

leaders until a seemingly "brilliant" realization—"No Armenians, No Armenian Question." The horrible answer to a perplexing question led to the slaughter of millions of Armenians and the continuing denial of the massacres by today's Turkish government.

The long lists of atrocities have been well documented by numerous sources. The dwindling number of Armenians who survived the long death marches still tell chilling stories of their families' deaths. American diplomats and missionaries documented brutal attacks on peaceful cities and towns. German military personnel allied to the Turkish government, who defied orders to look the other way, compiled a record of death and destruction throughout the region. Even Turkish parliamentary and government documents speak to the existence and scope of these massacres.

The United States has a long history and long alliance with the Armenian people. During the massacres of the late Nineteenth century, tons of humanitarian supplies and hundreds of thousands of dollars poured into Armenia from the United States in an effort to alleviate the suffering of the Armenian people. American missionaries and prominent Americans, including American Red Cross founder Clara Barton, visited Armenia and aided the starving, homeless, and terrorized. During the Genocide of 1915–1923, American missionaries documented the slaughter of Armenian men, women, and children. In some cases, missionaries risked their own lives to protect Armenians.

Despite a compelling record proving the massacre of millions of human beings, there are still individuals, organizations, and governments that deny what happened 89 years ago. Given the United States' longstanding dedication to combating human rights abuses, it is shocking that the United States government has not officially recognized the savage butchery of one of the 20th Century's worst human rights violations.

In his book "The Burning Tigris," Peter Balakian describes the Genocide as follows:

The plan to liquidate the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire was put into action in the spring and early summer of 1915. It was well orchestrated, and in city and town, village and hamlet, and in the Armenian sections of the major cities of Asia Minor and Anatolia, Armenians were rounded up, arrested, and either shot outright or put on deportation marches. Most often the able-bodied men were arrested in groups and taken out of the town or city and shot en masse.

In the southeast towns and cities as were both killing stations and refugee spots, where Armenians who had survived long death marches from the north lived in concentration camps, in makeshift tents, or on the desert ground, hoping to stay alive. Farther south, in the Syrian desert, more Armenians died than perhaps anywhere else. There the epicenter of death was the region of Deir el-Zor, where Armenians died not only of massacre, starvation, and disease but were stuffed into caves and asphyxiated by brush fires—primitive gas chambers.

The Committee of Union and Progress's [Turkish ruling party] plan to exterminate the Armenians was made possible by the highest level of government planning: harnessing the bureaucracy for the organization and implementation of the Armenian deportations; the formation and organization of killing squads; the creation and manipulation of legislation, and the use of technology and communications . . .

The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 ranks among the Holocaust, Pol Pot's Cambodia, Stalin's starvation of kulaks in the Ukraine, and Muslim violence against Christians in Sudan as one of the worst instances of inhumanity and wanton cruelty. No one denies that these violent events happened. Indeed, the denial of these episodes would be met with immediate criticism and vociferous censure. Why is Turkey given a pass when it comes to admitting past mistakes?

I recognize that Turkey is a NATO ally and an ally in the war on terror. I recognize that the United States needs to maintain friendly relations with Turkey to help stabilize the Middle East, but as a friend of Turkey, the United States should be able to take its ally aside and point out its mistakes. Without recognizing our mistakes and our shortcomings, we do not learn. Without recognizing malice and cruelty wherever it is found, we risk forgetting these events and the lessons to be learned from them.

My deepest sympathies go to the whole of Armenia, and more importantly, my pity to those who continue to deny or ignore the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians during the Genocide of 1915–1923.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JUDITH "JR" RODRIGUE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Judith "JR" Rodrigue and thank her for her outstanding commitment to serving the people of Colorado as the Chief Clerk of the Colorado House of Representatives. After twenty-four years of tireless service, JR will be stepping down from her position as Chief Clerk. As she celebrates her retirement, let it be known that she leaves behind a wonderful and strong legacy of dedication to the Colorado General Assembly and the citizens of Colorado.

