

century. More than one and a half million innocent Armenians had their lives ended mercilessly.

It is staggering to even contemplate the idea of one and a half million people having their lives ended so arbitrarily, but we must remember the victims of this genocide as they were, not numbers but mothers and fathers and sons and daughters, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins and, of course, friends. Each and every victim had hopes, dreams, and a life that deserved to be lived to the fullest.

It is our duty to remember them today and every day. As we stand here today at the beginning of a new century and a new millennium, we should take a moment to speak about the need that that tragic event serves as a constant reminder for us to be on guard against the repression of any people, particularly any oppression based on their race or their religion.

Unfortunately, during the genocide, the world turned a blind eye to the horrors that were inflicted. Too often during the last century the world stood silent while whole races and religions were attacked and nearly annihilated. As the saying goes, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. We must never forget the important lessons of the Armenian Genocide.

As a member, Mr. Speaker, of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I join many others in the House of Representatives working hopefully to bring peace and stability to Armenia and its neighboring countries. Division and hatred can only lead to more division and hatred, as has too often been proved. Hopefully the work of the caucus and of others committed to the same cause will help ensure that an atrocity such as the genocide will never happen again in Armenia or elsewhere.

While I might not be Armenian, Mr. Speaker, my wife is and many, many of our friends, which causes me, of course, to say "yes odar empaytz seerdus high e."

I am not Armenian but my heart is, and we all should have our heart with them on this particular occasion.

WE MUST REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE SO THAT IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, like many of my colleagues, I rise to remember the Armenian Genocide which took place over several years, but the remembrance day is to remember an event 85 years ago, so this is a particularly important anniversary of that genocide.

We are asked why it is so important to come to this floor again and again to remember. We must remember so that it never happens again, and we must remember because there is an organized effort to hide and to disclaim

this genocide; and we must overcome that effort, and we must never forget.

Let us look at the historical record. The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1919 was an eyewitness. In his memoirs, he said, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River, and he said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire, because that is the role an ambassador plays, in the year 1919, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, the Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

As other speakers have pointed out, this was the first genocide of the 20th century, and it laid the foundation for the Holocaust to follow.

We can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland, Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler and his inner circle to carry out the Holocaust of the Jewish people. Unfortunately, today there is an organized effort to expunge from the memory of the human race this genocide, and it focuses on our academic institutions.

Mr. Speaker, I am a proud graduate of UCLA; and a few years ago UCLA was offered a million dollars to create a special chair that would be under the partial control of the Turkish government, a chair in history that would have been used to cover up and to disclaim and to deny the first genocide of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of UCLA for many things. I was there when Bill Walton led us to the NCAA championship, but I was never prouder of my alma mater than when UCLA said no to a million dollars; and it is important that every American academic institution say no to genocide denial.

It is also important that the State Department go beyond shallow, hollow reminders and remembrances of this day and step forward and use the word genocide in describing the genocide of the Armenian people at the hands of the Turks.

It is time for Turkey to acknowledge this genocide, because only in that way can they rise above it. The German government has been quite forthcoming in acknowledging the Holo-

caust, and in doing so it has at least been respected by the peoples of the world for its honesty. Turkey should follow that example rather than trying to buy chairs at American universities to deny history.

Mr. Speaker, we must go beyond merely remembering the Armenian Genocide and also insist that the survivors of that genocide are treated justly, that the people of Armenia and Artsakh enjoy freedom and independence; and we must end the blockade of Armenia imposed by Turkey.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to this genocide, we must say, and say loudly, never again and never forget.

WHAT DO WE WANT CHINA TO BE 20 YEARS FROM NOW OR EVEN 50 YEARS FROM NOW?

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, remembering the genocide of the Armenians, but I would like to add this: that there are Armenian children dying today in Armenia. While other nations brutalize Armenia, the White House and State Department cut funds for Armenia. They are not the only White House and State Department to do so, but there is enough of us, instead of making just a resolution, to make a binding resolution for the White House to do something about it.

Also, I should speak to another event I had not planned on speaking to tonight, but I actually resent some of the statements made earlier tonight. My wife and daughters attend Catholic mass at Saint James Parish, and the speaker of this House took the well and shamed those Democrats that would use religion for political gain. I heard this again tonight. I ask the minority leader to ask to put an end to their side of using religion for politics. It does not belong in this Chamber. I have attended events at synagogues, at parishes and churches, but what I would not attend is a fund-raiser at a Buddhist temple.

The real reason I came tonight, Mr. Speaker, was to talk about PNTR for China. I would like to present some thoughts. China is a rogue nation. The issue generates strong-held opinions on both sides and both Republicans and Democrats are split on this particular issue. Even myself, I personally struggled, knowing what a rogue nation that China is, the human rights violations, the national security threats, and what does it mean applying PNTR to China.

Communication is the shortest distance between two points of view, and I know that my mother, my children and many Americans, if they never hear some of the positive points, they are most likely not going to support trade with China.

