

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues, and a large number of my colleagues, as we rightfully recognize, remember, and renounce the Armenian genocide.

I rise today to speak on one of the most unspeakable acts that ever came to pass. Beginning in 1915, innocent and unsuspecting Armenians of all ages were led by Ottoman Empire officials from their villages to their brutal death. Such atrocities endured for eight years. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were massacred.

While this tragedy of incomprehensible proportions was being perpetrated, the world stood idle. Prominent nations remained silent in the face of skyrocketing death tolls in this corner of Europe. Today and throughout this month, as we reflect and remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, we must also repudiate our unresponsiveness to this horrible mass murder.

Lastly, on behalf of the Sixth District of Massachusetts, I would like to praise the commitment and perseverance of Armenian-Americans, who have tirelessly labored to ensure that all know the tragic story and great sorrow of their people. Their efforts in this regard are laudable and serve as the best legacy they can leave to succeeding generations.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE OF LYNN ALCOCK

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rep. JOHN CONYERS and myself, I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Lynn Alcock, who is retiring this week after over 30 years of service as the calendar clerk on the House Judiciary Committee. Lynn has served admirably chairmen from both political parties, beginning with Chairman Peter Rodino and staying through the chairmanships of Jack Brooks, HENRY HYDE, and now my three-plus years. These chairmen, I believe, came to the same conclusion I did: Lynn is a tremendous asset who cannot be replaced.

Lynn hails from the Buckeye State of Ohio and began her congressional service in April of 1969 at the American Law Division of the Congressional Research Service, a non-partisan congressional research arm of the Library of Congress. Three years later, Lynn began working for House Information Resources before coming to her job "home" since December of 1973—the House Judiciary Committee.

Lynn is one of only a few who have worked for the House Judiciary Committee during both the impeachment of President Nixon and the impeachment of President Clinton. Her efforts making the Committee's work on these events available to the public will be particularly help-

ful to historians and scholars interested in these important events.

Mr. Speaker, Lynn has served the House Judiciary Committee, the Congress, and the American people for over 30 years with dedication, excellence, and integrity. We thank her and know that she will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIE VAUGHN
(UNCLE DUDE)

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, growing up in a small rural town in extreme Southeastern Arkansas presented many memorable moments and interesting personalities. On April 20th one of those personalities, Mr. Willie Vaughn reached a milestone in his life, Mr. Vaughn became 100 years old. I take this opportunity to congratulate him for not only living this long but for the many things he was able to provide leadership to and that he accomplished during his lifetime.

Mr. Willie Vaughn (my Uncle Dude) is technically my mother's stepbrother. However, they never acted as though they were anything except brothers and sisters who were integral parts of a large family group. In addition, he and my father were close friends and church associates. Therefore, our families were always very close and exhibited great feelings of kinship and friendship.

Uncle Dude was always a leader, at work, at church, in community activities, in family matters . . . in life. Like practically all of the other Blacks in town, he had very little formal education but has always been one of the smartest men that I have known. He was a farmer, a sharecropper, but also could make you a suit of clothes, cut your hair, make molasses and syrup, buy and rent real-estate and drive the school bus once we got one.

Uncle Dude was probably best known as a church leader and mentor. He could do and did everything at church there was to be done. He could sing, was chairman of the trustee board, Sunday School Superintendent and teacher, fundraiser, program planner and would cleanup, cut the grass and do everything else that was required. Uncle Dude was and is a tremendous family man, a patriarch; Aunt L.C. and all of my cousins always knew that Uncle Dude was a man whom they could count on and be proud of his leadership, personal support and well-being for his family.

Uncle Dude, Brother Willie, Mr. Vaughn, he was called many things and by many different people; but always with respect. He has been a giant, a legend, a mentor. . . . a man among men. He learned to walk with Kings and Queens but never lost the common touch, all men matters with him; but none too much. Happy Birthday on your 100th.

IN HONOR OF PHILLIP M. LELLI

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, April 25th, the labor community of

Pierce County, Washington and American workers nationwide lost one of their most progressive advocates and dedicated voices, Phillip M. Lelli.

Joining the longshore workforce on the Tacoma waterfront in 1949, Phil dedicated his entire career to expanding opportunities at the Port of Tacoma. In doing so he revolutionized the local waterfront.

As President of the Tacoma Longshore Union, ILWU Local 23, for almost twenty years, Phil championed unprecedented standards of efficiency within the labor force and innovations on the docks. At the same time, he strengthened the bargaining power of the ILWU and protected the rights and wellbeing of the longshore men and women.

Truly committed to the expansion of opportunity at the port, Phil elevated his involvement and was a pioneer in forming partnerships with the greater maritime community. He believed in the rewards of port and union cooperation and he continuously advocated on its behalf. In 1977 Phil became the first longshore worker elected to Tacoma's mainstream Propeller Club, and later the Propeller Club awarded Phil its greatest honor, Tacoma Master Mariner for 1982.

Phil's list of accomplishments and legacies is long and impressive. His influence has had a ripple effect in the Tacoma community that will continue long after his passing.

I honor the life of Phillip Lelli on an appropriate occasion. Today is National Worker's Memorial Day, a day observed by trade unions since 1989 to honor American workers who have been killed or injured on the job in the last year and an occasion to rededicate ourselves to protecting the health and wellbeing of workers in the future. While Phil recently lost his life after a battle with cancer, he truly worked day to day until his very last to protect the American worker—a commitment that intensified after the loss of his youngest son, Ross, in a waterfront accident in 1989.

