

HaShoah, to pay respect to the millions of Jews who perished as a result of the Holocaust. Today more than ever, it is important to recall the insanity that swept through Europe and allowed ordinary men and women to become mass murderers or to permit others to turn a blind eye to the killing. We need to remember the six million Jews whose lives were cut short because of a concerted effort to annihilate an entire people. Their deaths were not the natural result of war and deprivation. They were killed intentionally and for no other reason than that they were Jews. We should also celebrate the brave individuals who sheltered, cared for and protected Jews despite the danger to themselves.

It is shocking to find that a mere 61 years later, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is openly denying the very existence of the Holocaust. President Ahmadinejad stunned the world last December when he made a speech declaring that the Nazi's mass murder of Jews during World War II was a myth. Foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki affirmed that Holocaust denial is now the official Iranian government position. "The words of [President] Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the Holocaust and on Israel are not personal opinions, nor isolated statements but they express the view of the [Iranian] government," Mottaki said.

In March 2006, at the initiative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, state-run Isfahan University sponsored a conference to 're-examine the scientific evidence for the Holocaust.' More conferences are expected, as Iran tries to wrap its insupportable views in scholarship. Unfortunately, these Iranian leaders are giving voice to a view that is becoming all too common.

After President Ahmadinejad spoke, the vast majority of world leaders immediately condemned his irrational claims. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged all UN members to "combat such denial and to educate their populations about the well established historical facts of the Holocaust, in which one third of the Jewish people were murdered along with countless members of other minorities." I believe we need to take affirmative steps in the United States to make sure that our young people understand the horrors of that evil time. That's why I introduced the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act of 2005, to ensure that programs are developed throughout the country to teach young people about the millions who died and the terrible repercussions of unfettered hatred. I am pleased that Senator MENENDEZ introduced a companion bill in the Senate today.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we need to make sure that new generations know the horrors of that terrible time. We need to make sure that those who would deny the existence of the Holocaust do not have the ability to rewrite history. The pain of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis is all too real. We have an obligation to remember a time when pure evil swept the globe, millions were swallowed up in the gas chambers and the Jewish people were nearly wiped out of existence. As Simon Wiesenthal said, "For your benefit, learn from our tragedy. It is not a written law that the next victims must be Jews. It can also be other people. We saw it begin in Germany with Jews, but people from more than twenty other nations were also murdered."

ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my voice with those of my colleagues who once again are commemorating the Armenian Genocide. On this somber day, we take time to recall the horrors of long ago, as Armenians are doing all over the world. Beginning in 1914, over 1.5 million people were systematically killed in what historians call the first genocide of the twentieth century, and over half a million Armenians had to leave their homeland.

Knowledge about the Armenian Genocide is spreading. Just recently, PBS broadcast an extremely detailed and heart-rending examination of the subject. Even in Turkey, where the government refuses to acknowledge what happened or consider accepting any responsibility for it, a growing number of historians and prominent individuals have openly defied Ankara to speak truth to power. They include Orhan Pamuk, the country's leading writer. Turkish officials sought to bring criminal charges against him for "defaming Turkishness" but in the end, thankfully, thought better of it.

Unfortunately, President Bush, in his annual message about the Genocide, did not use the word. Once again, terms like "mass killings" and "forced exile" mask the depth of the horror that took place, carefully avoiding the plain truth. In fact, as has been described in numerous newspaper articles, Ambassador John Evans, who was posted in Yerevan, is being recalled for having the courage to say publicly that what happened to the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire was Genocide. It saddens me that the U.S. Government would go to such lengths to deny the undeniable. I would like to commend Ambassador Evans for his bravery—as a career Foreign Service Officer, he must have known what the consequences might be.

I express solidarity with my colleagues in this Congress who called upon President Bush to call the Genocide a Genocide. I hope this is the last year when the United States Government will shrink from using the word in its description of what the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire endured.

Finally, in my annual statements on the Armenian Genocide, I often refer to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and comment on the status of the talks underway to resolve it. In the last year, official sources in Yerevan and Baku, as well as Washington, have occasionally indicated that a deal was close. Hopes were high for the meeting last month between Presidents Kocharian and Aliiev in Rambouillet, France. Unfortunately, we did not see the desired outcome.

