

Today, April 24th, is the 92nd anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, 'Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan'—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize some of the outstanding volunteers in my district who dedicate their time to serving women and their unborn children. Together, Choices Medical Clinic and the Pregnancy Crisis Center have over 80 volunteers that serve as support to women and families in the community.

It is an honor to recognize their work and dedication to offering women healthy choices for themselves and their unborn children. Dr. Scott Stringfield, Volunteer Medical Director, Dr. Cindy Nash, Volunteer Physician, and Dr. Lydia Dennis, Volunteer Physician, as well as over 40 others, provide support as volunteers at Choices Medical Clinic in Wichita, Kansas. Since its opening in December of 1999, Choices Medical Clinic has served 6,075 women and saved 1,500 babies from abortion.

Without these caring individuals, Choices would not be able to serve the number of women they do and prevent the loss of life in the same capacity.

Choices are able to offer women a snapshot of their child through their 4-D sonogram machine. They also inform women about the harmful effects of abortions. Women deserve to know the truth about abortion—the physical and mental consequences of this violent procedure, and Choices allows them this information so they can make the healthiest choice for themselves and their baby.

The Pregnancy Crisis Center has served over 40,000 mothers and families since it opened in 1985. The volunteer services they provide are of no cost to the patients and clients. In 2006 alone, 6,000 services were provided to young women aged 15–25 years of age.

The Pregnancy Crisis Center has been blessed over the years with wonderful, caring volunteers. Currently, they have 40 volunteers, including three special ladies who have been long serving volunteers, Mary Power, Kay Esau and Shirley Moler. All three serve as Client Advocates, who meet with young ladies, hear their stories, and then match them with assistance.

All of the volunteers at Choices Medical Clinic and the Pregnancy Crisis Center deserve to be recognized throughout the year for their excellence in giving back to the community. Today, during National Volunteer Week, I thank you all for caring for others and bringing hope and restoration to families in need.

May you know the impact you are having on the well-being of women and the unborn and may you never tire of this excellent work.

God Bless You.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARK HOGAN

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Southeast Missouri State University baseball coach Mark Hogan. Coach Hogan recently eclipsed the all-time career wins record at Southeast Missouri State University. Under Coach Hogan's leadership, Southeast Missouri State University has become one of the premier teams in the Ohio Valley Conference.

Coach Hogan is no stranger to success. He has excelled as a player and a coach at Southeast Missouri State. He was a player on the 1976 team that finished third in the nation at the NCAA Division II College World Series. The squad became the first baseball team inducted into the Southeast Missouri State University Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the 2006 induction class.

Southeast Missouri State is fortunate to have a great coach and first class citizen leading their team on and off the field. As a coach, he has compiled 751 career victories while winning Coach of the Year honors on more than one occasion. Coach Hogan is a role model to players, coaches and fans. He is a reminder that accomplishing our goals requires planning, hard work and plenty of sacrifice.

Today I join with Coach Hogan's family, his friends, his colleagues at Southeast Missouri State, the young men who have played on his teams, and the proud fans of the Eighth Congressional District to congratulate Coach

Hogan on the achievement of this career milestone. We are proud of the success of Southeast Missouri State University's baseball team and most proud of Coach Hogan.

#### HONORING MATTIE COOPER

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize a Mississippian who has been a true champion for Head Start for over 40 years. This Friday, on April 27, 2007, the Winston County Complex Mississippi Action for Progress will celebrate the "Mattie Cooper's Day." I join them in expressing my appreciation to Mattie for her love of Head Start. Her colleagues know her as a steadfast advocate with unwavering support for both the mission and the children of Head Start.

Mattie Cooper knows Head Start. She started out as a teacher's assistant and progressed through the program. Currently she serves as the County Administrator for the Winston County Complex Mississippi Action for Progress, in Louisville, Mississippi. Her work is a calling, a mission, and she strives every day to make a difference in the lives of young Mississippians.

Mattie Cooper started her career with the Wesley Education Association (WEA) in 1966. Recognizing her talents, they encouraged her to attend the Tuskegee Institute to obtain teacher certification. Following 5 years at Tuskegee, WEA asked her to participate in classes, workshops, seminars and conferences at various Mississippi universities to obtain her Social Worker's license. She earned her certification and WEA promoted her to Social Services Director. They also named her the Parent Involvement/Volunteer Coordinator. She continued her success in motivating the parents and community with phenomenal results.

When Wesley Education Association joined the Mississippi Action for Progress (MAP), this new and stronger Head Start program promoted Mattie Cooper to Center Administrator. Quickly recognizing her talents and the potential of the Winston County Complex, MAP's executive director promoted Mattie to the highest position for the county: County Administrator.

Mattie Cooper graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1992 and number one in her class with an associate's degree from Mary Holmes College. In 1962, she was valedictorian of her high school. In addition to Head Start, she serves her community and church. She maintains the integrity of elections and confidence of voters in our democratic system as a Winston County Election Commissioner. And for almost 40 years, she has served as secretary for the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

Mattie's dedication to service begins at home. For almost 45 years, she has been a supportive wife to William Cooper. Together, they have a daughter Sharon Cooper Johnson who, with her husband Robert Johnson, Jr., is rearing a new generation of this family in Robert (Tré) Johnson, III.