In 1979, JR began her career in the State House as an Assignable Clerk. She has since served as Messenger, Historian for the House of Representatives, and Chief Clerk's assistant, before her appointment as Chief Clerk in 1994. Some of her many accomplishments as Chief Clerk include publishing an Office Manual for the Members of the House, creating the Chief Clerk's Book, creating the Book of Motions, and serving as a member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries.

Most importantly, JR has provided excellent leadership and guidance, while establishing a close camaraderie with her colleagues and members of the Colorado House. Indeed, one of the highlights of my service as a state legislator was the friendship and guidance I received from JR. I can guarantee that I speak for many past and current members when I say she will always be revered for the level of honesty, integrity, and impartiality that she brought to her position. She is everybody's friend and always has a smile. She will be sorely missed by one and all.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Judith Rodrigue before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an

outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to the Colorado General Assembly and the people of Colorado as the Chief Clerk of the Colorado House of Representatives is truly remarkable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN KULOW

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize courage, loyalty, nobility, and honor; values enshrined in the everyday lives of firefighters. These brave men and women wake up every morning and routinely put their lives in harm's way.

I often marvel at the integrity one must possess to run voluntarily into a burning building knowing they may not exit alive. Every year, 1.9 million fires are reported throughout the country—that's three fires a minute, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At a moment's notice, our firefighters give their lives for us; one such man was Kevin Kulow.

Only 32, Kevin Kulow was the quintessential firefighter; a hardworking family man from Houston, a devoted husband, father to two beautiful little boys, and a man known for his charisma, Kevin was a modern day hero.

One of Kevin's life ambitions was to be a firefighter. He served for several years as a volunteer fireman in Sealy, Texas but in September 2003, he completed fire academy and joined the ranks of the Houston Fire Department. Kevin tragically perished fighting a fire earlier this month. Today, I offer a salute to a man who epitomized the values that our country was built on, offer my prayers for his family, and extend my gratitude to Kevin Kulow for defining integrity.

COMMENDING MR. DONALD HINKLE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the founder and artistic director of the Berks Classical Children's Chorus, Mr. Donald Hinkle.

Mr. Hinkle has a long and distinguished career in music. He received a Bachelor of Music degree from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and a Master of Sacred Music from Wittenberg University. Post-graduate studies include time spent at Union Theological Seminary School of Music in New York City and Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. He was the Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Reading, Pennsylvania from 1969 through 1996.

In 1992, Mr. Hinkle decided to use his talents and establish a musical organization to train young singers. Twelve years and hundreds of singers later, the Berks Classical Children's Chorus (BCCC) continues to educate vocal artists from grade school through high school. An ensemble of over 125 professionally and rigorously trained young men and

women perform with the BCCC in concerts, competitions, churches and civic organizations.

Many members of the Chorus have grown up singing with the BCCC, and the experience has been life changing. Through the BCCC, these young men and women learn to read music, master a diverse and challenging repertoire, use their voices properly, and become poised and confident performers. They learn an appreciation for a wide variety of cultures through the music they study and perform. But even more importantly, they learn the life lessons of self-discipline, personal responsibility, self-expression, teamwork, and self-confidence.

For Mr. Hinkle, the BCCC is about more than singing. It is his vehicle for building character through disciplined and professional artistic expression. Donald Hinkle has always been and always will be a man with a mission. His students are the fulfillment of that mission. They are not only accomplished singers, but also better human beings. Mr. Hinkle inspires them to strive for and achieve their personal best. His uncompromising pursuit of excellence transforms all of his students. I congratulate him on these accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHRIS BROWN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Chris Brown of Grand Junction, Colorado whose efforts and vision recently earned his business, the designation of Small Business of the Year from the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce. Since he opened Brown's Cycles in 2000, Chris has made great contributions to the Grand Junction business community, as well as helping to spread the love of biking in his community.

