

resources that we can prevent detrimental impacts to America's natural resources and cave ecosystems.

The goals of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute, as outlined in the report, would be to further the science of speleology, to centralize speleological information, to further interdisciplinary cooperation in cave and karst research programs, and to promote environmentally sound, sustainable resource management practices. These goals would work hand in hand with the proposed objectives of the Institute to establish a comprehensive cave and karst library and information data base, to sponsor national and international cave and karst symposiums, to develop long term research studies, to produce cave-related educational publications and to develop cooperative agreements with all Federal agencies having cave management responsibilities.

The vicinity of Carlsbad Caverns National Park is ideal due to the community support which already exists for the establishment of the institute and the diverse cave and karst resources which are found throughout the region.

Carlsbad, NM, has grown from a small railroad stop on what is now the Santa Fe Railroad to a growing city with a population of over 170,000 in the tri-county area. It continues to attract new businesses, small manufacturers, retirees and research facilities, including the U.S. Department of Energy's Carlsbad area office. In addition, Carlsbad Caverns National Park attracts over 700,000 visitors per year.

The National Cave and Karst Research Institute would be jointly administered by the National Park Service and another public or private agency, organization, or institution as determined by the Secretary. The Carlsbad Department of Development [CDOD], after reviewing the National Cave and Karst Research Institute study report, has developed proposals to obtain financial support from available and supportive organizational resources, including personnel, facilities, equipment and volunteers. They further believe that they can obtain serious financial support from the private sector and would seek a matching grant from the State of New Mexico equal to the available Federal funds.

Carlsbad already has in place many of the needed cooperative institutions, facilities and volunteers that will work toward the success of the National Cave and Karst Institute. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation to increase our understanding of cave and karst systems. •

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to the solemn anniversary of the Armenian genocide. In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Government launched an extermination campaign against all Armenians

on its territory. The result of that gruesome policy was the death of about 1.5 million people, the destruction of a once flourishing community, and the scattering of the survivors around the globe.

Many Armenians came to America, where they have rebuilt their communities, prospered and become a vital part of the American body politic. They have nurtured our democracy, while maintaining their traditions and always remembering the circumstances that forced them from their homeland. Meanwhile, their brothers and sisters in Armenia endured communism and Joseph Stalin, but despite the different fates of these two communities, they remained stubbornly and proudly Armenian, even when contact between them was difficult.

In 1991, Armenia became an independent country and has worked hard to consolidate its independence since then. Today Armenia is a respected member of the international community, its progress toward democratization and economic well-being promoted by the worldwide Armenian Diaspora and by supportive governments, especially the United States.

Independence confers freedom, but not necessarily freedom from hardship. Apart from the devastating December 1988 earthquake, Armenia has also endured the consequences of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the adversities caused by blockades imposed by neighboring Azerbaijan and Turkey. Happily, the Nagorno-Karabakh cease-fire has held since May 1994, offering grounds to hope that the conflict will be peacefully resolved in the foreseeable future. All the parties to this dispute must pursue its peaceful resolution through the OSCE process, and with active American involvement, bring about a lasting stable peace.

In the spirit of reconciliation and looking ahead to Armenia's future, President Ter-Petrosyan said in Washington last year that "Armenia has no enemies." All of us who are friends of Armenia are working for precisely that future, for an Armenia without enemies, while remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. President, in light of the fact that, for the first time since World War II, there are international tribunals investigating two current genocides, one in Bosnia and one in Rwanda, it is very important that all of us remember the first genocide of the 20th century, and dedicate ourselves to the proposition that there will be no new genocides in the future. •

81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, 81 years ago today one of the most horrific events of our century began. On this day in 1915, hundreds of Armenian political and religious leaders were arrested, taken to the Turkish interior, and executed. This began a terrible

chapter of history—the Armenian genocide.