I have known Mattie Cooper for over a decade and she makes her dedication to Head

Start and her community evident and a priority in all her work. I hope Congress joins me in honoring this Mississippi servant-leader and commanding her work at enhancing her community, supporting her church, training the children of Winston County, and nurturing her family. She is a tremendous pillar of Louisville and deserves the honor given her this Friday.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, April 23, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 179, H.R. 1434, and H.R. 1402 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote. Had I been present for rollcall No. 245 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 179, expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day, I would have voted “aye”; had I been present for rollcall No. 246 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1434, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the Rachel Carson Post Office Building, I would have voted “aye.”; had I been present for rollcall No. 247 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1402, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building, I would have voted “aye.”

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, last Friday, I was unavoidably absent during rollcalls 236 through 244. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 236, the Sessions Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 237, the Garrett Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 238, the Campbell Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 239, the McHenry Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 240, the Price Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 241, the Putnam Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 242, the Price Amendment. I would have voted “nay” on rollcall 243, the motion to recommit H.R. 1257 with instructions. I would have voted “yea” on rollcall 244, final passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARJORIE “PEGGY” KATHLEEN HELLER

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2007*

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the late Marjorie Kathleen Heller. Known to all as “Peggy,” she was a wonderful friend, a remarkable teacher, an outstanding mother, and an extraordinary member of our community in Atwater, California. At the age of 91, Peggy Heller passed away on Friday, April 20, 2007.

This occasion is particularly personal to me because Peggy Heller was my reading teacher in the third grade. She taught me to read in a small silver trailer on the playground of Elmer Wood Elementary School in Atwater. She was an inspiring woman, a great friend, and I never knew her to have a bad day. Peggy’s love for children was evident in her words, her generosity, and her entire persona. She was a pillar of the community, an amazing educator and a dear friend who will be missed by everyone in our community.

Peggy Heller was born in Oakland, California, on June 15, 1915, to Walter and Mac Gerreich. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1935 at the age of 19 and began teaching a year later at South Fork Union High School in Miranda, California. In 1938, she married Jim Heller and they moved to Atwater, California.

Peggy devoted her life to the field of education and to her community. During the early years of her sons’ lives, she worked as a substitute teacher at Livingston High School. She later began her work as a full-time teacher in Atwater in 1943. While working as a third grade teacher, the superintendent, Mr. Tom Olaeta, suggested she pursue her interests in reading instruction. She became Merced County’s first reading specialist in 1955 and later earned her reading teacher’s credentials in 1968.

Many of the instructional approaches Peggy used as a teacher have now been implemented in schools across the Central Valley. She loved and respected children and strived to instill a positive feeling of self worth in each of them. She was also a mentor-teacher long before the idea was popular and she always assisted those who came to her for advice. She devoted countless hours to tutoring students and assisting teachers before, after school and on the weekends. She effortlessly helped diagnose and remediate students’ reading troubles. She is an inspiration to many teachers, not only in Merced County, but to the State of California. Peggy believed each member of the school staff played a vital role in the education of youngsters. Not only did Peggy work hard in her classroom, she graciously hosted many special occasions for teachers such as Christmas get-togethers and retirement teas. Even though Peggy was the resident expert on reading instruction, her inquisitive nature led her to constantly read journals and books about education. She attended classes and seminars often at her own expense and she always shared her knowledge with others.

In 1981, after 45 years of teaching, Peggy retired, briefly. She was called upon to teach

English as a second language, which she did with much success. In 1987, Peggy was appointed supervisor for Chapman College.

Aside from the fact that Peggy was an outstanding professional educator, she and her husband were great humanitarians. Throughout the years she served our community in a variety of capacities. She was responsible for forming the Atwater Recreation Commission and served as its first chairwoman. During her tenure as chairwoman, the commission built Ralston Park and Heller Park. She served on the County Recreation Commission, too. Both Peggy’s and Jim’s interest in Atwater’s youth was shown by their effort to organize fundraisers for a new public swimming pool, the Atwater Plunge. They even housed Red Cross swimming instructors for many summers. She and her friends started a club for teens and taught dancing on Friday nights. The Hellers also helped Atwater develop good relations with Castle Air Force Base and they helped find housing for and entertained military personnel. Peggy was an active participant in the Girl Scouts of America, Parent Teachers Associations, International Reading Association, American Association of University Women, Retired Teachers, Atwater Women’s Club, Merced County Historical Society and Bloss Historical Society.

Peggy received many awards for her service to the community and her work as an educator. The National Education Association named Peggy “Outstanding Teacher at the Intermediate Level” in central California in March of 1966 and presented her with the Golden Apple, of which she earned several. She received Atwater’s “Mother of the Year” award and was named “Woman of Distinction” in 1991 by Soroptimist. In 1995, she was given the ultimate honor of dedicating a new school in her name, the Peggy Heller Elementary School in Atwater. Later that year she received recognition from the State legislature during Women’s History Month for her work with Project Cherish in Atwater. In 1999, as a member of the California State Assembly, I named Peggy “Woman of the Year” for the 26th District.

Peggy Heller was preceded in death by her grandson Brian Boru in 1983 and her husband Jim in 1985. Today, she is survived by her son Jim and his wife Barbara, and her son Brian and his wife Dee. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Jim III and his wife Kathy, Randall and his wife Diana, Christopher and his wife Amy, Tamera and her husband Mark Johnson, and Kandace and her husband Ron Osborn. Also surviving are her 12 great-grandchildren Spencer, James IV, Randall, Nicole, Joshua and Lindsay Heller, Sophia Heller, Samantha, Mason and Tyler Johnson, and Jared and Courtney Osborn. Lastly, Peggy is survived by her caregivers Jeffrey Lawton, Mary McMurry and Jackie Benner.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to join the community of Atwater in recognizing Marjorie “Peggy” Kathleen Heller. Our community benefits greatly from the example she set throughout her lifetime of service as an educator who dedicated her life to her community and her family.