

an unconscionable act, however, can never be forgotten.

Accordingly, it is our duty as elected officials to state in no uncertain terms that the Armenian Genocide is clearly and unambiguously defined as genocide. Repeatedly, many leaders, including the President, have called the Armenian Genocide everything but a genocide. Only when this term is understood will the tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, be placed in the correct historical context. The Armenian Genocide cannot be denied.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in tribute to the Armenian people who have fully recovered from this atrocity by maintaining their proud traditions and culture, becoming an integral part of America, and nine years ago, forming the Republic of Armenia.

The Ottoman Empire's last, desperate act was one of profound cruelty, tragic and gruesome beyond description. During World War I—a tumultuous, revolutionary time of great societal transformations and uncertain futures on the battlefields and at home—desperate Ottoman leaders fell back on the one weapon that could offer hope of personal survival. It is a weapon that is still used today, fed by fear, desperation, and hatred. It transforms the average citizen into a zealot, no longer willing to listen to reason. This weapon is, of course, nationalism. Wrongly directed, nationalism can easily result in ethnic strife and senseless genocide, committed in the name of false beliefs preached by immoral, irresponsible, tyrannical leaders.

Today I rise not to speak of the present, but in memory of the victims of the past, who suffered needlessly in the flames of vicious, destructive nationalism. Exactly 87 years ago today, the leaders of the Ottoman government tragically chose to systematically exterminate an entire race of people. In this case, as in the case of Nazi Germany, nationalism became a weapon of cruelty and evil. Let us never forget the 1.5 million Armenians who died at the whim of wicked men and their misguided followers.

The story of the Armenian Genocide is in itself appalling. It is against everything our government—and indeed all governments who strive for justice—stands for; it represents the most wicked side of humanity. What makes the Armenian story even more unfortunate is history has repeated itself in all corners of the world, and lessons that should have been learned long ago have been ignored. We must not forget the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, or Bosnia. It is our duty that by remembering the millions who have been victims of genocide, we pledge ourselves to preventing such acts from repeating themselves.

It is an honor and privilege to represent a large and active Armenian population, many who have family members who were persecuted by their Ottoman Turkish rulers. Michigan's Armenian-American community has done much to further our state's commercial, political, and intellectual growth, just as it has done in communities across the country. And so I also rise today to honor to the triumph of the Armenian people, who have endured adversity and bettered our country.

The Armenian people have faced great trials and tests throughout their history. They have proved their resilience in the face of tragedy before, and I have no doubt that they will endure today's tragic occurrence, recognize that

a madman's bullet can never put an end to a people's dreams, and keep moving forward on the path of peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, let no one, friend or foe, ever deny that the Armenian Genocide occurred. Let us not forget the heinous nature of the crimes committed against the Armenian people. Let us promise to the world as American citizens and citizens of the world, that we will never again allow such a crime to be perpetrated, and will not tolerate the forces of misguided nationalism and hate.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those who died in the Armenian Genocide.

In the first part of the 20th century, a tremendous evil was done to the Armenian people. April 24, 1915 is a day that will forever live in infamy. A Turkish campaign to eliminate Armenians from the face of the earth began that day. In the end, that campaign killed 1.5 million people.

More than 200 religious, political and intellectual leaders were assassinated. 500,000 people were exiled from their homes. As a result of this violence, one of earth's oldest civilizations virtually ceased to exist.

Unfortunately this terrible chapter of history is not well known. Many Americans don't know much about the Armenian genocide, but it should stand as a constant reminder to all of us that we must be vigilant and stand firm against bigotry and hatred at every turn.

We must take the horrors of the past and transform them into compassion and hope. We must learn from the Armenian genocide—learn about perseverance and hope. We can't change the past, but we can prepare for the future.

While we remember with sorrow, we must also be heartened that eighty-five years later, Armenians remain a proud, dignified people. Their spirit lives in the independent republic of Armenia and in many communities around the United States, particularly in my home state of California.