I would like to present a couple of those ideas. I recently traveled to Vietnam with the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and some of my Democrat colleagues. We were there at the request of Pete Peterson, a fellow member that used to reside in this House, is now the ambassador to Vietnam. I was asked to help raise the flag over North Vietnam for the first time in 25 years. It was very difficult; but while we were there, we stopped in Hanoi, and we had a chat with the Communist minister, the head of Vietnam.

I asked a question. I said, Mr. Minister, why will you not engage in trade with Vietnam? And his answer was pretty forthcoming. He said, Congressman, trade to a Communist means that people will start privatizing and having their own things; and if trade is followed through in Vietnam, then we as Communists will no longer have power.

At that moment I said, trade is good.

What do we want China to be 20 years from now or even 50 years from now, Mr. Speaker? I was in China some 20 years ago, and I want to say they have come a long way in 20 years, and it is not the same China as it was before. One sees democracy sprouting up. One sees things like Tianenmen Square and people fighting for democracy. Democracy and freedom are viruses to the Communist Chinese. The more that we can inject that into China, the more that their leaders go along with a better economy.

China is riding a tiger. There are still those that want, by totalitarian rule, to control with national defense and hold people under the state command; but also the dictatorship there today understands that the economy is important to China. Taiwan supports trade in PNTR. Why? Taiwan knows that it will bring China more toward the United States and more toward a democracy instead of more toward Communism. It is in their best interest, and Taiwan supports it.

We just attended a brief, many of us, by Brent Scowcroft. He said there are no downsides to PNTR; that this is about U.S. products going to China. China's products already come to the United States, and there is a trade deficit.

What do we want 20 years from now if we do not trade with China? It will be a negative, and we foster Communism instead of a good economy for both.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the special order time of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, some of whom lost their loved ones in the genocide, I rise today to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

I would like to thank my colleagues and cochair of the Armenian Caucus, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), for their dedication and their hard work on this issue and other issues of human rights.

Today, we pause to remember the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. More than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the young Turks and more than 500,000 more were deported from their homes. Monday, April 24, will mark the 85th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. It was on that day in 1915 that more than 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople, now Istanbul, and killed. This was the beginning of a brutal, organized campaign to eliminate the Armenian presence from the Ottoman Empire that lasted for more than 8 years, but Armenians are strong people, and their dreams of freedom did not die.

More than 70 years after the genocide, the new Republic of Armenia was born as the Soviet Union crumbled. 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; and my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN) spoke earlier about efforts at UCLA to buy a chair that would really focus its time and attention to erasing the existence of this horrible occurrence.

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I join him in applauding UCLA and other institutions that have turned down this request to put forward a lie.

As a strong supporter of human rights, I am dismayed that the Turkish government continues to deny the systemic killing of 1.5 million Armenians in their country.

We must not allow the horror of the Armenian genocide to be either diminished or denied, and we must continue to speak out and preserve the memory of the Armenian loss.

We can never let the truth of this tragedy be denied. Nothing we can do or say will bring back those who perished. But we can hold high the memories with everlasting meaning by

teaching the lessons of the Armenian genocide to future generations. We will not forget. We will continue to bring this to the floor every single year. We will not forget.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leaders of the Armenian Caucus for bringing us together to honor the memory of a tragedy, not just in Armenian history, but a tragedy in world history, a tragedy that holds for us an important historical lesson and one that should be acknowledged.

As discussed, it was 85 years ago that the Ottoman Empire set out on a deliberate campaign to exterminate the Armenian people. Over a period of years, between 1915 and 1923, as they went house to house, village to village, they massacred men, women, and children, a total of 1.5 million, and a half million deported from their homelands to escape their terror.

At the end of these 8 years, the Armenian population in certain areas in Turkey, in Anatolia, in Western Armenia, that population was virtually eliminated.

At the time, as we have heard from our colleagues, Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, depicted the Turkish order for deportations as a death warrant to a whole race.

Our ambassador recognized that this was ethnic cleansing. It is unfortunate that the Turkish government to this day does not recognize that this was ethnic cleansing. Let me just say that willful ignorance of the lessons of history doom people to repeat those same actions again and again.

We have also heard from our colleagues tonight how Adolph Hitler learned that same lesson, as he said, who remembers the Armenian genocide? Well, it is important for us to remember these genocides. It is important that we learn the lesson from this 85-year-old tragedy.

In my home State of California, the State Board of Education has incorporated the story of the Armenian genocide in the social studies curriculum, and this is the right thing to do.

I am a cosponsor of House Resolution 398, which calls upon the President of the United States to provide for appropriate training and materials on the Armenian genocide to all foreign service officers and all State Department officials.

Why is this important? Because we want them to better understand genocide wherever it threatens to erupt. We want them to understand the nature and origins of genocide. We want them to help raise the world's public opinion