

Mr. Cave has received many awards, including Learning Leader from P.S. 5 for his dedication and commitment to the school and community. He has also secured a Certificate of Recognition from State Senator Ada L. Smith and the Exemplary Service Award from Unity Democratic Club.

In addition to his political and civic involvement, Mr. Cave is an avid traveler and devoted family man. As a result, we proudly recognize him today.

CONGRATULATING ROCHE ON ITS
100TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE
UNITED STATES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations in honor of the 100 Anniversary of Roche, one of the leading healthcare innovators in the world. Roche is a specialty care company that employs over 10,000 people in America and 60,000 globally. I am pleased that Boulder is home to Roche Colorado, which employs over 300 people, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of health care for millions of people.

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office in 1905. From its start in Manhattan in 1905, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States, in Colorado, New Jersey, Indiana, South Carolina, and California.

As an industry leader, Roche Colorado researches and manufactures products such as the first in an entirely new class of drugs to combat HIV, a potent oral antiviral that is our most promising weapon against the threat of pandemic influenza, and a treatment that preserves the sight of people with AIDS infected with a virus that usually leads to blindness. These inventions are just a few examples of how Roche helps provide Americans with the highest quality medical treatment in the world.

Roche's ties to Boulder date back to 1946 as Arapahoe Chemicals and subsequently Syntex, which joined Roche in 1994. I applaud Roche Colorado for being an active corporate citizen, supporting the Boulder County AIDS Project, the Women's Health Project, and the Grillo Information Center which provides educational help to individuals suffering from cancer, all efforts that truly enhance our quality of life in Boulder and build our sense of community.

I commend the people of Roche Colorado in Boulder and Roche employees worldwide for their impressive achievements, and wish them the very best on this special 100th Anniversary.

THE AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE
WITHDRAWAL OF AMBASSADOR
EVANS' AWARD

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to express my disappointment with the American Foreign Service Association, and its decision to withdraw awarding a "Constructive Dissent" award to U.S. Armenian Ambassador John Evans.

Ambassador Evans was due to receive the Christian A. Heter Award for intellectual courage, initiative, and integrity later this week. The award was a result of courageous statements he made regarding the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

In a series of public statements, Ambassador Evans, who has studied Russian history at Yale and Columbia and Ottoman history at the Kennan Institute, stated, "I will today call it the Armenian Genocide." Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Evans has studied the history of Armenia, and based on his substantial studies of the issue, he was willing to go on the record and define the actions taken against Armenians as genocide.

The Armenian Genocide was the systematic extermination—the murder—of one-and-one-half million Armenian men, women and children.

To this day, the Republic of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the fact that this massive crime against humanity took place on soil under its control, and in the name of Turkish nationalism.

Unfortunately, some 90 years later, the U.S. State Department continues to support Turkey's denials despite all evidence to the contrary. It's not likely that the State Department was happy with their Ambassador to Armenia acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Therefore, Evans retracted his remarks after receiving substantial pressure from the State Department.

Well, now the selection committee at the American Foreign Service Association has decided to withdraw the award with no reason for its actions. I find the timing of the decision peculiar. The sharp turnaround came right before Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Washington for a meeting with President Bush. Based on past history, it's clear that the State Department, the Bush Administration, and the powerful pro-Turkish lobby pressured A-F-S-A to withdraw Ambassador Evans' Award.

It is simply unacceptable for this administration to continue to penalize the ambassador for his comments. Ambassador Evans did a courageous thing; his statements did not contradict U.S. policy, but rather articulated the same message that this Administration has sent to the public. The only difference in this case is that Ambassador Evans assigned a word to define the actions taken against the Armenians.

This was a refreshing break from a pattern on the part of the State Department of using evasive and euphemistic terminology to obscure the full reality of the Armenian Genocide, Ambassador Evans pointed out that, "No American official has ever denied it," and went on to say that, "I think we, the U.S. govern-

ment, owe you, our fellow citizens a more frank and honest way of discussing this problem."

Ambassador Evans was merely recounting the historical record, which has been attested to by over 120 Holocaust and genocide scholars from around the world. By doing this, he earned a prestigious award that was taken from him because of politics and denial.

I want to add my voice to all those who, in Ambassador Evans' own words, (and I'm quoting) "think it is unbecoming of us as Americans to play word games here. I believe in calling things by their name." Evans was right, and the American Foreign Services Association was correct in awarding him the Christian A. Heter Award. We should encourage our Ambassadors to speak the truth, and, more boldly, end, once and for all, our complicity in Turkey's campaign of genocide denial.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Evans has been penalized for telling the truth. The American Foreign Service Association has set a terrible example by retracting Ambassador Evans' award. I guess even in America the Turkish Government is able to stifle debate.