Every one of these people is the product of generations of courage, perseverance and hope. Understanding what it is to struggle as a people motivates many Armenians to educate others about the atrocities committed in the past.

The bonds between Armenia and the United States are growing stronger all the time. Economic cooperation is growing. Democracy is blossoming. These are testaments of strength to the Armenian people.

While we did not do enough for the victims eighty-five years ago, we can honor their memory now, and ensure that nothing so horrendous happens again.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today we solemnly commemorate the 87th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, when the Ottoman Government unleashed a campaign of devastation and destruction against its Armenian population.

Over the course of eight years, beginning in 1915, Armenian communities were systematically destroyed. One and a half million men, women, and children were murdered and nearly one million others were deported. From the ashes of destruction, the survivors rebuilt their lives and many established vibrant Armenian communities here in the United States, but the scars of the massacres are deeply embedded in their history and our conscience.

The world was silent during the bloodshed of Armenians. It was tragically just a short

number of years before this inaction degenerated into paralysis against Hitler's attempt to annihilate the Jews.

At a time when the flames of anti-Semitism are reigniting across Europe, we have a responsibility to redouble our efforts against the bigotry and intolerance that sparked the Armenian Genocide and later the Holocaust. At a time when there are still attempts to refute the Armenian Genocide and Holocaust denial is spreading rampantly through the Arab world, we have an obligation to resolve ourselves against the dangers of historical revisionism.

Today we mourn the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, and stand together with all who are committed to promoting awareness about this dark chapter of history. Today we remember to never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON 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 Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MORELLA 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 Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

PREDICTIONS

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, our government intervention in the economy and in the private affairs of citizens and the internal affairs of foreign countries leads to uncertainty and many unintended consequences. Here are some of the consequences about which we should be concerned.

I predict U.S. taxpayers will pay to rebuild Palestine, both the West Bank and the Gaza, as well as Afghanistan. U.S. taxpayers paid to bomb these areas, so we will be expected to rebuild them.

Peace, of sorts, will come to the Middle East, but will be short-lived. There will be big promises of more U.S. money and weapons flowing to Israel and to Arab countries allied with the United States.

U.S. troops and others will be used to monitor the "peace."

In time, an oil boycott will be imposed, with oil prices soaring to historic highs.

Current Israeli-United States policies will solidify Arab Muslim nations in

their efforts to avenge the humiliation of the Palestinians. That will include those Muslim nations that in the past have fought against each other.

Some of our moderate Arab allies will be overthrown by Islamic fundamentalists.

The U.N. will continue to condemn, through resolutions, Israeli-U.S. policies in the Middle East, and they will be ignored.

Some European countries will clandestinely support the Muslim countries and their anti-Israel pursuits.

China, ironically assisted by American aid, much more openly will sell to militant Muslims the weapons they want, and will align herself with the Arab nations.

The United States, with Tony Blair as head cheerleader, will attack Iraq without proper authority, and a major war, the largest since World War II, will result.

Major moves will be made by China, India, Russia, and Pakistan in Central Asia to take advantage of the chaos for the purpose of grabbing land, resources, and strategic advantages sought after for years.

The Karzai government will fail, and U.S. military presence will end in Afghanistan.

An international dollar crisis will dramatically boost interest rates in the United States.

Price inflation, with a major economic downturn, will decimate U.S. Federal Government finances, with exploding deficits and uncontrolled spending.

Federal Reserve policy will continue at an expanding rate, with massive credit expansion, which will make the dollar crisis worse. Gold will be seen as an alternative to paper money as it returns to its historic role as money.

Erosion of civil liberties here at home will continue as our government responds to political fear in dealing with the terrorist threat by making generous use of the powers obtained with the Patriot Act.

The draft will be reinstated, causing domestic turmoil and resentment.

Many American military personnel and civilians will be killed in the coming conflict.

