

HONORING PROFESSOR M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as reports come in detailing the events in Kosovo, the "ethnic cleansing" and terror that has forced over a million people from their homes, sadness fills our hearts. Less than two weeks ago I traveled to the Balkans and visited a refugee camp, filled with thousands of people, that had been an empty field just weeks before. We are often so immersed in the accounts of those survivors who have lived through the suffering that we forget about the men and women who have dedicated their lives to ease this pain, and to bringing those who abuse human rights to justice.

Today, I rise to recognize M. Cherif Bassiouni of Chicago, Illinois for his selflessness and dedication to bringing those who commit crimes against humanity to justice. Professor Bassiouni, facing great personal risk and many obstacles, has visited many war-torn sections of Bosnia and Croatia, documenting the atrocities and crimes that have been committed there. His 3,500 pages of analysis, backed by 300 hours of videotape and 65,000 documents served as the foundation for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Professor Bassiouni has also played a key role in the UN Convention against Torture.

Professor Bassiouni has often been a powerful voice insisting that violators of human rights be brought to justice. Professor Bassiouni is a Professor of Law and President of the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University in Chicago. The global impact of his work, dating back to 1964, has led to the creation of the International Criminal Court. A citizen of both the United States and Egypt, Professor Bassiouni is known and respected around the world for his accomplishments. He is the President of the Association Internationale de Droit Penal and President of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science.

Professor Bassiouni has accomplished a great deal in his effort to see that human rights are respected. In 1977, Bassiouni co-chaired the committee that drafted the U.N. Convention Against Torture. He was appointed the independent expert by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to draft the statute establishing international jurisdiction over the implementation of the Apartheid Convention of 1981. Bassiouni was the Chairman of the U.N. Commission investigating international humanitarian law violations in the former Yugoslavia, work that led to the Ad-Hoc Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. His many accomplishments led to his election in 1995 as Vice-Chairman of the U.N. General Assembly Committee for the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

For his work leading to the establishment of the International Criminal

Court, and for his dedication to protecting human rights, Professor Bassiouni has been nominated for the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize. The nominating organization, the International and Scientific Professional Advisory Council of the UN has said that Professor Bassiouni was the "single most driving force behind the global decision to establish the International Criminal Court." This court prosecutes and brings to justice internationally, those who have committed crimes against humanity. His accomplishments in this field have caused Professor Bassiouni to be known as the "father of the International Criminal Court."

Professor Bassiouni has been a great asset to the people of all nations. It was his dedication and perseverance, in the face of great odds, that helped create an institution that holds accountable those who choose to commit human rights abuses. The vision of Professor Bassiouni has culminated in a system that ensures that those who commit crimes against humanity do not go unpunished.

Mr. President, M. Cherif Bassiouni has made an important difference in the battle against human rights abuses. It is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to his extraordinary work and to congratulate him on his Nobel Peace Prize nomination. •

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS MANSHIP, SR.

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, Louisiana is today mourning the loss of a giant in the news media, Douglas Manship, Sr., the chairman emeritus of the Baton Rouge Advocate and the founder of WBRZ-TV in Baton Rouge.

Douglas Manship devoted nearly all of his 80 years to providing the citizens of Louisiana with timely, objective and thorough coverage of the day-to-day events of our state. In the process, he and his family have always set the standard for excellence in news reporting in Louisiana, winning dozens of statewide, regional and national journalism awards.

For most of this century, the Manship name has been synonymous with journalism in Louisiana. In fact, the school of mass communications at our state's flagship institution of higher learning, Louisiana State University, bears the Manship name and has already trained a generation of young journalists to follow the example of journalistic excellence set by Douglas Manship and his family.

Those of us who knew Douglas Manship knew him as someone totally committed to his community and just as dedicated to the daily dissemination of fair and objective news. In almost every way, Douglas Manship was what a journalist should be. He believed that a public given the facts on a particular issue would invariably make the right decision. And he fought tirelessly through his newspaper to throw open the closed doors of public bodies all

over Louisiana so that citizens could become better informed about the important business that was being conducted in their behalf.

Of course, Douglas Manship's imminent fairness and objectivity didn't stop him from expressing his opinion and using his newspaper to champion a cause when he believed his state and his community could do better. In the early 1960s, long before other southern media leaders recognized the need for racial integration, Douglas Manship used his position at WBRZ-TV to bring Baton Rouge community leaders together to discuss ways to peacefully achieve racial integration. WBRZ's courageous advocacy on behalf of desegregation resulted in threats of violence against Manship and his station. But he never backed down. And I believe that Baton Rouge made great strides because of principled leaders like Douglas Manship who put the well-being of his community ahead of his economic interests.

