

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, on behalf of the Armenian population of Rhode Island, and Armenians around the world, I wish to recognize the 92nd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, nationalists in the Ottoman Empire rounded up, deported, and executed 200 Armenian community leaders, writers, thinkers, and professionals in Constantinople, present day Istanbul. Also on that day in Constantinople, 5,000 of the poorest Armenians were massacred in the streets and in their homes. These events sparked an 8-year campaign of tyranny that impacted the lives of every Armenian in Asia Minor. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were murdered, and another 500,000 were exiled.

The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., unsuccessfully pleaded President Wilson for intervention. Unfortunately, the United States and the world tragically failed to intervene on behalf of the Armenian people. Ambassador Morgenthau would later write in his memoir, "The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Today, as a proud supporter of S. Res 106, legislation officially recognizing the Armenian genocide, I urge the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the U.S. record relating to the Armenian genocide. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stated over 50 years after the Armenian genocide that: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere . . . Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." The time has come to officially recognize the Armenian genocide.

The United States is proud to have Armenia as an ally in the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq. For the past 4 years, Armenian soldiers have supported American and multinational force efforts in Iraq. As part of the Polish-led multinational division in south-central Iraq, Armenians have worked as truckdrivers, bomb detonators, and doctors. Armenia has proclaimed their fight by not allowing others to be left helpless as they were nearly a century ago.

We must study and remember the events of our past in order to be better citizens of tomorrow. In instances such as the Armenian genocide, I call on all nations, not just the United States, to educate their youth to stand against hatred and prejudice of others in order to deter future atrocities against humanity. We should be prepared to take a vigilant stand against similar atrocities, such as the current situation in Darfur, to not let history repeat itself.

We must honor the victims of the Armenian genocide by vowing to never allow the world to stand idle to atrocities against humanity again.

Menk panav chenk mornar. We will never forget.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I wish to add my voice to those asking that today, the 24th of April, 2007, be a day of reflection and remembrance for those Armenians who perished in the genocide that occurred between 1915 and 1923.

As many as one and a half million Armenians lost their lives during this systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing conducted in Turkey while the world was preoccupied by the First World War and its aftermath. That the major powers, including the United States, did not prevent or intervene at any point to stop this killing represents one of twentieth century's ugliest stains on humanity.

While today we all would like to believe that had world leaders been acutely aware of the atrocities occurring they would have acted to stop them, recent episodes make a clear that we as a people continue to struggle with the obligation to speak out when our neighbor's blood is shed. In Bosnia, Rwanda, and right now in Darfur, the world has stood by while hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians are slaughtered. Any action on the part of the international community has been too little and far too late.

Because I believe we cannot prevent future genocide unless we recognize past genocide, I am a sponsor of Senate Resolution 106, which calls upon the President to ensure that this Nation's foreign policy reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the U.S. record relating to the Armenian genocide.

I join many of my colleagues today in urging the Senate to pass this resolution.

Turkey is good friend of the United States and a critical ally in the fight against terrorist networks. I hope that the ties that bind our two nations only grow closer in the coming years, as we continue to work through NATO to ensure cooperative security. And I will join my colleagues in pressing for Turkey's admittance to the European Union.

However, I believe that the Armenian genocide must be acknowledged.

Today, the 92nd anniversary commemorating this incident, we pause to pay tribute to those who died and renew our commitment to ensuring that similar atrocities never again occur.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise tonight to respond to those who have questioned the legislative history and intent of section 1076 of the fiscal year 2007 Defense Authorization Act, a provision dealing with the use of the Armed Forces and National Guard in major public emergencies.

This provision was the subject of a hearing today before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

I would like to outline that this provision was drafted jointly by the Senate Armed Services Committee in a bipartisan and transparent fashion, was approved unanimously by the committee, and was printed on May 9, 2006 as part of the Senate report on this bill.

The provision was fully available in the public domain for review and debate for over 5 months prior to its final passage in the House and Senate, and approval by the President.

During the brief period today that I have had the opportunity to again review this legislation, I did not uncover any material that suggests there were any serious misgivings regarding this provision by Federal, State, or local officials.

