

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF POLICE LT. BARRY ZALESNY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the distinguished career of Lt. Barry Zalesny. Lt. Zalesny has served the people of Bellaire for over four decades as a member of the city's police force. He will be retiring from the police department on May first of this year. During his career, Lt. Zalesny has played a crucial role in the department as well as the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to declare my appreciation for Lt. Zalesny's commitment to his community. It is a privilege to call him a constituent.

13TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, thirteen years ago today, an innocuous experiment designed to test the energy output of the No. 4 unit at the Chernobyl nuclear facility in Northern Ukraine precipitated the worst nuclear accident in history. The resulting explosions blew off a 2,000-ton metal plate that sealed the top of the reactor. The graphite core of the reactor burned out of control for days, releasing more than 100 tons of lethally radioactive material into the environment.

The human cost of this disaster is mind numbing. It is unlikely we will ever know how many deaths can be directly attributed to Chernobyl, but the figure is measured in the tens of thousands. Hundreds of thousands more were subjected to radiation poisoning.

The resulting damage from the Chernobyl disaster was greatly multiplied by the efforts of the Soviet Union to cover up the incident. It was nearly a week before the Soviet Union provided the world with anything more than a few sketchy details concerning the accident. Rescue workers and firefighters were initially sent to the scene without protective gear. For nearly all of these individuals, this was a death sentence. The 40,000 inhabitants of the nearby city of Pripyat, located just two miles from Chernobyl, were largely kept in the dark about the accident. They were not evacuated for days. Today Pripyat is a ghost town.

More than a decade later, the consequences of the Chernobyl accident continue to plague Eastern Europe. Ukraine has been especially impacted. According to the World Health Organization, thyroid cancer among children living near Chernobyl has risen to levels 80 times higher than normal. Vast tracts of what was once prime farm land remains dangerously contaminated and will remain so for decades to come. The ten-story protective sarcophagus that was later built around the ruins of the reactor is in need of repair and replacement. The legacy of Chernobyl is a heavy burden for the people of Ukraine, and our country must do more to help.

As we observe the thirteenth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, let us resolve to learn from this tragedy and prevent it from happening again.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" G. MALCOMSON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William (Bill) G. Malcomson for his 38 years of service in the Department of State. Bill will retire as Regional Director of the Houston Passport Agency.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Bill Malcomson grew up in Morgantown, West Virginia and attended the University of West Virginia. He began his career in the Department of State as a clerk-typist in the Processing Section of the Washington Passport Agency when passport books were printed on Addressograph machines. He then briefly worked in the Department's Operation Center decoding and transcribing incoming telegraphic messages from overseas posts.

In 1962, Bill Malcomson was drafted into the U.S. Army and spent two years at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. Upon completion of his military service and another semester of college, Bill Malcomson returned to the Department of State.

His subsequent assignments, included Chief of the Special Issuance Section, Chief of the Official Travel Section, Operations Officer on the Field Coordination Staff, and Assistant Regional Director of the Washington Passport Agency.

Not only has Bill Malcomson ably served his country, but he is also involved in the community. He is a member of the Greater Houston Partnership and last year, he was Chairman of the Combined Federal Campaign.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate William (Bill) G. Malcomson for his thirty-eight years of service to our great nation. His contributions to the State Department and to all American citizens who traveled abroad in one capacity or another will not be forgotten.

HELP FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, following is the testimony I gave on April 22, 1999 to the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning on behalf of the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program.

There is virtually no disagreement that one-third of the homeless men in this country are veterans—and that approximately 58 percent of those individuals are veterans of the Vietnam era. In my home town of San Diego, it is estimated that 40-50% of the homeless served in our Armed Forces. This means, Mr. Chairman, that tonight in this great country of ours, more than 275,000 veterans

who served their country with honor will sleep in doorways—in boxes—in alleys—and on grates in our cities—and in barns—and lean-tos—and on the ground in rural America. This is a troubling and shameful image and a troubling and shameful reality.

Since 1987, the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), a modest, cost-effective program designed to help homeless veterans reenter and succeed in the job market, has proven its worth. More than 46,000 homeless veterans have received help and support from the community-based organizations funded under HVRP, and many were placed in jobs at a cost of less than \$1,500 per veteran. Few government programs can claim to have achieved so much with so little.