I hope that the negotiations will soon succeed in resolving this painful conflict. An Armenia at peace with Azerbaijan would not dampen the painful memories of events in the early twentieth century, but it would offer reassurance over the prospects of Armenia in the twenty-first.

91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 91 years ago, a systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide was initiated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire against its Armenian population. Beginning in 1915, and continuing over the next eight years, over one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and another half million were forced from their homeland into exile.

In his annual April 24th commemoration statement, President Bush once again failed to acknowledge this annihilation of a people as genocide. In a time when the denial of the Armenian genocide is again on the rise in Turkey—and through its agents, even here in the United States as witnessed by a federal lawsuit in Massachusetts opposed to our public school history curriculum on genocide—President Bush once again squandered an opportunity to demonstrate American courage and leadership and speak out with moral clarity on the issue of genocide. By failing to affirm the Armenian Genocide, President Bush insults the suffering endured by the Armenian people and especially the remaining survivors of the genocide, most of whom are now in their 90s.

Luckily, such leadership and courage is not lacking among the Armenian-American community. Not only do they continue their historic work on the recognition and documentation of the Armenian Genocide, but they are genuine leaders and partners in efforts to educate Americans about the other genocides of the 20th and 21st Centuries—the Holocaust of World War II, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, to note some of the most prominent.

Most recently, the Armenian-American community has been actively engaged in bringing to the attention of U.S. and world leaders the genocide going on right now in Darfur, Sudan. I would like to honor, in particular, the work of Mr. George Aghjayan, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of Central Massachusetts, who has been especially active in education and organizing activities about Darfur. Mr. Aghjayan, who lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, has helped rally interest and support on Darfur not only from his own community, but from college students, religious leaders, and genocide survivors.

I'm proud to be a member of the House Caucus on Armenian Issues, and to support the activities taking place today in the U.S. Congress in memory of the Armenian Genocide. I am more proud, however, to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from the extensive Armenian-American community in central Massachusetts and from their exemplary community leaders, like George Aghjayan and his wife, Joyce. Through them I have found my own voice and determination to denounce genocide wherever it is taking place, and to confront the culture of denial that would erase the historical record of the Armenian Genocide.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAMAR
MARCHESE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lamar Marchese for his long and distinguished career at Nevada Public Radio.

When Lamar Marchese moved to Las Vegas in 1972 he noted the absence of a public radio station. Marchese, his wife Patricia and a small group of founding board members incorporated Nevada Public Radio in December 1975 as an independent non-profit corporation. Lamar served as Chairman of the Board while the station was in formation in the late 1970s. In late 1978, he resigned from the Board and became a candidate for General Manager. Lamar was hired in this capacity in January 1979. KNPR, the first NPR affiliated radio station in Nevada, signed on the air in March 1980 while housed in a janitors' closet at the former Silverbowl Stadium on Boulder Highway. Under Lamar Marchese's leadership KNPR has evolved from its humble beginnings at Silverbowl Stadium to a public radio network that now operates a system of two Las Vegas stations, four associate stations in Tonopah, Panaca, Lund/Ely and St. George, Utah, nine rural translators and a statewide radio reading service for the blind and hearing impaired.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lamar Marchese for his distinguished career and keen leadership that has allowed public radio in Nevada to thrive. His dedication to providing a public voice over the airwaves has allowed untold numbers of people to access a variety of radio programs. I wish him the best in his retirement.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS OF NATIONAL CYSTIC FI-
BROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Ms. HART. Madam Speaker, today, as we consider H. Con Res. 357 to support the goals of National Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month in May, I would like to bring attention to such efforts in my district and in western Pennsylvania.

One such family in my district, the Nicotras, are doing just that. "Hayden's Heroes" was formed in 2005 by Sam and Rhea Nicotra to support CF research. The Nicotras' grandson, Hayden Klein, was diagnosed with CF in 2004, when he was just one week old. The Kleins and their family faced the questions familiar to many CF patients and their loved ones about genetic factors, the difficulty in diagnosing CF and, of course, the challenges in treating and managing the disease.

The Kleins had no history of the disease on either side of the family and, since CF patients can look healthy, there is no way to diagnose the disease just by looking at him or her. Clearly, cystic fibrosis is stealthy; we have much to learn about its origins, how to treat it and, ultimately, how to defeat it.

Fortunately, many Americans are committed to providing the resources to wage this battle, and, with National CF Month approaching, it is important that we recognize the many local resources to support this important task.

