

quality and quality of life. For example, it has been estimated that when geothermal resources associated with California are developed, they will replace half the fossil fuel-generated electricity for California.

This benefit alone would help thousands of asthma sufferers in the Los Angeles basin. Also, the addition of geothermal energy will help relieve the high cost of electricity and provide families with more disposable income.

Jobs continue to be a top priority for States and localities. As our country works toward rebuilding our job base, due to the loss of textile and manufacturing jobs that have moved overseas, my legislation offers communities a new economic base and the opportunity for economic growth.

Most geothermal generating facilities are located in rural areas where jobs tend to be scarce. A recent economic development study documents the tremendous job opportunities associated with geothermal generation facilities. Building a 50 megawatt geothermal power plant would create hundreds of immediate construction and related development jobs as well as approximately 30 to 50 permanent full-time jobs at the facility.

Considering the economic multiplier effect, this would mean at least 150 to 200 new jobs in the community.

Given the long operating life of existing geothermal plans, they are a stable and reliable part of the community's economic base. These facilities have a proven record of providing millions of dollars in property taxes and royalties to county and State treasuries. These funds help schools and community infrastructure.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, geothermal energy development sustains renewable energy efforts including compliance with renewable portfolio standards. It is consistent with the wind energy sources. Geothermal power plants recycle their spent hot water back into the aquifer they are developed on. So this is truly renewable.

I ask my colleagues to strongly support this legislation.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, I attended a ceremony to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide in Times Square in New York City, and I have to say it was a very moving moment. There were several, I

would not say many, because there are not that many genocide survivors that are still around, but I did have a chance to talk briefly with maybe 10 or so.

It was incredible to hear them tell the stories of the families and atrocities that had occurred 89 years ago now. More and more countries and States and even the media are now in the process of recognizing the genocide, and I just wanted to mention specifically that the Canadian House of Commons last week joined France, Italy, the Vatican and a number of other European countries and the European Parliament in acknowledging this crime against humanity as genocide.

□ 2000

Also last week, The New York Times reversed decades of ambiguity by declaring in favor of using the term "genocide" to describe the Armenian cataclysm of 1915. The Boston Globe adopted a similar policy change last year.

Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate thing is, although so many other countries and so many of our own States have recognized the Armenian genocide, we in the Congress continue not to recognize it. I think it is important that we do so.

The gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was here earlier, and he mentioned the House Genocide Resolution, H. Res. 193, which has now 111 cosponsors. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the House Committee on the Judiciary on May 21, 2003, but it has not been brought to the floor for consideration. I would urge the Speaker and the leaders on the Republican side of the aisle to bring this resolution to the floor. It is important that they do so.

Now, this year, as we do every year, the members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues put together a letter to the President of the United States asking him to acknowledge the Armenian genocide. This year there were 169 signatures, more than we have ever had before in that letter that we sent to the President; and I just wanted to read, if I could, some sections of that letter, because I think it is important.

We say, "Dear Mr. President: We are writing to urge you to join us in reaffirming the U.S. record on the Armenian genocide in your April 24 commemorative statement.

"By properly recognizing the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as genocide in your statement, you will honor the many Americans who helped launch our first international human rights campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors. The official U.S. response mirrored the overwhelming reaction by the American public to this crime against humanity and, as such, constitutes a proud, irrefutable and groundbreaking chapter in U.S. diplomatic history.

"Now, more than ever, as your administration seeks to bring an end to

global terrorism and to help establish democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq, the memory of the genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished tradition of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughters. The victims of the Armenian genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history. It is in the best interests of our Nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to ensure they are never repeated."

That is really the essence of what we are trying to achieve here today in asking that the President and this Congress basically reaffirm the Armenian genocide, because we simply do not want it repeated again. We know how many times in the 20th century that genocide occurred.

House Resolution H.R. 193, and also its Senate counterpart, Senate Resolution 164, which I would like to add has 37 cosponsors right now, basically state that the purpose of the resolutions are to strengthen America's commitment to the value of the genocide convention that was implemented 15 years ago.

This convention recognizes essentially a number of the genocides that occurred in the 20th century. And as some of my colleagues mentioned earlier, not only the Armenian genocide, but that in Rwanda, Burundi, and, of course most important, the Nazi Holocaust genocide against the Jews.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that when we talk about the Armenian genocide, we are simply acknowledging the fact. And we feel very strongly that if at the time the genocide occurred the world and the nations of the world had taken more notice and had tried to prevent it, I think it would have served as a lesson so that the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews and so many other atrocities that took place in the 20th century would not have occurred. If we are going to see a situation in the future, in this 21st century, where we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, we must acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

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

(Mr. WAXMAN 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 New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY 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 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.)

89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, this month many of us pause to remember the Holocaust in Yom Hashoah commemorations. But on April 24, 1915, the first genocide of the 20th century began. The Ottoman Empire began rounding up a group of more than 250 Armenian intellectuals and civic leaders. Then soldiers of Armenian descent who were serving in the Turkish military were moved to labor camps and eventually murdered.