At its fully authorized level of \$10 million, HVRP is profoundly underfunded—and the \$5 million funding level included in the Administration budget, although a welcome increase over past years, is woefully inadequate. The Department of Labor estimates that \$5 million will enable HVRP grantees to assist more than 6,000 veterans and actually place 3,500 homeless veterans in jobs. I ask that you provide the maximum authorization of \$10 million for this program so that more than 7,000 veterans may return to economic self-sufficiency and independence.

Mr. Chairman, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans estimates that 550,000 veterans are homeless over the course of a year. This, to me, is an absolutely staggering and tragic statistic—and to limit funding to \$10 million for the only program that focuses on employment of veterans who are homeless makes no sense. Consequently, I introduced legislation on Tuesday that would authorize \$50 million for HVRP for each fiscal year through 2004. The need is enormous—and the need is real.

I know there are those who ask why we can't simply serve veterans along with other homeless populations. They want to know why we need veteran-specific programs. The answer is rooted in the uniqueness of the shared active-duty military experience—in the discipline, sacrifice, and camaraderie associated with military service. When they go through basic training, young recruits quickly learn that their lives could some day depend on the guy in the next bunk—and that they themselves may be responsible for the lives of their comrades. They learn that they must work together if they are to succeed in their mission—and they will succeed as a group only if each servicemember exercises the self-discipline required to perform responsibly. As a result of this training, homeless veterans respond to, and trust other veterans, and they succeed in programs that replicate the military structure. I expect that the non-veteran homeless population might not benefit from the organization and discipline of veteran-specific homeless programs, but veterans do thrive in this environment.

One of the key factors in the success of HVRP is the outreach to homeless veterans that is most often done by formerly homeless veterans. They are best able to reach out to and convince homeless vets to seek services and assistance. They are best able to recognize the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and arrange for the necessary treatment. They are best able to determine when their fellow veterans are ready to get a job—and to keep a job. And, perhaps most importantly, they are the best possible role models for success. In a recent conversation about the importance of veteran-specific homeless programs, someone said to me—"If one-third of the homeless men in this country spoke only Latin, would it make any sense for homeless providers to speak to them only in English?" And the answer is—of course not! Veterans speak the

same unique language, and they share the same unique experiences. The programs that are based on the principle of "vets helping vets" are most likely to succeed with homeless veterans. The Department of Labor is currently funding HVRP programs in New York, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Texas, and California—and I hope that the members of this Subcommittee who represent those states will make a point of visiting their HVRP grantees and seeing their good work first hand.

Mr. Chairman, I listened closely to the impressive testimony I heard from the veterans' service organizations who testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee over the past few months—and I sense an urgently and frustration that I've not heard before. America's veterans are telling us that they have done more than their fair share—and now they expect us to be their advocates. They are reminding us that America is safe and free only because of the generations of men and women who willingly endured the hardships and sacrifices required to preserve our liberty. I urge you to demonstrate your commitment to America's veterans and provide full funding for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and help bring homeless veterans home.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the horrors in Kosovo continue to unfold, we must not forget the other horrible acts against humanity that preceded it. That is why it is important today that we remember the Armenian Genocide, and honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who died between 1915 and 1923.

The Armenian Genocide started in 1915, when the Turkish government rounded up and killed Armenian soldiers. Then, on April 24, 1915, the government turned its attention to slaughtering Armenian intellectuals. They were killed because of their ethnicity, the first group in the 20th Century killed not for what they did, but for who they were.

By the time the bloodshed of the genocide ended, the victims included the aged, women and children who had been forced from their homes and marched to relocation camps, beaten and brutalized along the way. In addition to the 1.5 million dead, over 500,000 Armenians were chased from their homeland.

It is important that we make the time, every year, to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide. Given global events, that commemoration seems more poignant now. We hope that, by remembering the bloodshed and atrocities committed against the Armenians, we can prevent this kind of tragedy from repeating itself. Unfortunately, these events have again proven us wrong.