The local chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is an active participant in the national Great Strides walk to raise funds for CF research—participants across the country have succeeded in raising more than \$150 million since 1989. The local chapter will participate in this year's walk next month at North Park Lake in my district.

The local CF Foundation office also encourages friends and families of CF patients to provide support for such resources and research, and the Nicotras have been local leaders with Hayden's Heroes, which is hosting a "Dancing with the Pittsburgh Stars" event to raise awareness of the disease and support local resources, and a local talent-training organization in my district, the In Tune Studio, is also working on an event to support CF research.

It is through such community efforts that we will understand more about CF and treat this disease, and I commend the dedication and tenacity of the local chapter of the CF Foundation and, in particular, the Nicotras and their family, for advancing this important cause.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing National Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute a worthy cause like the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

IN RECOGNITION OF JACK
WOOLF'S LIFETIME ACHIEVE-
MENTS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the lifetime achievements of Jack Woolf from Fresno, CA.

For more than 30 years, Jack Woolf and his family have been an integral part of the development of diversified agriculture on the west side of Fresno County. He has been an active community member who has tirelessly worked to promote Fresno and the agricultural industry. Mr. Woolf embarked upon his entrepreneurial career in 1974, with the creation of Woolf Enterprises. The business began as a simple row crop operation but under Jack's watchful eye it grew into a large agricultural business that ultimately branched out into many agricultural industries.

Presently, Woolf Enterprises products include tomatoes, garlic, cotton, wheat, alfalfa, wine grapes, almonds and pistachios. In addition, Jack Woolf is a partner in several processing plants, an irrigation business and an agricultural nursery. Mr. Woolf is an individual who, through hard work and his commitment to a vision of a better future, has established Woolf Enterprises as a cornerstone in California's agriculture industry. By serving in leadership positions with various agriculture and water agencies, Mr. Woolf has been able to promote his dynamic vision and direction for a

strong San Joaquin Valley agricultural industry.

In addition to his entrepreneurial spirit—Jack has also diversified his community interests by serving on various boards throughout the Valley. These boards include the Westlands Water District, the Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Channel 18 KVPT—public programming, the Clark Museum in Hanford, and the Fresno County Grand Jury. Mr. Woolf has also been generous in giving back to the community. The following institutions have all benefited from his philanthropic efforts: CSU Fresno, University of Santa Clara, Fresno Metropolitan Museum, Santa Catalina School in Monterey, Channel 18 KVPT, the Clark Museum and Saint Agnes Hospital. Furthermore, the agricultural community in Fresno has decided to establish a Jack Woolf Scholarship Endowment fund which will be awarded to students pursuing a degree in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

On behalf of the residents in the San Joaquin Valley, it is with great pleasure that I stand today to laud the efforts of Jack Woolf and extend my utmost appreciation for his contributions and continued loyalty to the community.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. FAMILY HEALTH
PLAN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, on this, day 25 years ago the U.S. Family Health Plan was approved by the U.S. Congress. For the past 25 years the U.S. Family Health Plan has provided a commitment and service to the Nation's military health system by caring for our military families. Through the years, the U.S. Family Health Plan has been a valued partner with the U.S. Department of Defense by continuing to serve nearly 100,000 military beneficiaries today.

The U.S. Family Health Plan is a proud member of the TRICARE program. It has distinguished itself by consistently earning the highest beneficiary satisfaction ratings among all TRICARE providers. The plan is administered by some of this Nation's finest health care institutions, including Johns Hopkins—Maryland, Brighton Marine Health Center—Massachusetts, Martin's Point Health Care—Maine, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers—New York, CHRISTUS Health—Texas, and Pacific Medical Centers—Washington State.

U.S. Family Health Plan's roots date back to 1981 when the Omnibus Reconciliation Act designated 10 public health hospitals as U.S. Treatment Facilities to provide care for the uniformed services through an agreement with DoD. In 1993, that designation evolved into a fully at-risk managed healthcare plan named U.S. Family Health Plan. The plan's popularity grew in the regions where it was offered. In 1996, the National Defense Authorization Act designated the U.S. Treatment Facilities as TRICARE Prime Designated Providers and made the U.S. Family Health Plan a permanent part of the military health system.

Please join me in congratulating the U.S. Family Health Plan on their 25 years of service to our Nation's military families and for