The leaders of whichever side loses the war will be hauled into and tried before the International Criminal Court for war crimes. The United States will not officially lose the war, but neither will we win. Our military and political leaders will not be tried by the International Criminal Court.

The Congress and the President will shift radically toward expanding the size and scope of the Federal Government. This will satisfy both the liberals and the conservatives.

Military and police powers will grow, satisfying the conservatives. The welfare state, both domestic and international, will expand, satisfying the liberals. Both sides will endorse military adventurism overseas.

This is the most important of my predictions: Policy changes could pre-

vent all of the previous predictions from occurring. Unfortunately, that will not occur. In due course, the Constitution will continue to be steadily undermined and the American Republic further weakened.

During the next decade, the American people will become poorer and less free, while they become more dependent on the government for economic security.

The war will prove to be divisive, with emotions and hatred growing between the various factions and special interests that drive our policies in the Middle East.

Agitation from more class warfare will succeed in dividing us domestically, and believe it or not, I expect lobbyists will thrive more than ever during the dangerous period of chaos.

I have no timetable for these predictions, but just in case, keep them around and look at them in 5 to 10 years. Let us hope and pray that I am wrong on all accounts. If so, I will be very pleased.

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

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

LYNN LAUFENBERGER'S KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to share a story of faith, hope, love, and incredible generosity. Lynn Laufenberger works in our district office back in Minnesota. She is a young woman full of courage and hope.

In 1995, Lynn's kidneys began to slow down. They no longer functioned well enough, and Lynn was placed on dialysis. For 6½ years she received dialysis every day, usually in her own home.

Earlier this year, Lynn's kidney disease became worse. She felt an increased sense of urgency to obtain a kidney transplant. Lynn spoke publicly of this need at her church, Elim Baptist, in Rochester, Minnesota. A friend, Heidi Stensland, approached her after she spoke and told her that she had already been praying about giving one of her kidneys to Lynn. Heidi had only known Lynn for a couple of months.

Heidi submitted herself for tests to determine if her kidney was healthy and a match for Lynn. The results showed that her kidney was indeed a match. This was no small feat, since Lynn's blood type is rare. Lynn had been on the active transplant waiting list for about 1 year.

The transplant surgery was performed February 21 at Rochester Methodist Hospital. Heidi, a home day care provider, took her yearly vacation

time to donate her kidney. She even postponed her own wedding to deliver this amazing gift of life to Lynn.

The surgery was immediately successful. The transplanted kidney began to work in Lynn's body right in the operating room. Lynn's parents from Wisconsin were able to come to Minnesota for her surgery, and they stayed afterward to provide much needed support. Her only sister was also able to be there.

The faith community of Elim Baptist Church was very supportive of both Lynn and Heidi. Church members provided transportation for their follow-up appointments. The church also brought much appreciated meals and assisted with some of the extra expenses.

When Heidi resumed providing day care in her home, church members were there to help her until she was able to handle it by herself. Heidi continues to provide day care in her home. Lynn has returned to her staff assistant's job in my office.

This is a beautiful story. I want to express my thanks and appreciation to Heidi Stensland for her generosity and her faith. I thank the members of the Elim Baptist Church for their prayers and support for Lynn and Heidi. And to Lynn, I want to wish all of the best for a very bright future, now full of hope. I commend her for her faith that God would provide an answer to her prayers.

To all those involved in this great story, I say, God bless.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO 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 Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, Hagop Bekerjian, Hranoush Boghosian, Gohar Madoyan, the Partamian brothers from Adana, Knarik Davoudian, Mari Filian, Hripsime Stambolian, Asadour Stambolian, Haroutiun Stambolian, Grigor Stambolian.

These are a few, a precious few, of the 1.5 million men, women, and children that lost their lives at the hands of the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923. Eighty-seven years ago, Armenian teachers, clergy, businessmen, writers, and doctors were rounded up and killed. The events of April 24, 1915,