I believe the committee's record speaks for itself. Attached below is an excerpt as put forth in the final conference report:

REPORT 109-702—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 5122

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007 (EXCERPT)

USE OF THE ARMED FORCES IN MAJOR PUBLIC EMERGENCIES (SEC. 1076)

The Senate amendment contained a provision (sec. 1042) that would amend chapter 15 of title 10, United States Code, the so-called 'Insurrection Act,' to clarify and update the statute, and to make corresponding changes to other provisions of law. Chapter 15 contains a collection of statutes dating to the 18th and 19th centuries that authorizes the use of the armed forces to put down insurrections, enforce Federal authority, and suppress conspiracies that interfere with the enforcement of Federal or State law.

The provision would amend section 333 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President, in any situation in which he determined that, as a result of a natural disaster, terrorist attack or incident, epidemic or other serious public health emergency, or other condition, domestic violence occurred to such an extent that the constituted authorities of the State are incapable of maintaining public order, and the violence obstructed the execution of the laws of the United States of impeded the course of justice thereunder, to use the armed forces, including the National Guard in Federal service, to restore public order and enforce the laws of the United States until the State authorities are again capable of maintaining order. The President is to notify Congress of his determination to exercise this authority as soon as possible and every 15 days thereafter as long as the authority is exercised.

The provision would also amend chapter 152 of title 10, United States Code, to authorize the President, in any situation in which he determines to exercise the authority set out above, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide supplies, services, and equipment necessary for the immediate preservation of life and property. Such supplies, services, and equipment may be provided: (1) only to the extent that the constituted authorities of the State are unable to provide them; (2) only until other departments and agencies of the United States charged with such responsibilities are able to provide them; and (3) only to the extent that their provision will not interfere with preparedness or ongoing operations. This authority is not subject to the provisions of section 403© of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170b©).

The provision would further include a conforming amendment to section 12304© of

title 10, United States Code, to remove a restriction on the use of the Presidential Selected Reserve call up authority in chapter 15 or natural disaster situations. The House bill contained no similar provision. The House recedes with an amendment that would modify the conforming amendment to section 12304(c) to provide that the Presidential Selected Reserve call up authority could be used in situations arising under chapter 15 and section 12406 of title 10, United States Code, as well as in situations set out in subsection (b) of section 12304.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

TECHNICAL SERGEANT TIMOTHY WEINER, SENIOR AIRMAN DANIEL MILLER AND SENIOR AIRMAN ELIZABETH LONCKI

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to three members of Hill Air Force Base's 75th Air Base Wing who, together, lost their lives in Iraq in performance of their duties. Tsgt Timothy Weiner of Tamarack, FL, SrA Daniel Miller of Galesburg, IL, and SrA Elizabeth Loncki of New Castle, DE, were killed while disarming an explosive device.

One of the core values of the Air Force is "Service Before Self." These airmen met this standard every day while disarming improvised explosive devices and destroying munitions to protect their fellow servicemen and the people of Iraq. All three knew the risks inherent in their assignment, but still chose to volunteer so that others may be safe.

Technical Sergeant Weiner was the youngest of four sons of Ken Weiner, a Korean war veteran, and Marcia Fenster. It should be noted that all the sons of the Weiner family have worn the uniform of their Nation. Technical Sergeant Weiner's mother said, "he was an unbelievable father and husband who could do a job that was rough and so demanding but was also a man who could show love and was not afraid to."

This was Sergeant Weiner's second tour in Iraq. His professionalism is best exemplified by the fact that, in a previous assignment, he was part of explosive ordnance disposal team that provided protection for the President. He is survived by his wife Debbie and son Jonathan. The technical sergeant had planned to retire within a couple of years and work with computers. Now our prayers go with his wife and son.

SrA Airman Daniel Miller was the oldest of six children of Daniel B. Miller and Robin Mahnesmith. He is remembered by his family and friends as a happy person, who loved football, enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a silent leader. His girlfriend Dana Sopher stated "the love he had for his family was just amazing." Senior Airman Miller knew of the risk of his job but still believed that you "just have to live life." Senior Airman Miller had hoped to work for a metropolitan bomb squad after he had completed his service with the Air Force. I know I join with all of my colleagues in praying for his family during these difficult times.

