions. In 1993 he was appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to the Commission for Lawyer Discipline, where he serves as chair of its budget committee.

Gilbert also has been active in community service. He is a member of the Board of Advisors for the Texas Product Development Commission. In Houston he served on the Houston Parks Board and as trustee of the Harris County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority, where he chaired the Legislative and Employee Benefits Committees. Gilbert is a life member of the Ex-Students' Association, a lifetime member of the Century Club, a member of the Littlefield Society, the UT Chancellor's Council, the MBA Investment Fund, L.L.C., and the Longhorn Associates for Women's Athletics.

Gilbert and his wife, Kari, have been personal friends of mine for many years. Today I join their family and many friends in offering my sincere congratulations to this outstanding young Texas Ex on his selection for this prestigious award. His achievements are a source of pride for his family, his friends, and the University of Texas, and I know that he will continue to distinguish himself in his profession as well as in his service to his community, his State, and his country.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MEXI-
CAN-AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY
FOUNDATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation [MAOF] as they inaugurate their new facilities on Thursday, May 11, 1995.

MAOF was founded in 1962 by Mr. Dionicio Morales in Los Angeles, CA, and for over 33 years it has provided educational and charitable assistance to the general public and the Latino community. MAOF has developed and administered projects, programs, research and related activities on behalf of the socially and economically disadvantaged youth and adults of our community.

One of the special projects began when Mr. Morales and MAOF recognized the plight of Latina women. Eighteen years ago, MAOF created "Visiones Hispanas", a Hispanic women's conference that focuses on Hispanic women's needs and provides direction on career and education opportunities.

In furthering their mission to assist economically disadvantaged individuals, MAOF has established child care development programs. MAOF founded these centers to provide a bilingual/bicultural learning environment for children. It is a developmental program where children, whether they speak only English or only Spanish, become an integral component of this educational interaction with the teachers. Additionally, MAOF sponsors child nutrition programs, in conjunction with their child

care development centers, to ensure that the children are receiving a nutritious diet.

In short, MAOF has been at the forefront of helping the people of the community advance and prosper through work and education.

Mr. Speaker, it is with pride that I rise to recognize one of the finest community organizations in the country, the Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation, and its founder, Mr. Dionicio Morales. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating them and wishing them continued success in their new facility.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 1995

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD statements written by two young Armenian students from my district. These letters were written about the Armenian genocide and were selected as award winning essays by the Central California chapter of the Armenian National Committee.

These essays are statements about the suffering the Armenian people incurred at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish government, and about remembering the victims of the genocide. I am honored to represent thousands of Armenians in my district, and equally honored that I can count essay award winners Taleen Kojayan and Denyse Kachadoorian among them.

MANY REASONS TO REMEMBER (By Taleen Kojayan)

Everyone knows about the Jews and the Holocaust, about the horrible agony they were put through by the Germans. But who knows about what began on the terrible day, April 24, 1915? To most people this is just an ordinary day from the past. It has no meaning, no significance. But, to every proud Armenian, this date means anguish and grief. It reminds them of the torture their people went through years before. It reminds them of Armenian genocide.

"Armenian genocide? Is that the German thing?" said someone. When the word "genocide" is heard, that's what most people think of. Little do they know that there was another genocide, where two-thirds of a nation was wiped off the face of this Earth. One and one-half million Armenian men, women and children massacred.

Who is responsible for the dreadful butchery of the Armenian people? The answer is clear. There is no doubt that the Turks were the ones who wanted to get rid of the Armenians for good.

This wasn't the first time that the Turks had harmed the Armenians. There is a history of conflict between them. For example in 1896, the Turks managed to kill 300,000 Armenians. There were also other instances during 1894, which is the time they began their campaign to wipe out the Armenians.

Of course it isn't logical that 1.5 million Armenians were killed in one single day. The day April 24 was chosen as the beginning for a special reason. On this day, about 200 Armenian intellectuals were gathered from the Turkish city of Istanbul. They were taken to central Turkey and were never heard from again. People are weaker without their lead-

ers, and the Turks knew that. This marked the start of the Armenian genocide.

The first place they wanted "Armenian-free" was Istanbul. Many Armenians lived there who had power and money. They owned businesses and controlled the markets. The Turks were tired of being outnumbered by Armenians in their own city. So, they walked out in the streets beating a big drum. They said they needed Armenian men between the ages of 16 and 60 to fight in the war for them. That was just an excuse.

Some of the richer Armenians paid a fee, called the Bedel, to try to get their sons out of the fighting. Even though the fee was paid, it was ignored and the men still had to go. Others might have known that there was more to the story than what they were being told.