Chris began exploring his passion for bicycle exhibition and repair while working as an engineer where he would plan business trips around cities with other bike enthusiasts. Since opening his store, he has brought his engineering background to his passion, creating new and innovative bikes. Perhaps most notable is the bike he specially designed which allows people with physical disabilities to share in his passion for cycling. As a member of the Downtown Association Board, Chris is a proponent for all the businesses on Main Street, and is currently working on a proposal for a summer bike festival for Grand Junction.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Chris Brown before this body of Congress and this nation. Through his vision and determination, he has made remarkable contributions to his Grand Junction community. I sincerely thank him for his efforts and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the nation of Israel, the lone beacon of democracy in a region roiling with tyranny and oppression. In the ongoing war on terrorism, we have no firmer friend than the nation of Israel, and as we seek a lasting peace in the Middle East, we can have no stronger ally.

Today we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence in 1948. For more than 50 years our two great nations have forged a bond built on a shared vision of democracy. Our similar ideals and like minded determination protect the freedoms of our citizens and ensure the fundamental principles of equality and pluralism.

It is a fact that Israel has had to live in the shadow of danger because it has too often been surrounded by enemies. That insecure existence has demanded the sacrifice of numerous Israeli soldiers, who have fought to keep Israel independent and free in the face of war and terrorism.

Today we also call to mind the victims of the attacks Israel has weathered since its inception. The dead and the wounded remind us of Israel's valor and her willingness to protect the basic aspirations of democracy: human dignity, individual rights, and religious freedom.

Today, Mr. Speaker, is the day we celebrate Israel's Day of Independence, and pronounce our steadfastness to her survival and prosperity.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SALLY SCHAEFER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today and pay tribute to Sally Schaefer for her remarkable contributions to her Grand Junction, Colorado community. Her outstanding dedication to Hilltop Community Resources, which helps people with brain injuries re-create their lives is certainly commendable and worthy of recognition from this body of Congress and this nation. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity and thank Sally for her many contributions to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Sally became interested in aiding others at an early age by helping to take care of her six younger siblings when they were sick. She attended Marquette University Nursing School, and in 1982 became a rehabilitation nurse at Hilltop. Sally immediately took a leadership role at the hospital, developing the Life Adjustment Program for brain-injured adults, a program that helps patients learn to live constructive lives after they are discharged from the hospital. In 1995, Sally negotiated the sale of Hilltop's rehabilitation hospital to St. Mary's Hospital in order for the Center to focus exclusively on people readjusting to their lives after

a serious medical trauma. In 1998, she became chief executive officer of Hilltop, overseeing an organization with \$40 million dollars worth of assets and 400 employees.

Sally's extensive involvement in her Grand Junction community includes her participation in numerous civic organizations. She serves as chairman of the Victims of Crime state board, an organization dedicated to victim's rights, and for the Grand Junction Economic Partnership and Rocky Mountain Health Plans. She also serves as vice chairman of the Fort Lewis College governing board, and is a member of the state medical services board.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Sally Schaefer plays a vital role in her Grand Junction community. Sally's leadership and dedication as chief executive officer of Hilltop has helped it become a preeminent rehabilitation facility for people suffering from major trauma injuries. Her efforts in serving the people of Grand Junction and the State of Colorado are worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today, and I thank Sally for her service.

H.R. 2239—REPRESENTATIVE HOLT'S VOTER CONFIDENCE AND INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of support for my colleague, RUSH HOLT's, Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003, H.R. 2239.

As a proud co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation, I believe very strongly that we need to ensure a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for direct recording electronic voting machines, or touch screen machines as they are commonly called, in order to ensure the validity of the election process.

The modernization of voting equipment and the switch to computers encouraged by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 has generated considerable concern among my constituents that the voting process may be subject to manipulation from unknown sources.

These concerns have been magnified by the complexities involved in maintaining the integrity of computer systems, training poll workers in proper setup, operation, and troubleshooting, and educating the public on the proper operation of these touch screen machines.

Listening to these concerns and understanding the importance of earning the public's trust in these new systems in order to carry out a fair election in California, last year our Secretary of State, Kevin Shelley, convened an Ad Hoc Touch Screen Task Force to provide recommendations on the best ways to address these issues.

Based on the discussions and recommendations that grew out of this task force, the Secretary of State concluded last November that a voter verified paper audit trail should be required on all touch screen voting machines used in California.

Beginning on July 1, 2005, the Secretary of State will require all local jurisdictions purchasing new touch screen machines to ensure that they contain a voter verified paper audit