

Our Daughters to Work Day has encouraged young girls to reach out and use their creative spirit and I am confident that this special day will prove again to be a rich and rewarding experience for all parents and daughters alike.

Today, millions of parents across the Nation will take their daughters to work. In 1996, in Maine alone, 10,000 Maine girls and 5,000 Maine businesses participated in Take Our Daughters To Work Day. These parents perform a great service by exposing their daughters to new and exciting experiences. They are not only expanding their horizons and helping them to explore opportunities, but teaching them important lessons about goal-setting as well. Take Our Daughters to Work Day has encouraged a new generation of young girls to envision a world where no goal is impossible.●

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, thanks to Take Our Daughters to Work Day, young girls from all over the country will be given the opportunity to accompany adults to the workplace. Today, young girls will be given the opportunity to shadow an adult mentor—and gain experience in a work environment. What better way to enable girls to explore their future and gain exposure to a wide range of career options?

The focus of this one day event is to bring awareness to the development and education of young girls. Research suggests that young girls often receive less attention in school and suffer from lower expectations than boys. This difference can affect their self-esteem and self-confidence, particularly during the difficult years of adolescence. Lower expectations and self esteem can later prevent them from achieving their maximum potential. This in turn can hinder their own personal and professional development. Therefore, adolescence is a crucial time period for adults to intervene in the lives of young girls. Adults need to take the time to show girls that they can set high goals and pursue their dreams. Today's events will offer inspiration and encouragement to millions of young girls—and show them that adults are committed to helping them—so they can fully expand their horizons and pursue their dreams.

In 1995, women comprised 46 percent of the paid labor force. The composition of the work force has changed significantly, and opportunities have continued to increase for women. Despite these gains, women's wages, on average, still remain below men's. We cannot accept the gap that still exists between men and women. Even though the gap is narrowing—we must continue to work on this issue. Women still experience barriers to non-traditional career roles. A study by the Glass Ceiling Commission found that women occupy only 5 percent of senior

level management of the top Fortune 1000 industrial and 500 service companies. Women only comprise 11 percent of the technical workforce. This needs to change. America's future depends on it. Women need to be encouraged to seize opportunities and explore non-traditional careers. This includes developing skills that will prepare them for high wage jobs and management positions that offer higher salaries in the workforce.

Women are increasingly becoming responsible for the financial well-being of their families. We need to ensure that young girls are prepared for the workforce—and have the opportunity to live up to their full potential. We can only do this if we have a community effort. Today, more than ever— young girls need role models and mentors—so that they can achieve success.●

RECOGNITION OF SERVICE BY MAYOR SMIGLEY

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to recognize 34 years of public service by Mayor Bill Smigley of Veneta, OR. I personally would like to thank Mayor Smigley for his commitment and hard work and wish him all the best in his retirement.

Mayor Smigley served as city councilman for 18 years and mayor for 16 years, but has also shown a life-long dedication to improving not only his community but the State of Oregon. His service as chairman of Lane Council of Governments and his 16-year contribution to the League of Oregon Cities is a testament of his commitment to making Oregon's future brighter for all of us.

I speak on behalf of many Oregonians across the State who look to Mayor Smigley's public service as a source of inspiration and hope that even in his retirement he will continue to work on future endeavors that will benefit our great State.●

THE 82d ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, April 24th, marks the 82nd anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate this terrible chapter in history, to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

Eighty-two years ago today, one of the darkest chapters in human history began. On April 24, 1915, Ottoman authorities began arresting Armenian political and religious leaders throughout Anatolia. Over the ensuing months and years, some 1.5 million Armenians were killed at the hands of the Ottoman authorities, and hundreds of thousands more were exiled from their homes.

On this 82nd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, let us renew our commitment never to forget the horror and barbarism of this event.

We must remember, we must speak out, and we must teach the next generation about the systematic persecution and murder of millions of Armenians by the Ottoman government. I know that I am joined by every one of my colleagues, by the Armenian-American community, and by people across the United States in commemorating the Genocide and paying tribute to the victims of this crime against humanity.

As Americans, we are blessed with freedom and security, but that blessing brings with it an important responsibility. We must never allow oppression and persecution to pass without notice or condemnation.

By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment always to fight for human dignity and freedom, and we send out a message that the world can never allow genocide to be perpetrated again.

Even as we remember the tragedy and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all across the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. My state of California is fortunate to be home to a community of Armenian-Americans a half-a-million strong. They are a strong and vibrant community whose members participate in every aspect of civic life, and California is the richer for their presence.

The strength and perseverance of the Armenian people is a triumph of the human spirit, which refuses to cede victory to evil. The best retort to the perpetrators of oppression and destruction is rebirth, renewal, and rebuilding. Armenians throughout the world have done just that, and today they do it in their homeland as well. A free and independent Armenia stands today as a living monument to the resilience of a people. I am proud that the United States, through our friendship and assistance, is contributing to the rebuilding and renewal of Armenia.

Let us never forget the victims of the Armenian Genocide; let their deaths not be in vain. We must remember their tragedy to ensure that such crimes can never be repeated. And as we remember Armenia's dark past, we can take some consolation in the knowledge that its future is bright with possibility.●

THE 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 82nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, the first such tragedy to occur in the twentieth century. Today, as we renew our commitment to the rights and freedoms of all humanity, we also celebrate the reemergence of an independent Armenia.

It is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people that, after centuries of oppression, they have persevered and re-established a free

and independent nation—a nation as determined as its citizens. In its short existence, the Republic of Armenia has survived the earthquake of 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and a blockade by its neighbors. Truly, the spirit of the nation reflects the spirit of its people.