Across Anatolia, Armenian leaders were arrested and killed. So, too, were the most powerless, children, women, and the elderly, all driven from their homes into the Syrian desert. These mass deportations were in fact slaughters. They were death marches. Soldiers themselves not only permitted the attacks on the deportees but participated in the killing and rapes. The inevitable end was thousands upon thousands dying of starvation or simply being worked to death, but sometimes these victims were the lucky ones.

When the Turks deemed deportations impractical, the genocide took other vicious forms. In communities near the Black Sea, Armenians were forced onto boats, driven out into the middle of the ocean, and drowned.

In the end, 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the genocide as the world stood by. Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, who pleaded with world leaders to intervene, described the Ottoman effort to eliminate the Armenian population this way: "The whole history of the human race contains no such horrible an episode as this." An American diplomat stationed in eastern Anatolia cabled back to Washington that "it has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race, but the methods used could not have been more cold-blooded and barbarous, if not more effective, than I had first supposed."

Like communities that survived the Nazis efforts at extermination, the Armenian community today is often faced by those who deny the Turkish effort to commit genocide ever occurred. Despite records and accounts preserved in our own National Archives, there have been those bent on erasing this horrible memory from the annals of history.

We will not let that happen. That is why today's commemoration here in the United States Congress and those going on this week is so crucial. If the world fails to remember the Armenian

genocide of the early 20th century, we do more than a grave injustice to those who perished. We do a disservice to the generations who have come after us who would be left without the collective memory that binds those who understand the depth of evil that one community is capable of unleashing upon another.

Yet even as we remember and grieve, we thank those in the Armenian community for the contributions they have made around the globe since emerging from terror 89 years ago. One need not look too far to find Armenian-Americans who have become pillars of American society. Armenian-Americans are influential businessmen, like Kirk Kerkorian; famous writers, like William Saroyan; and international sports stars, like Andre Agassi.

In New York, internationally renowned scholar and Carnegie Corporation president Vartan Gregorian spent 8 years as president of the New York Public Library. Arshile Gorky was a leader of the abstract expressionist school that flourished in New York during the 1940s. And I am particularly proud that Raymond Damadian, who invented the MRI, was not only a resident of New York but was a neighbor of mine in Forest Hills. His parents were survivors of the genocide.

As we gather, we also pay tribute to those who have become famous public servants, football coaches, astronauts and others. As we gather to commemorate the Armenian genocide, we do so as a lesson to one another that we must not forget the lessons that were learned. We also gather to pay a message to those who would deny that the Holocaust ever happened. But perhaps most importantly, we gather to send a signal across the world that those who seek to deny the Armenian genocide do a disservice to all of us.

We here in the United States House of Representatives should delay no further in making our voices heard in this debate. It is worth noting that the very same people who would deny this Holocaust actively push that we do not consider the resolution that the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) has proposed.

We gather here today to pay tribute, but we also gather to put pressure on this United States Congress to finally designate what we all know to be the case as genocide. The first genocide of the 20th century was not the last, tragically; but it is time that we correct the history in the minds of many and finally declare the Armenian genocide the holocaust that it was.

TOUCHED BY AN ANGEL HONOREES

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

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the names of five women who were hon-

ored by the Touched By an Angel St. Bernadette Women's Day on Sunday April 25, 2000, in my district. The following have been honored for their exemplary and unselfish work and service to church and their community:

Joan Benson. A dedicated and productive volunteer.

Pat Botshekan. If there is any event, she has had a significant role in planning and bringing the occasion to fruition.

Marian Donkor. She has distinguished herself as an able and willing volunteer, always agreeable, pleasant, and eager to help whenever needed.

Lucille Matthews. Always focused on her family, her church, and the community, where she visits the sick almost every day.

And then there is Peggy Wright. Active in her community as block club chairman, volunteer at St. Anne's Home For Unwed Mothers, she has held many committee positions and chairmanships.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate them as the angels of peace for being honored with a Touched By an Angel Award.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, a few remarks on the Armenian genocide. My Armenian-American friends and neighbors in Los Angeles have asked me to speak tonight as a tribute to the victims of the Armenian genocide.

As you know, in April 1915, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were systematically killed in an organized fashion by the Ottoman government. Ample documentation of these facts exist; yet today, almost 9 decades later, the government of the modern state of Turkey still fails to acknowledge the fact of the Armenian genocide.

Turkey's failure to acknowledge the truth is a burden on the alliance between our two nations. I would say to our President, it should be called as it is, a crime of genocide. So I call upon the President of the United States to uphold the commitment he made back when he was running for President and put the United States of America on record acknowledging the Armenian genocide.

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

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SMART SECURITY, PREVENTING FUTURE ACTS OF TERRORISM

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, almost 3 years ago, on September 11, the