In the 8 years that followed, over a million Armenians were killed at the hands of the Ottoman authorities. Men, women, and children were brutally taken from their homes to be abused and killed in mass slayings. Others were rounded-up and marched for weeks through the Syrian desert where many more perished. Symbols of culture—churches, libraries, and towns—were razed.

On this, the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, we must remember and we must speak out.

Many call this tragedy "the forgotten genocide". In our world of terror and continued upheaval it is essential that we never forget. We must remember our history and the lesson of the Armenian genocide. As Americans blessed with security and freedom, we must never let oppression and persecution pass without loud condemnation. By remembering the Armenian genocide, we renew our ongoing commitment to fight for human dignity and freedom throughout the world.

We must also honor the Armenians throughout the world who left their homes in tragedy. They have maintained their proud culture and traditions throughout the world. Their strength and perseverance is a triumph of the human spirit. We should specifically recognize those Armenians who fled from their homes and into our communities. Today we thank them for their invaluable contributions to our society.

Even today, the Armenian people are living under a unfair and unjust blockade preventing needed humanitarian aid. Last year, the Congress enacted the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act that would prohibit U.S. aid to countries that prevent our humanitarian aid from reaching places in need. I was proud to support this act and see it signed into law.

Despite a long history of pain, persecution, and tragedy, the Armenian people have shown remarkable strength, pride, and resilience. We as Americans are proud of their contributions to our society. We will always remember their tragedy and we salute their achievements. •

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF HOSPICE CARE, INC.

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize the volunteers of Hospice Care, Inc. in southwestern Fairfield County, CT. For 15 years Hospice Care has provided care and comfort to people with terminal illnesses. But beyond providing palliative care, Hospice is a program for individuals who are dealing with the emotional and spiritual changes that follow the diagnosis of a life-ending illness.

Hospice could not offer its many meaningful services without its volunteers; they are an integral part of Hospice. Together with professional staff,

volunteers work to relieve the physical, emotional and spiritual pain experienced by the patient and family. Volunteers provide direct patient and family services, including companionship and support, transportation, assistance with chores and errands, and pastoral and bereavement care. Volunteers visit patients and families in their homes and hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and residences for people with AIDS. These volunteers offer a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on during a family's most challenging times.

Other volunteers work behind the scenes, serving on the Board of Directors, assisting in fundraising and public education efforts, and with administrative tasks. In 1994, 100 active volunteers donated more than 12,000 hours of public service, valued at over \$250,000. But one cannot put a price tag on this dedicated service—these efforts are priceless, and Hospice could not operate as successfully as it does without its volunteers.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I commend the volunteers of Hospice Care for their many hours of difficult and dedicated service.●

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 81 years since the tragedy of the Armenian genocide unfolded. Today we pause to remember the victims of this great tragedy and to pay our respects to the survivors.

Indeed it is important that we take this occasion to educate ourselves about the events that constituted the Armenian genocide, and to resolve never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on humanity. Respect for the memories of the Armenians who were martyred in this great tragedy demands that humanity never forget this day. It also represents an opportunity for people of goodwill to honestly confront the past and move to genuine reconciliation.

We are also pleased that after centuries of oppression, the Armenian people are again now free and independent. The Republic of Armenia is proof that the Armenian spirit is alive and vibrant and, despite enormous outside pressures, is making progress and flourishing. As Armenia struggles to reenter the society of nations, it is instructive for us to recognize the sacrifices of the victims of the genocide.

The anniversary of this tragedy holds special meaning to Armenians everywhere and, in spite of a history of many hardships, difficulties and adversity faced by the Armenian people, the community has strengthened its resolve to survive and prosper. Armenian-Americans are one of the best examples of an indomitable human spirit. The contribution of the Armenian community to the cultural, social, economic, and political landscape of America is a source of great strength and vitality in our Nation. Americans

of Armenian origin have kept alive, and not let tragedy shatter, the rich faith and traditions of Armenian civilization.