Despite these hardships, the young republic has made economic progress. As the first of the former Soviet republics to record economic growth, Armenia has kept inflation under control and made great advances toward privatization. Now, it is incumbent upon nations like the United States to continue our policy of engagement and assistance, as Armenia continues its efforts toward establishing a democratic society.

The United States has also benefitted from a strong Armenian presence. With their firm resolve and dedication to democracy, the more than one million Armenian Americans have made significant contributions to the cultural, political and economic life of this nation. At the same time, by preserving their Armenian faith and traditions, they have achieved a balance that enriches our diverse and vital American culture.

The tragic events of 1915–1923 contain in them some important moral lessons. We now realize that a quick and decisive response by the international community might have prevented the persecution and death of more than 1.5 million Armenians. Unfortunately, the world's indifference to their plight not only sealed the futures of the Armenian victims, but paved the way for similar tragedies in the years that followed.

It is imperative, Mr. President, that no nation or individual ever forgets the injustices suffered by the Armenians in 1915. Only by striving for human rights and civil liberties for all people can the promises of human dignity be achieved. In that regard, the highest honor we can accord the heroic Armenian people is to continue the struggle for freedom wherever we are, be it America, Armenia, or anywhere else across the globe. By pursuing that mission, hopefully we can prevent such tragedies from happening again.●

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to observe the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. It is only by keeping the memory of this dark time alive will we keep it from occurring again.

On April 24, 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople—now Istanbul—and killed, marking the beginning of an organized campaign to eliminate the Armenian presence from the Ottoman Empire.

Thousands of Armenians were subjected to torture, deportation, slavery and ultimately, murder. In the 8 years

between 1915 and 1923, roughly 1.5 million men, women and children lost their lives to this genocide. More than 500,000 were removed from their homeland, many of whom perished in forced marches ending in the deserts of Syria.

The Armenians were able to gain their freedom for a short time in 1918, but in 1920, when the former Soviet Union joined the Turkish attack, they were again overpowered. It was only in 1991, following the breakup of the Soviet Union, that the new Republic of Armenia was born. Today, we pay tribute to the courage and strength of a people who would not know defeat.

Yet, independence has not meant an end to their struggle. There are still those who question the reality of the Armenian slaughter. There are those who have failed to recognize its very existence. But we must not allow the horror of the Armenian genocide to be either diminished or denied.

The pages of history are replete with stories of the atrocities man commits against his fellow man. And upon those pages, this massacre is one of the most vile stains. We must learn the lessons of the past well, and never tire of the fight to end prejudice and discrimination. We must show the world the Armenian people did not suffer in vain.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Today we remember the Armenians who died during the years 1915 to 1923 at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Turkish government systematically murdered 1.5 million Armenians and drove half a million into exile. On the eve of the first World War, 2.5 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. Following the brutal Ottoman Turkish campaign, less than 100,000 remained. These Armenians were victims of a policy explicitly intended to isolate, exile, and even extinguish the Armenian population.

As we look at world events today—in Bosnia, in Rwanda, and elsewhere—we see a repetition of what happened in Armenia. In commemorating this day, we remember those who died, and condemn violations of human rights at anytime in the past or the future. We all know that, in the context of world politics, human rights violations are far too common and the response to those violations is often tame at best.

As we meet here today, it is likely that somewhere, a political prisoner is being beaten by the police or armed forces, or by some paramilitary group whose members might include police officers or soldiers. It is likely that a union organizer is being detained or harassed by authorities, that a woman is being raped by government thugs, that a newspaper is being shut down, or that a prisoner has “disappeared.” It is equally likely that the people respon-

sible for such outrages will never be held accountable.

As Americans we must keep a vigilant watch on our world so that the horrors that occurred in Armenia 82 years ago might not be repeated again, and again, and again. History means nothing if we do not learn from it. On a day like today, we must remember what we stand for, and ensure that the U.S. continues to be a beacon of strength and hope for the heroes that stand up and survive such atrocities. These deaths should not be in vain.

I am proud to commemorate this important occasion today.●

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In the 1930's, someone questioned Adolph Hitler about the possible consequences of his plan for the systematic elimination of the Jews. Hitler seemed to believe that there would be none. He allegedly responded, “Who, after all, today remembers the Armenians?”

One of my constituents, Noyemzar Alexanian, remembers. On a spring morning in 1915, when she was 6 years old, the Kurdish calvary surrounded her village. They rounded up all the men and teen-aged boys, tied their hands with rope, took them to a distant field and stabbed them to death. Her father escaped to a neighboring village but was soon discovered. Noyemzar says she remembers her father being led away while her mother cried for help. This little 6-year-old girl then “watched the white shirt of her father as he was led up a mountainside by the soldiers. The white shirt became a dot, and then it was gone.” Noyemzar's father was stabbed to death. Over the next few years, as she was shuttled from the houses of strangers to orphanages, Noyemzar lost her two sisters. But still she did not lose hope. After several years, she and the remaining members of her family escaped to Cuba. She later settled in Rhode Island with her husband, Krikor, another refugee from Armenia. Noyemzar Alexanian is now 88 years old, and every day she remembers.

Mr. President, old and young around the world today remember the Armenian holocaust. We remember that on this date in 1915, the Ottoman Empire and the successor Turkish nationalist regime began a brutal policy of deportation and murder. Over the next 8 years 1.5 million Armenians would be massacred at the hands of the Turks and another 500,000 would have their property confiscated and be driven from their homeland. Engrossed in its own problems at the time, the world did little as the population was devastated.

Despite having already undergone such terrible persecution and hardship, the people of the Armenian Republic