

under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my intense disappointment with the decision by the Republican leadership today to pull the Armenian genocide resolution from consideration by the House of Representatives for the remainder of this session of Congress.

The Speaker promised to bring this resolution to the floor. His stated reason for not doing so is a request by President Clinton that it not be considered. Mr. Speaker, the State Department and President Clinton have opposed recognition of the Armenian genocide from day one. We all know that the State Department repeatedly uses national security as the reason to oppose most things Armenian.

What is really going on here is that the Speaker and the President and, therefore, the government of these United States, both Executive and Legislative, have succumbed to the threat of the Turkish government, threats by that government against American soldiers and American lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is shameful. Turkey is a bully. We have America, the most powerful country in the world, being told by the Republic of Turkey what we can talk about and what we can think, not only with regard to human rights violations, but with regard to the most heinous crime against humanity, genocide.

I would like to know what kind of ally threatens American lives if it does not get its way. With friends like that, as the saying goes, who needs enemies. It is not as if Turkey's membership in NATO and assistance as part of the NATO alliance only helps the United States. Turkey allows NATO to use its bases against Iraq because of Iraq's threats to Turkey, not Iraq's threats to the United States. Turkey allows NATO to use its bases out of its own self-interest.

If Turkey is going to abrogate all of its bilateral and multilateral agreements over the Armenian genocide resolution, well I do not think that is going to happen. I think not. These agreements exist because they are in Turkey's self-interest.

Mr. Speaker, what happened today on the House floor I think sets a terrible precedent. It means that Turkey can threaten us in other areas. For example, they can threaten not to negotiate a settlement on Cyprus and continue to occupy that nation. They can threaten the European Union if that organization does not allow them to become a member despite continued human rights violations against the Kurds and other minorities.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard these same Turkish threats before. In 1996,

for example, this body voted overwhelmingly, 268 to 153, to adopt an amendment to reduce U.S. assistance to Turkey until it recognized the Armenian genocide.

The doomsday scenarios that the opponents of the resolution predicted in 1996 did not occur. I do not believe they would have occurred today if we had passed the Armenian genocide resolution.

The relationship between the United States and Turkey is mutually beneficial. It is simply not in Turkey's national interest to sever relations with the United States over a House Resolution.

This brings me back, Mr. Speaker, to the Armenian genocide resolution and the importance I believe it plays in our overall foreign policy. If America is going to live up to the standards we set for ourselves and continue to lead the world in affirming human rights everywhere, we need to stand up and recognize the Armenian catastrophe for what it was, the systemic elimination of a people.

The fact of the Armenian genocide is not in dispute. The fact that the American record on the U.S. response to the Armenian genocide is not in dispute and House Resolution 596 affirms these facts. The only step left is to reject the deniers of the genocide.

As Members of Congress, we should not ignore our Nation's history at the insistence of an ally out of geopolitical convenience. Congress should not be forced by a foreign government to deny or ignore the U.S. record and response to the events that took place in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923.

If the House of Representatives cannot speak to our historical experience because of threats from a foreign government, then what message do we send to our friends and our enemies alike?

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), Speaker of the House, to basically reconsider his decision and to allow House Resolution 596 to come to the floor. I assure the Speaker that it will pass overwhelmingly. The votes were there today if the Speaker had only let the resolution come to the floor.

To do anything else would establish a dangerous precedent for how history will be recorded with regard to current and future actions of Congress and the administration in response to man's inhumanity to man.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker, is, if we do not recognize the Armenia genocide, other genocides will occur. The fact of the matter is that those who forget history are condemned to repeat it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CANADY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CANADY of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. STABENOW addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY DOMINGUEZ HILLS ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate one of the premier universities within the California State University system, Cal State Dominguez Hills, located in my district, on 40 years of exemplary higher learning.

In its 40th-year celebration, we reflect back on the many who have passed through her doors. California State University has produced over 29,000 graduates with baccalaureate degrees, 12,000 graduates with master's degrees, and 12,000 elementary and secondary school credentialed teachers.

Cal State Dominguez Hills is known throughout the State of California as the highest producer of credentialed teachers of any university in the State of California.

The student body of Cal State Dominguez Hills is the most diverse in the State and possibly in the country, reflecting the richness of a multicultural society.

The University is celebrating its 40th anniversary under the leadership of a newly appointed president, Dr. James E. Lyons, Sr. Dr. Lyons brings 16 years of presidential experience to the campus. He has served as president of Jackson State University in Mississippi and Bowie State University in Maryland.

An integral part of Dr. Lyon's vision for Dominguez Hills is building a model community. The community places emphasis on building partnerships that benefit the community and its people, focusing not only on their educational and cultural needs, but also serving as a major research institution for community and economic development.

In an effort to extend its services and resources into the community it serves, Cal State Dominguez Hills was the first in the Nation to develop a distance learning program. Forbes Magazine named Cal State Dominguez Hills one of the top 20 "cyber" universities in the country.

The distance learning program offers timely degree and certificate programs

and individual courses via cutting-edge technologies to working professionals, busy adults, and high school students.