[From the California Courier]

RESCINDING OF "DISSENT" AWARD TRIGGERS
INTERNATIONAL UPROAR

(By Harut Sassounian)

Last week, in this column, I disclosed the news that the American Foreign Service Association had just reversed itself, taking the unprecedented step of withdrawing the "Constructive Dissent" award from John Evans, the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia.

This was a shocking development, as this award is given to high-ranking diplomats for their "intellectual courage, initiative and integrity in the context of constructive dissent [and] for demonstrating the courage to speak out and challenge the system on a subject related to their work."

Last February, Ambassador Evans had forthrightly and appropriately referred to the Armenian Genocide, as a genocide, to the chagrin of the Turkish government and its supporters in the Bush administration. It was highly ironic that the U.S. Ambassador would lose this award for the very reason that it was given to him in the first place—"dissent." So much for encouraging honesty and integrity at the State Department.

I posted my last week's column on the group web site in the evening of June 6, a couple of hours after being informed by AFSA that it had just decided to rescind the award. Little did I know then that within a couple of days, my column would trigger a national and international uproar and would be picked up by scores of newspapers and wire services from around the world, such as the Washington Post, the Associated Press, the UPI, Hurriyet, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Turkish Daily News, AzerTag (Azerbaijan), Webindia123 (India), and Armenian newspapers in several countries. Even the spokesman for the State Dept., Sean McCormack, was asked about this controversial issue during his daily press briefing on June 9.

Despite attempts AFSA and State Dept. officials to cover up the real reasons for the withdrawal of the award, it has become clear that the award was rescinded after direct pressure was brought to bear on AFSA from the State Dept. When John Limbert, the president of AFSA, was asked by the Washington Post to explain the reason for his group's action, he replied: "State Department officials would have to explain their concerns." The Award Committee is composed of current and former State Department officials. L. Bruce Laingen, who

chaired the selection committee, was more forthcoming.

He told the Post that "very serious people from the State Department in particular" expressed concerns about this award being given to Amb. Evans. Laingen said that the award committee had not focused on the criterion that dissent had to be expressed within the system, until it was reminded of that by the State Department!

Once again, as a result of the over-reaction of Turkish officials and their Washington cronies, the issue of the Armenian Genocide was publicized worldwide. All of the above newspapers and wire services, even the Turkish and Azeri ones, reported that the award had been withdrawn from Amb. Evans because of his comments on the Armenian Genocide. The Washington Post wrote that Amb. Evans had characterized "as genocide the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire in 1915." It included in its article lengthy quotations from the statements Amb. Evans had made last February on the Armenian Genocide—the same quotations that I had cited in my last week's column.

The Washington Post also wrote: "the timing of the association's decision appeared curious, given it came just before Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Washington for a meeting with President Bush to bolster strained U.S.-Turkish relations. John W. Limbert, president of the association, said that no one at the organization can remember an award being withdrawn after it had been announced. 'It is not something we do easily,' he said."

Ironically, if the State Department thought that by withdrawing this award it would avoid the awkward situation of honoring the U.S. ambassador to Armenia for acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, at a time when the Turkish Prime Minister was meeting with Pres. Bush, it actually ended up creating a bigger embarrassment, as the national and international media reported AFSA's controversial decision, while the Turkish leader was still in Washington.

By withdrawing the "Dissent" award, AFSA and the State Department made fools of themselves in front of the whole world. Their unwarranted action not only undermined the credibility of the award, but also the reputations of both AFSA and the U.S. government which acted in this case with intolerance more typical of oppressive third world regimes.

[From the California Courier]

FOREIGN SERVICE AGENCY WRONGLY
WITHDRAWS AWARD FROM AMB. EVANS

(By Harut Sassounian)

The American Foreign Service Association took the very unusual step this week of rescinding the prestigious "Constructive Dissent" award that it had decided to bestow upon U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans, during a special ceremony that was to be held at the Benjamin Franklin Diplomatic Reception Room of the State Department on June 17.

The AFSA is the professional association of the United States Foreign Service. It represents 26,000 active and retired Foreign Service employees of the Department of State and Agency for International Development. The Secretary of State usually attends the group's annual award ceremony.