Phillip Lelli's passing is a loss to all who knew him, and I extend my deepest sympathy to his family in their great loss. My thoughts and sympathies are also with other families across the Nation today who are mourning the loss of their loved ones on this day of reflection.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
LATINO DAY FOUNDATION

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to The National Latino Day Foundation, which is dedicated to celebrating the contributions of the Latino population throughout the U.S. and the Americas.

The National Latino Day Foundation has chosen July 24th to celebrate National Latino Day. On this day, Latinos will celebrate freedom, positive self-awareness, cultural unity, and their important roles in the democratic process. Planned events will recognize Latinos' active participation and creative leadership in our communities and their role as responsible American citizens.

It is appropriate that the Latino contribution be recognized in this way. In the Western

Hemisphere, the Latino population expands to over 700 million people. Latinos are the fastest growing and largest minority group in the U.S., with 40 million people, and will play a significant role in shaping our Nation's future.

The goals of The National Latino Day Foundation are to promote unity and closer bonds between Latinos and other Americans. The Foundation strives to expand the Latino population's political participation, uphold international peace and goodwill, and most important, celebrate the Latino heritage, culture and the arts.

The National Latino Day Foundation has made it their mission to ensure that a National Latino Day is established to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the Latino population in the U.S. The National Latino Day Foundation aspires to transform National Latino Day into a positive movement for national unity, social, political, and economic growth. I support this effort, ask my colleagues to do the same, and look forward to celebrating National Latino Day on July 24th.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, from May 1 to 3, 2004 more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from Incline High School in Incline Village will represent the State of Nevada in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capitol and compete at the national level.

The 3-day We the People National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the We the People program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the We the People program on students' civic

knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, coach Robert Heilig, peer tutors Ashley Hanna, Daniel St. John, and Jonathan B. Shoops, and teacher Milton Hyams have dedicated their time to work with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

I would also like to recognize the participants of this program individually: Bradley Charles Allured, Jason Daniel Beavers, Nicholas J. Bohn, Jessica L. Corpuel, Joseph Driver, Alexander T. Heilig, McKenna Louise Hollingsworth, Joshua Michael Hub, Ansley Karen Kendzioriski, Elisabeth Komito, Ashley Christine Nikke, Laura Rochelle Pillsbury, Robert William Rappaport, Catherine Lauren Serrano, Tira Wickland, and Beate Marie Wolter. These students should be commended for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

I wish these students the best of luck at the We the People national finals and applaud their achievement. We should all be proud that they are learning and advocating the fundamental ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a Nation.

IN SUPPORT OF THE GUTIERREZ-PAUL BILL

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to co-sponsor the legislation offered by Mr. GUTIERREZ using the Congressional Review Act to disapprove the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency's (OCC) preemption regulation because I strongly oppose any attempt to expand the OCC's regulatory functions beyond the power Congress originally granted the OCC. The OCC was never meant to serve as a national consumer protection agency. Its limited, intended role has been underscored by Federal court rulings that State law remains applicable to national banks in the absence of explicit Federal preemption.

Expanding the jurisdiction of OCC necessarily infringes on the ability of State lawmakers to determine their own consumer protection standards. One-size-fits-all policies crafted in Washington cannot serve the 50 diverse States well. Different States and markets have different needs that are better understood by State and local legislators. Congressional conservatives, in particular, should not endorse an expansion of the Federal regulatory power at the expense of States' rights. The Tenth Amendment is clear: regulatory

powers not specifically granted to Congress remain with the States. Congress should stop usurping State authority and leave consumer protection laws to those with far more experience and expertise.

This new OCC authority will have far-reaching and unintended consequences. State law governing mortgage brokers, sub-prime lenders, check cashing centers, leasing companies, and even car dealers could be preempted under the new proposal. This proposal may also give national banks and their subsidiaries a competitive advantage over small mortgage companies. OCC undoubtedly will need to hire new staff. Yet the OCC still may be unable to handle the flood of new responsibilities. Unless Congress resists any expansion of OCC, it risks creating another huge, unaccountable, bureaucratic agency. Therefore, I respectfully urge all my colleagues to support Mr. Gutierrez's legislation disapproving the OCC's preemption regulation.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE TO GARFIELD TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service and commitment of Bay County's Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department. On May 1st, the Department will celebrate 25 years of serving their Northern Michigan community. The efforts of the men and women of the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department stand as an example to all of us, and I join the township residents in thanking them for all they do.

Before their volunteer fire department was formed, the residents of Garfield Township had to rely on firefighters from nearby Kawkawlin. This meant that under the best of circumstances, it took at least 20 minutes for help to arrive on the scene of a fire. Not content with this dangerous situation, Township Treasurer Ray Monison and Township resident Gary Fritz began organizing what would become the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Before long the Township approved a millage for training, equipment, and a pole barn. Volunteers rebuilt a pumper truck donated by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the community came together to donate paint for the truck. By May 1979, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department was up and running.

Over the years, Garfield Township residents have supported their Department by approving additional millages, holding fundraisers, and donating their time. The Department has not only made Garfield Township safer, but brought the community closer together.

Since 1979, over 100 Township residents have joined the Department, maintaining a steady roster of about 20. Today, the Garfield Township Volunteer Fire Department has 22 proud members, nine of which have been with the Department from the very beginning.

Mr. Speaker, each of these people deserves individual recognition. The nine founding members of the Department still serving are: Wayne DeHate, Jerald DeLano, Terald DeLano, Ben Luptowski, Ronald Monison, Rodney