Nothing distinguished Douglas Manship more than the strength of his character and his strong sense, as he put it, of who he was. "If there is any attribute that I have that has any meaning," he once said, "it is that I know exactly who I am. That's where you get into trouble . . . when you think you are something you are not. I believe that after all these years I have learned who I am, what my limitations are."

Mr. President, today we remember Douglas Manship as a principled community leader, a courageous and fair-minded journalist and a loving father and husband. I know that I join with the entire journalistic community of my state in saying that his presence and leadership will be sorely missed. •

HONORING THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of the 1.5 million ethnic Armenians that were systematically murdered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915-1923. The 84th anniversary of the beginning of this brutal annihilation was marked on April 24.

During this nine year period, another 250,000 ethnic Armenians were forced to flee their homes to escape the certain death that awaited them at the hands of a government-sanctioned force determined to extinguish their existence. A total of 1.75 million ethnic Armenians were either slaughtered or forced to flee, leaving fewer than 80,000 in what is present-day Turkey.

I have come to the floor to commemorate this horrific chapter in human history each year I have been a member of this body, both to honor those who died and to remind the American people of the chilling capacity for violence that, unfortunately, still exists in the world. It is all too clear from the current ethnically and religiously motivated conflicts in such

places as Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and Sudan that we have not learned the lessons of the past.

The ongoing campaign of violence and hate perpetrated by Slobodan Milosevic and his thugs against the Kosovar Albanians is but the latest example of the campaigns of terror carried out against innocent civilians simply because of who they are. These people are not combatants and they have committed no crimes—they are simply ethnic Albanians who wish to live in peace in their homes in Kosovo. But, because they are ethnic Albanians, they have been murdered or driven out, their possessions have been looted, and their homes have been burned. Many more are hiding in the mountains of Kosovo, caught in a dangerous limbo, afraid to try to flee across the border to safety and unable to go home.

On April 13, we marked Yom Hashoah, the annual remembrance of the 6 million Jews who were exterminated by Nazi Germany. People around the world gathered to light candles and read the names of those who died. Today, let us take a moment to remember the victims of the 1915–1923 Armenian genocide, and all the other innocent people who have died in the course of human history at the hands of people who hated them simply for who they were. ●

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AT TEMPLE BETH AMI

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I call to the attention of my colleagues the recent Community-Wide Memorial Observance of Yom HaShoah V'Hagvurah held at Temple Beth Ami in Rockville, Maryland. I had the privilege of participating in this Holocaust remembrance ceremony sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. I commend Temple Beth Ami for hosting this annual event and the Jewish Community Council for providing the community in Maryland and the Washington, D.C. area with so many valuable services year-round.

The Holocaust represents the most tragic human chapter of the 20th century when six million Jews perished as the result of a systematic and deliberate policy of annihilation. Holocaust remembrance is an effort to pay homage to the victims and educate the public about the painful lessons of this horrible tragedy.

As my colleagues are aware, this month marks the 54th year since the beginning of the liberation of the Nazi death camps in Europe and the 56th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The occasion also is an opportunity to remember the plight of the passengers aboard the S.S. *St. Louis* who sought to rebuild their shattered lives outside Europe. Most of the 937 men, women and children who fled Germany on the *St. Louis* on May 13, 1939 were seeking refuge from Nazi persecution but were turned back months before the outbreak of World War II.

In his moving remarks at Temple Beth Ami, Benjamin Meed, the President of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and a survivor himself of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, spoke eloquently before this assembly of the importance of overcoming indifference to genocide. Ben Meed has dedicated himself to working hard along with many other survivors to ensure that the memory of millions is still with us, and I believe that the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a fitting and exceptional tribute to his efforts. In his words, the Holocaust Museum is "the culmination of our devotion to Remembrance."

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Benjamin Meed's remarks at Temple Beth Ami be entered into the RECORD at this point.

REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED

It is a special honor to be among such distinguished colleagues, especially Rabbi Jack Luxemburg, vice chairman of the Washington Jewish Community Council and the Rabbi here at Temple Beth Ami; and Manny (Emmanuel) Mandel, chairman of the Jewish Community Council's Holocaust Remembrance Committee.