Last February, during his tour of various Armenian communities in the United States, Amb. Evans publicly referred to the extermination of the Armenians in Ottoman Turkey as genocide. "I will today call it the Armenian Genocide," the U.S. Ambassador said. "I informed myself in depth about it. I think

we, the U.S. government, owe you, our fellow citizens, a more frank and honest way of discussing this problem. Today, as someone who has studied it, . . . there is no doubt in my mind what happened. . . . I think it is unbecoming of us, as Americans, to play word games here. I believe in calling things by their name." Referring to "the first Genocide of the 20th century," Amb. Evans said, "I pledge to you, we are going to do a better job at addressing this issue."

Amb. Evans knew that his frank comments ran counter to the official line of recent U.S. administrations that have avoided using the term genocide to characterize the mass killings of Armenians. After complaints from Turkish officials to the U.S. government, Amb. Evans was forced by his superiors to issue "a clarification," stating that he used the term "genocide" in his personal capacity—and he now found that to be "inappropriate." To make matters worse, Amb. Evans was then forced to correct his clarification, replacing the word "genocide" with "Armenian tragedy."

Since Amb. Evans had dared to challenge the position of his own superiors, he was nominated for the AFSA's coveted "Constructive Dissent" award. The AFSA's web site explains that this award "publicly recognizes individuals who have demonstrated the intellectual courage to challenge the system from within, to question the status quo and take a stand, no matter the sensitivity of the issue or the consequences of their actions." The AFSA states: "The purpose of the Dissent Awards is to encourage Foreign Service career employees to speak out frankly and honestly." It also states that the Constructive Dissent Awards "offer an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor the courageous and thoughtful actions of our colleagues, over and above their responsibilities."

Last week, Hayagan Jamanag, a newspaper published in Yerevan, reported that Amb. Evans was the winner of this year's "Constructive Dissent" award. Since the name of the honoree was not yet officially announced, I contacted the AFSA in Washington, D.C., and was told that Amb. Evans was indeed the winner of this prestigious award. I was also told that he was selected because of his stand on the Armenian Genocide.

As this column was about to go to print, I received an unexpected call from an AFSA official in Washington, informing me that the Award Committee had just met and decided to reverse itself and "withdraw the award" from Amb. Evans. When I asked why, the answer was "no comment."

We can safely speculate that the same cast of characters at the upper echelons of the Bush Administration, who had earlier forced Amb. Evans to withdraw his remarks on the Armenian Genocide, had now succeeded in forcing the AFSA to rescind this award.

Incredibly, what they were taking away from Amb. Evans was not just any award. It was an award for dissenting from the Bush administration's immoral position on the Armenian Genocide. It was an award for simply telling the truth. Amb. Evans was basically repeating what President Ronald Reagan had said back in 1981 in his Presidential Proclamation, acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. It would seem that Bush administration officials are not afraid to go after an Ambassador, but they would not dare to take on President Reagan who committed the same sin of telling the truth!

It is a telling sign of decadent times that an individual has to be given an award for having "the courage" to tell the truth—and worse yet, have that award unfairly taken away from him.

All those who side with truth and justice, should complain to the AFSA

(berger@afsa.org) for its withdrawal of Amb. Evans' award and ask that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (<http://contact-us.state.gov>) have it reinstated promptly.

RECOGNIZING JOSHUA FISHER
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Fisher of Weston, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 249, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Joshua achieved the rank of Eagle Scout on October 14, 2004.

Joshua has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years that Joshua has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joshua organized the creation of a new welcome sign, the pouring of concrete slabs for picnic tables, and the installation of a new flag pole with lighting around it, all at Bless Park in Weston.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Fisher for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. ROGER
WITHERSPOON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Roger Witherspoon. Dr. Witherspoon completed his undergraduate studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He is a graduate of Adelphi University's Graduates School of Social Work in Garden City, New York and earned his doctorate degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Witherspoon previously was Associate Dean of Student Affairs at CUNY Lehman College. He is currently the Vice-President of Student Development at CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice where his responsibilities include chairing the Communication Skills and Counseling Department, administrative oversight of Student Activities, Freshman Program, Children's Center, Career Advisement, Women's Center, Disabled Student Services, Financial Aid, Health Services, Co-op Education/Internships, and Student Support Services.

Prior to his appointment as Vice-President, Dr. Witherspoon taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in education and social work for over 17 years. He has lectured at Columbia University, St. John's University, San Francisco State, Smith College, Fordham University, and many others. His publications on