

encouragement were sought by many and the depth of his wisdom will sorely be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me in marking the passing of this great leader. We can all be comforted with the enormous legacy that survives Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum's remarkable life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "MILITARY RANGE LEGACY ACT OF 2006"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Military Range Legacy Act of 2006." This bill strengthens military base clean-up programs through the use and development of new technologies, better programmatic organization, and a greater attention to the needs of the communities impacted by base closures.

I am proud that the United States has the best trained military in the world. Yet, as a result of this training, over 3,000 sites on former military ranges are contaminated with unexploded ordnance, UXO discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents. These sites, littered with still-dangerous explosives and harmful contaminants, pose health and safety risks to our communities while preventing the redevelopment of closed bases and limiting opportunities for job creation and economic growth. By passing the Military Range Legacy Act or including provisions of it in the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act and providing the necessary funding, we can achieve real progress towards making our former defense communities safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY OLIVER, NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate my constituent Kimberly Oliver for being named the 2006 National Teacher of the Year. Ms. Oliver, a kindergarten teacher at Broad Acres Elementary School in Silver Spring, Maryland, exemplifies the best of the teaching profession—an innovative instructor who inspires her students to reach their full potential. Today, Ms. Oliver makes history as the first Montgomery County Public School or Maryland teacher to win this prestigious honor.

Ms. Oliver has worked tirelessly, not only as a teacher but also as a leader outside of the classroom. Just a few short years ago, Broad Acres was on the brink of a takeover by the Maryland State Department of Education due to low performance by its students. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Ms. Oliver and other faculty members, staff, and students, Broad Acres is now a model of school reform.

Oliver was named Montgomery County Teacher of the Year in April 2005 and was selected Maryland Teacher of the Year last October. She was named one of four finalists for

the national honor in January. As the 56th National Teacher of the Year, she will spend the next year representing our Nation's teachers at events around the country.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is one of the oldest and most prestigious national honors programs that recognizes excellence in teaching. I am proud that one of Montgomery County's many outstanding teachers was awarded this honor.

Education is the foundation of opportunity and America's children need teachers like Ms. Oliver to help provide them with the knowledge and training they need to become the leaders of tomorrow. I applaud Kimberly Oliver's achievement and wish her success in her future endeavors.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Each year on April 24th, the Armenian community and others throughout the world remember and solemnly commemorate the 300 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders that were arrested in Constantinople, taken to Turkey and murdered. Today marks the 91st anniversary of the deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. From 1915–1923, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and more than 500,000 were forced from their homeland into exile.

Despite the effort of some to minimize the scope and deny its occurrence, the Armenian Genocide is a historical fact. In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. In my district, there is a significant population of Armenian survivors and their families that showed heroic bravery and a will to survive. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their culture, traditions, and religion by sharing their story of the genocide. It is through their unforgettable tragedy that we are able to share in their history and strong heritage.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more powerful than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. By commemorating the Armenian Genocide, we renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities, and therefore we ensure the lessons of the Armenian Genocide are properly understood and acknowledged. As U.S. efforts to aid victims of genocide continue, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

RECOGNIZING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

From 1915 to 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered mass killings and more than half a million others were forced from their homeland into exile by the Ottoman Empire. Yet, from the ashes of destruction, the survivors rebuilt their lives. In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. Communities in California and across the United States are fortunate to be home to an organized and active Armenian community, whose members contribute and participate in every aspect of civic life.

Despite the many thriving communities, the scars of genocide remain deeply embedded in history and in our conscience. Today we mourn the victims, pay tribute to the survivors, stand together with all who are committed to promoting awareness about the atrocities of genocide, and renew our commitment to prevent future atrocities. Today we remember to never forget.

COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, to remember the victims, to recognize the survivors, and to keep the memory of this atrocity fresh and alive.

The Armenian genocide began April 24, 1915 with the Ottoman Empire's campaign to eradicate the Armenian presence within its borders. The alarmed American ambassador at the time protested Ottoman policy and wrote to Washington describing what was happening on the ground as a "campaign of race extermination." By the time the genocide ended eight years later it claimed one and a half million souls and forced another half a million Armenians to flee their homes and leave their country in order to survive, many coming to the United States where the community would go on to thrive.

This despicable mass murder, torture, and killing of innocents was indeed a genocide; that fact can neither be denied nor ignored. It is outrageous that 91 years later the governments of the United States and Turkey still refuse to acknowledge this slaughter for what it was. This is shameful in light of the magnitude of suffering the Armenian community has endured since their victimization and the subsequent historical denial of their persecution.

It is time to act by appropriately condemning this horrific event. I join my colleagues from

the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in calling upon this administration and the government of Turkey to formally recognize the Armenian genocide.

91ST ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 91st annual observance of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-one years ago, there began a vast human tragedy with the execution of some 300 Armenian leaders, professionals and intellectuals. Over the next eight years, a brutal campaign of genocide against the Armenian people was carried out in the Ottoman Empire, leading to the deaths of over 1.5 million people and the deporting of another 500,000.

Decade after decade there has been a failure to acknowledge the Armenian genocide. Today, while there is increased pressure on Turkey to acknowledge the facts of history, and some new voices have been raised to urge this acknowledgement, there remain efforts to evade this dark chapter in human his-

tory, as evidenced by a book recently sent to Congressional offices.

So this is the time for all of us who have been joining in the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide to continue to speak out. It is vital and urgent for us to insist that there be a universal participation in remembering the victims. We must say, to those who hesitate, our humanity can settle for nothing less.