The Turks could have killed the people right there in Istanbul, so why didn't they? Well, the killing couldn't go on in Istanbul because it was close to Europe. The Turks couldn't run the risk of anyone knowing. So, the people were rounded up, taken to central Turkey and then massacred just like the intellectuals.

So began three years of pain and death for the Armenian people. They were tortured in many ways. Most were sent out into the desert with no food or water. It soon became the grave of many helpless Armenians, including a member of my grandfather's family. Some people were hung, and some were shot. The heads of others who were beheaded were displayed on wooden poles. Some little girls who survived this horrible ordeal were found in other homes.

All of this suffering, and who knows about it? No one knows, and no one cares about what happened to us. Why are the Armenians so unimportant to this world? Yes, the massacre happened, and no, we shouldn't live in the past. But something like this should not and cannot be forgotten. When the extermination of a whole race of people is attempted, everyone should remember so that they will learn from our mistakes.

"After all, who remembers today the extermination of the Armenians?"

—Adolf Hitler, Aug. 22, 1939.

We shouldn't forget that the Armenian people made it through. They strived to make sure that the Turks did not succeed. And they accomplished just that, or else I wouldn't be here today. The Armenians survived, and will continue to do so.

"Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

—William Saroyan.

[Taleen Kojayan is a 10th-grade student at Clovis West High School.]

HORRID MEANS OF SUFFERING

"We will forget our terrible wound and our grief. We will forget, won't we? If we return to our land."

—Vahan Tekeyan, 1918.

(By Denyse Kachadoorian)

Genocide can be defined in five acts: killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births within the groups, or forcibly transferring children of the group to another group. Unfortunately the Armenians living in 1915 experienced these inconceivable acts, but the survivors struggled and overcame many hardships to rebuild their race.

The "Armenian Experience" started during the late 1800s. Armenians suffered greatly under Turkish rule from discrimination, heavy taxation and armed attacks. From 1894 to 1896, the Turks and Kurds, under Sultan Abdul-Hamid II, carried out a campaign to erase Armenians. Hundreds of thousands were killed.

During World War I, Armenia became a battleground between Turkey and Russia. The Turks feared the Armenians would aid the Russians. As a result, they deported Armenians living in Turkish Armenia into the desert of present-day Syria. Approximately 1 million Armenians died of starvation or lack of water alone. Several others fled to Russian Armenia and in 1918 formed an independent republic.

The Armenians people endured horrendous types of suffering—physical, emotional and tragic moral choices. Hunger plagued the minds of many Armenians in 1915. Some people were reduced to eating grass, similar to cattle grazing.

Several diseases were contracted during this time; typhus, dysentery, malaria and others. Lice was a familiar problem for these Armenians. Children who entered orphanages were deloused before anything else. Armenians were forced to live as wild animals, exposed to desert heat by day and freezing cold or rain at night.

Beyond the physical pain, the genocide victims had to deal with emotional suffering. Practically every survivor can name a family member who was murdered during this period.

Although the massacre occurred almost 80 years ago, it continues to touch the present generations. My paternal grandmother, born in 1911 in Armenia, was a survivor. She vividly described her family situation as homeless and broke. Her father, grandfather and uncle were all captured and presumably murdered. They were forced to abandon their homes and linger around the town for any sign of assistance. Relief arrived soon when an uncle, who lived in the United States, gave them enough money to emigrate to America.

In 1915, the world became aware of the Armenian genocide by newspapers, books, articles, official investigations and eyewitness accounts. Even following these valid accounts, the U.S. government has denied April 24 as a day of national recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The debates of 1985 and 1990 clearly reveal that the world is still withholding a formal declaration of these terrible events. The reason behind the U.S. government's decision for rejecting the day is that Turkey is an important NATO ally and jeopardizing the national security over an issue so insignificant would not be in the best interests of the American public.

As a result, the American government denied the day of remembrance to Armenians. This decision was hard to swallow for Armenian-Americans. They felt that the government to which they held allegiance to, contributed to and fought for had slighted them as a race. Armenians who began a new life in the United States decided to put aside their troubles and past experiences and work hard in their new homeland. Their determination and work ethic enabled them to blossom into reputable citizens of this country.

These survivors have rebuilt a proud race with strong family unity, despite the disappointing fact that they are disregarded as victims of an international atrocity by their government. Nevertheless, Armenians are proud of themselves, their fellow brothers and their history.

[Denyse Kachadoorian is in the 11th grade at Bullard High School.]