Over the past 5 years, approximately 7,500 students have enrolled in the Dominguez Hills distance learning program. More than 3,000 of these students come from outside of California, and more than 400 of these students come from outside the United States.

The university's Young Scholars Program enables high school students who have limited access to advanced placement courses to earn college and advanced placement credits through the university.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, we have the California Math and Science Academy, a premier program where they take the top 10 percent of the students in the middle school and enroll them to complete their secondary education with 90 percent of them going on to the top Ivy League and other universities.

I, again, congratulate Cal State University Dominguez Hills on its 40th anniversary, the appointment of a new impressive president, Dr. Lyons, and the outstanding accomplishments of the Distance Learning Program and CAMS, California Academy of Math and Science.

These milestones add significantly to the university and the surrounding communities as they forge ahead with a mission to be a communiversities dedicated to preparing students for the opportunities to be successful in a world of unprecedented challenges and change.

IN MEMORY OF RONALD SCOTT OWENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to salute Petty Officer Third Class Ronald Scott Owens, one of the 17 crewmen who gave his life last week in the defense of our Nation. Petty officer Owens' life was lost when terrorists attacked the U.S.S. *Cole*. On August 8 of this year Petty Officer Owens left for a 6-month tour of duty aboard the U.S.S. *Cole*, serving on board as an electronics warfare technician.

We as a Nation honor the life of this young Vero Beach resident and all those who were lost.

Scott was born on October 31, 1975, and died serving and defending his fellow countrymen on October 11.

This tragic event makes this the worst terrorist attack on the American military since the terrorist attack on a U.S. Air Force housing complex near Dhahran, Saudi Arabia in 1996. That event killed 19 troops, including several airmen from Florida.

Scott is remembered by his crew mates as an inspiration and one that was always there to help support his fellow crewmen.

He was known as a happy-go-lucky guy who knew how to make everyone

feel special. He is also remembered for his volunteer work with the fire and rescue squad. He served his community both in uniform and out of uniform.

I cannot begin to state how profoundly saddened I was to learn of Scott's untimely death. My prayers and condolences go out to his wife, Jaime, his 4-year-old daughter, Isabella, his entire family and the community of Vero Beach that is dealing with the shock of this tragic news.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. WILSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HILL of Montana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FUTURE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in just a few short weeks, we will be electing a new President of the United States on Tuesday, November 7. This is the centerpiece of our democracy, the election of a President.

The President has his own powers according to the Constitution, but also the power of appointment of the third branch of government, the Supreme Court. So a great deal is at stake in this election: the presidency and the President's appointments to the court.

If the next President appoints just one or two more justices to the court, and they do not support some of our basic fundamental rights, fundamental rights could be abolished or curtailed. The Supreme Court's decisions affect all aspect of our lives including basic civil rights and day-to-day pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness.

□ 2045

It is significant to note, I think, that no Supreme Court justice has retired in 6 years, the longest interval without a new appointment in 177 years. In the last 50 years, every President except one has appointed at least one justice, and 8 of the last 10 Presidents have ap-

pointed 2 justices. Court watchers expect several justices to retire soon, and, thus, the next President is likely to appoint several justices to fill these vacancies.

I mention this, Mr. Speaker, because many have asked, well, how do these elections affect young people in our country? Well, the election of the President affects them very directly in the decisions that that President will make but also very directly in terms of his power of appointment of the court, the Supreme Court, and indeed many, many scores of Federal Court justices.

As I have said, the Supreme Court makes many decisions that fundamentally affect and change our lives, and so young people should be very interested in these judges, this President, and the decisions that this court will make because it will have an impact for generations to come.

Soon the court will be deciding cases governing civil rights, workers' rights, reproductive freedom, voting rights, and campaign finance reform. The court will decide Congress' authority to apply Federal laws protecting individuals and our environment to the States, including the Americans with Disabilities Act. The court will address electoral redistricting and minority voting rights, free speech, criminal cases involving unreasonable search and seizure, and the scope of Federal regulations, really protections and safeguards, for all Americans.

How do the courts' decisions on these issues affect our lives? For women, the court has an impact on reproductive freedom. For workers, the court affects the ability to sue employers who violate employees' civil rights. Again, for women, the court affects access to family planning clinics and access to safe and appropriate medical care. For gay and lesbian Americans, the court affects civil rights protections and equal opportunity. For people with disabilities, the court affects protections in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

I asked one volunteer in a political campaign why she was volunteering, and she said I have looked around, studied the issues, and I realize that people in politics make decisions about the air I breathe and the water I drink. The same applies to the Supreme Court, Mr. Speaker. The court affects the air we breathe and the water we drink by determining the legality of the Clean Air and Clean Water Act. This volunteer went on to say, so I guess I should be interested in politics, at least for as long as I drink water and I breathe air.

Young people should be, and we should all be interested in the court and the person who will name justices to that court for at least as long as we breathe air and drink water.

The two issues that I would like to just focus on, in the interest of time, because I know the hour is late, are a woman's right to choose and the issue of the protection of our environment and how those issues will be affected by