So, Mr. Speaker, we must continue to talk about the Armenian genocide. We must keep alive the memory of those who lost their lives during the eight years of bloodshed in Armenia. We must educate other nations who have not recognized that the Armenian genocide occurred. Above all, we must remain vigilant.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Armenian-Americans—the survivors and their descendants—

who continue to educate the world about the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide and make valuable contributions to our shared American culture. Because of their efforts, the world will not be allowed to forget the memory of the victims of the first 20th Century holocaust.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK
PASQUERILLA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, it's with sadness that I note the passing last week of Mr. Frank J. Pasquerilla of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

Frank Pasquerilla was the perfect example of the American Dream.

Growing up poor, through hard-work and dedication he built a Fortune 500 Company. Recognizing the opportunity America had given him, he supported a wide range of economic development, educational advancement, and cultural activities.

Frank made possible the Performing Arts Center at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown, educational facilities at Notre Dame, health care facilities at Georgetown University, and environmental opportunities such as the Heritage Discovery Center in Cambria City.

Frank was someone who could work with people of all philosophies, all backgrounds, and all regions because he always kept in mind what was best for the people, and because he always respected the needs of individuals.

Frank has been involved in every step of development in Johnstown for the last 40 years, and because of him today we have a community with more people working than ever before in history, with cultural activities broader than at any time in history, and with a core of educational opportunities.

A decade ago I was on an election oversight mission to Central America with then Notre Dame President Father Hesburgh. When he found out I knew Frank he asked me to intervene because Frank had given the university a contribution for a new building, but wouldn't let them name it for him. We called him from the plane, and it took a great deal of urging, but he finally consented to let the University place his name on the building.

Frank wasn't trying to build a name for himself, but rather to build a legacy for people to help improve their lives, as he'd been able to improve his. And he succeeded.

Frank Pasquerilla's life stands as a symbol of what we can accomplish in America, and his memory is a reminder of the greatness of an individual, and of our Nation.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE CLEAN-UP

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 26, 1999

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce legislation to clean up a 10.5-million ton pile of low-level radioactive waste from

uranium mill operations just outside Moab, Utah. Currently, this pile sits 750 feet from the banks of the Colorado River, across the road from the Arches National Park, and threatens to contaminate the drinking water supply of 25 million people from Nevada, Arizona, and California.

In the 1950's the Atlas Corporation was called upon to process uranium to meet the defense and commercial fuel needs of the United States. As a result, for decades these wastes have accumulated and today we have a pile of low-level radioactive materials that sits just outside of Moab, Utah and at the gates of the Arches National Park, where hundreds of thousands of people visit each year.

This is not only an incredible eyesore among some of the most beautiful red rock cliffs in the country, but it poses a very significant environmental risk. As water leaches through this heap of tailings, it flows into the Colorado River, is swept downstream where it contaminates the sole drinking source for tens of millions of people in Nevada, Arizona, and California. These radioactive wastes threaten that delicate water supply and must be removed and relocated to a safe, secure location where neither public health and safety nor environmental degradation can occur.

Currently, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has the responsibility for cleanup of this pile. Unfortunately, the NRC has determined that keeping this toxic mass in place is adequate. This simply is not the case. My legislation will transfer the jurisdiction from the NRC to the Department of Energy, where remediation and relocation can begin.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this sensible and conscientious legislation.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide that took place this past weekend at points across the country. The events that took place between 1915 to 1923, when 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were systematically mistreated and killed, represent one of the most dark and the most devastating chapters in human history. Armenians were tortured, had their property confiscated, and thousands died from malnutrition and starvation during long, forced marches from their homeland in Eastern Turkey.

Tragically, the 20th century is now finishing much like it started. The Armenian Genocide not only foreshadowed the nightmare of the Nazi Holocaust, but now shows dangerous parallels to the situation unfolding in Kosovo. Like the Armenian before them, ethnic Albanians are struggling for their dignity and their lives.

That is why it is more critical than ever to revisit history, to listen and learn from the Armenian experience, and to honor the victims of the first genocide of this century. I am amazed that the Turkish government still refuses to admit its involvement in the atrocities, while at the same time our own government