In this lovely new sanctuary that in itself demonstrates the vibrancy of the Jewish community in our nation's capital, we unite with Jewish people everywhere to remember those who were robbed and murdered by the German Nazis and their collaborators—only because they were born as Jews.

Tonight, as we come together, we remember the people, places and events that shaped our memories: Memories of our "childhood," of our parents and siblings, of the world which is now so far away. We remember the laughter of children at play, the murmur of prayers at Shul, the warm love of our family gathered for Shabbos meals. That world was shattered by the German Nazis' war against the Jews, while the world of bystanders around us was indifferent.

Our memories are full of sorrow. Our dreams are not dreams, but nightmares of final separation from those we loved. Parading before us, when we sleep, are the experiences we endured—the endless years of ghettos, labor camps, death camps, hiding places where betrayal was always imminent; the forests and caves of the partisans where life was always on the line. And no matter where we were, we were always hungry.

Each of us has our own story. Fifty-five years ago, during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, I was in Krasinski Square, just outside of the walls of the Ghetto. I usually spent my days in the zoo because I knew that the animals could not denounce me to the German Nazis or to their collaborators. To the animals, I was just another human being. But on this Sunday, as an "Aryan" member of the Polish community, I went to church together with the Poles.

As we came out of church into the Square, I heard the thunder of guns and the explosion of grenades and I could see that the Jewish Ghetto was on fire. It may have been a warm Spring day, but I stood frozen. In front of us in the Square, a carousel was turning around and around. The music attracted my Polish neighbors and their children. I watched in disbelief as they flocked to the merry-go-round, indifferent to the tragedy so nearby. With every cry for help from my Jewish people, tears swelled in my eyes. But the faces of those around me showed no concern, no compassion, not even any interest.

The memory of this scene haunts and engages me. How was it possible for these peo-

ple to act "normally" while Jews, their neighbors for hundreds of years, burned and died inside the Ghetto walls? But they were not the only ones to ignore our plight. Indeed, the entire world stood by. No doors were opened, no policies were changed to make rescue possible. Why? The question cries out for an answer across the decades.

If only there had been a State of Israel sixty years ago, how different this story could have been.

Tonight, we especially remember the passengers on the S.S. *St. Louis*—more than nine hundred men, women and children. Robbed of their possessions, stunned and hurt during Kristallnacht, and threatened with their lives, many of them were forced to sign agreements never to return to Germany. Out on the high seas, powerless to affect their outcome, these nine hundred people floated between political infighting and immigration quarrels, both in Cuba and the United States. Their fates were in the hands of others whom they did not know and with whom they had no influence. Finally accepted by four European nations, many of these passengers were swept into "the Final Solution" when Western Europe fell to Nazi Germany. Why were these nine hundred denied entry into this country? Why was this tragedy allowed to happen?

If only there had been a State of Israel sixty years ago!

This year our commemoration falls within the anniversaries of the discovery of Buchenwald concentration camp. On April 11, the troops of the United States 6th Armored Division rolled into the camp, just one mile outside Weimer, the birthplace of German democracy. They were followed by the 80th Infantry Division on April 12, just 54 years ago tonight. These were war-weary, war-hardened soldiers, but none of their fierce combat had prepared them for Buchenwald—nor for the hundreds of other such camps that American and Allied soldiers came across in their march to end the war in Europe.

We will always be grateful to these soldiers for their kindness and generosity, and we will always remember those young soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring us liberty.

Many American GIs who saw the camps join with us in declaring that genocide must not be allowed to happen again. But despite the echoes from the Holocaust, it has—in Cambodia, in Rwanda, in Bosnia, and now in Kosovo.

We remember and our hearts go out to those who are caught in the web of destruction.

For many years, we survivors were alone in our memories. We spoke among ourselves about the Holocaust, because no one else wanted to hear our stories. Still, we believed that the world must be told—must come to understand the significance of our experiences.

Slowly, acceptance of our memories began—at first, only by our fellow Jews, who realized that what we had witnessed was vitally important to them. In time, other people began to understand the meaning and consequences of our experiences. They listened. We survivors were no longer silent presences. We became the bearers of tales—at once painful and precious.

We survivors are now publicly bearing witness. We are offering challenges to the indifference of Western governments, to the complicity of the Church, to the anti-Semitism of Christianity, and to the evil of the perpetrators, collaborators and—not the least—to the bystanders. The movement to remember and to record is being led by survivors who accept the burden that history placed upon us.

But whatever we know now, there is still so much that we do not know, we cannot