As we recall the Armenian genocide, it is important to recognize that it was the culmination of an abhorrent pattern of persecution against the Armenian community living in the Ottoman Empire. During the period 1894-1896, and again in 1909, tens of thousands of Armenians lost their lives. On April 24, 1915, 300 Armenian intellectuals, religious and political leaders, and professionals were rounded up by Ottoman authorities and taken to remote parts of Anatolia from where they never returned. At least 250,000 Armenians who loyally served in the Ottoman army were expelled and forced into labor battalions where executions and starvation were common. Men, women, and children were deported from their villages and obliged to march for weeks in the Syrian desert where a majority of them lost their lives.

The unfortunate campaign against this community earlier in this century resulted in widespread deportations and death. More than 1.5 million innocent men, women, and children, out of a total of 2.5 million Armenians living within the Ottoman Empire, lost their lives. Entire families were destroyed, and thousands of survivors were scattered around the world. In fact, contemporaneous newspaper accounts in the United States describing these atrocities inspired Americans to contribute \$113 million in humanitarian assistance from 1915 to 1930 to help the survivors. Americans eventually adopted 132,000 Armenian orphans into this country.

One of the most prominent and reliable accounts of the Armenian genocide is provided by the distinguished United States ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, Henry Morgenthau. In an article published in the Red Cross magazine in 1918, Morgenthau described the wide-scale and systematic attempts by the Ottomans to crush the Armenian community as, "the Greatest Horror in History." Abram Elkus, Morgenthau's successor, also cabled the State Department that the Young Turks policy against the Armenians was an "unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

Both the German and Austrian ambassadors, apprehensive about the attacks against the Armenians, conveyed their concerns directly to the Ottoman leadership. In July of 1915, Hans Von Wangenheim, the German Ambassador to the Ottomans, advised his own government to distance itself from the Ottoman leadership for what he viewed as a campaign to rid "the Armenian race in the Turkish empire."

Extensive evidence, documentation, and first hand accounts have been collected over the years regarding this dark period, much of which is held in

our own National Archives. In 1987, it was fitting that the Holocaust Council expressed its support for making the Armenian genocide part of the permanent exhibits at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In its statement, the council declared that "the fate of the Armenians should be included in any discussion of genocide in the twentieth century."

Several years ago, Elie Wiesel spoke at a Holocaust memorial service here in the Congress and expressed the importance of recognizing the Armenian genocide. He stated, "Before the planning of the final solution, Hitler asked, 'Who remembers the Armenians?' He was right. No one remembered them, as no one remembered the Jews. Rejected by everyone, they felt expelled from history."

Mr. President, we must never forget the moral lesson of the Armenian genocide and honor it by renewing our commitment to human rights and democratic principles.

COMMEMORATING THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mr. PELL. Mr. President, each year on this day, we solemnly join Armenians worldwide in observing the anniversary of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people between 1915 and 1923.

Eighty-one years ago today, Ottoman leaders launched a systematic campaign to eradicate the Armenian people from Ottoman Empire territory. In that year, hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were rounded up and exiled, or murdered. During the next 8 years, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were executed. Many were raped, tortured, or enslaved. In addition to those killed, an estimated 500,000 Armenians were exiled from the Ottoman Empire. Many of those exiles found their way to freedom in the United States where they and their descendants have made—and are continuing to make—a significant contribution to the cultural, political, and commercial life of this country.

Despite the many challenges they have faced over the years, the Armenian people have demonstrated a high degree of independence, resilience, and national pride. I believe the anniversary of the genocide offers an opportunity to reflect upon the challenges Armenia is facing today. In particular, Armenia continues to struggle under blockades by its neighbors, and as a result, it continues to depend heavily on humanitarian assistance. I would note that the United States has responded to Armenia's plight. Armenia receives more assistance per capita than any other Newly Independent State. I know we all look forward to the day when Armenia—a country of great human resources—will be a donor, rather than a recipient of assistance.

In fact, despite the blockades, Armenia has made significant economic