SrA Elizabeth Loncki was also the oldest child of Stephen and stepmother

Christine Loncki, who still plans on sending cookies and baked goods to troops in Iraq. After learning of her death, one of her training instructors contacted Senior Airman Loncki's family and recounted that Elizabeth had excelled at her explosive ordnance disposal training class and was a valuable member of any team. Senior Airman Loncki planned on getting married after she returned from Iraq; her future fiancée was to visit her parents shortly and ask permission for the senior airman's hand in marriage. He has since accompanied her home to her family. Again our prayers go to her family.

All three of these airmen were heroes in the truest sense of the word. They volunteered for one of the most dangerous jobs in our Nation's military and risked their lives every day. Their sacrifice was not in vain, their bravery in the face of danger is an example to us all. They met and exceeded the Air Force principle of "Service Before Self."

CAPTAIN BRIAN S. FREEMAN

Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the loss of CPT Brian S. Freeman whose mother, Kathleen Snyder, is a resident of Utah.

Captain Freeman died while performing his duties in Karbala, Iraq, where he was assigned to the 412th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Whitehall, OH.

Captain Freeman resided in Temecula, CA, with his wife Charlotte, a 3-year-old son, Gunnar, and a 3-month-old daughter, Ingrid. The captain had just returned to Iraq after a 2-week Christmas leave. Charlotte Freeman commented about that time, "We did all the family things packed into two weeks. It was wonderful. We had a picture perfect family and the two weeks were perfect."

The captain was a 1999 West Point graduate who, after returning home, planned to attend graduate school. He had already received an important letter of recommendation from the Governor of Karbala who wrote: "Freeman has assisted in forming a warmer relationship with the Army . . . I think Capt. Freeman genuinely cares about what happens to Karbala and its people."

For a member of a civil affairs unit, whose responsibility it is to assist the local population while developing and maintaining close relationships with indigenous government officials, I cannot think of any higher praise. Not surprisingly, Captain Freeman had been decorated with two Army commendation medals, two Army achievement medals, a national defense service medal and a global war on terrorism service medal. I also understand that he was a member of the Army's bob-sledding team.

America has lost another decorated hero. Captain Freeman had hope to make a difference during his time in Iraq. I believe that anyone who looks at the life and actions of Captain Free-

man will see that he more than achieved that goal.

Captain Freeman and his family will always be in my prayers.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE L'AMBIANCE PLAZA COLLAPSE

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of a dark day in my State's history: the day the L'Ambiance Plaza towers collapsed in Bridgeport and took with them the lives of 28 Connecticut construction workers.

For millions of people in Connecticut, that day's images are still fresh; time can blunt their pain, but it can never erase them. We remember the shock: 16 stories of new apartments reduced with a roar, within seconds, to ruined concrete and steel. We remember the hundreds of volunteers who combed the wrecked piles for their friends. This is how one newspaper reported their remarkable endurance: "Physically and emotionally drained by a nightmarish task of seeking and sometimes finding the bodies of friends and loved ones, some of the volunteers have pushed themselves to exhaustion, working around the clock and then begging to go on working." We remember their frantic search for survivors, and the slow-dawning truth that there were none.

But above all, we remember 28 men who died too soon. They were union men from Bridgeport and Waterbury who poured concrete, laid pipe, and fixed steel. Not a single one of them went to work that morning expecting to die; but each knew the high risks of his trade, and willingly took them on to make a good living for his family.

We can clear rubble and rebuild towers, but not a single life can be replaced. If this tragedy can give us anything to be thankful for, it is the end of the dangerous lift-slab construction method that led to the collapse. We can and must demand the safest conditions for all workers, and do everything it takes to protect them. But try as we might, we will never be able to outlaw collapse, or regulate accidents, or legislate against tragedy.

We can only send our thanks to the men and women who risk themselves so we can lie down and wake up in safety and comfort. For those who died 20 years ago, we can pledge to keep their memories fresh. And today, we can repeat their names:

Michael Addona
Augustus Alman
Glenn Canning
Mario Colello
William Daddona
Francesco D'Addona
Donald Emanuel
Vincent Figliomeni
Herbert Goeldner
Terrance Gruber
John Hughes
Joseph Lowe
John Magnoli
Rocco Mancini
Richard McGill