Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

Adolf Hitler, the architect of the Nazi Holocaust, once remarked ''Who remembers the Armenians?'' The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, ''Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.''

A TRIBUTE TO DR. KEVIN BOND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor to the work and achievements of Reverend Dr. Kevin Bond. Beginning at age 11, Dr. Bond began to gravitate toward the church. He studied the bible under Bishop Carl E. Williams, Sr. for whom he became an Associate Minister after orating his first sermon at the age of 18.

Dr. Bond enhanced his biblical knowledge by receiving a collegiate education. He earned High Honors at the Community Bible and Tabernacle Bible Institute and the New York School of the Bible. He also received a Masters of Divinity from the New York Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH.

Dr. Bond is one of 12 delegates to join a significant work with the UJA Federation of New York and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York for their Community Leaders' Mission in 2004.

Dr. Bond always felt a need to help others in his community. His unfettered desire to do so was demonstrated when he established his own pastorship of the Citadel of Praise and Worship Church. He founded the Citadel's first bible study class in order to help enlighten fellow members of his community by teaching them the stories of the bible. On January 5, 1997, the Citadel held its first Sunday morning worship service in Brooklyn, NY, with 35 people attendance at Dr. Bond's first-ever service.

His efforts to help others did not stop at the Citadel. Dr. Bond preached as he traveled across the country, with a focus on helping those in urban communities. To this day, Dr. Bond continues to assist those living in an urban setting with early child care learning programs, youth mentoring, and food and counseling programs for the homeless. Dr. Bond also educates young people in the secular realm, by serving as an educator with the New York State Board of Education to the academic and social development of the urban community.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Dr. Kevin Bond's selfless education and community betterment efforts that have improved the lives of countless individuals.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dr. Kevin Bond.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, each year on April 24, Armenian communities around the world gather in somber commemoration of the genocide that began in 1915. Sadly, after 92 years, their grief is only compounded by those who aggressively deny or raise doubt about this troubling chapter of history.

This should be a day reserved for honoring the memory of those who were killed and paying tribute to the strength of those who survived. It should be a time to reflect on the personal narratives of those who were exiled, the historical evidence of villages and communities that were destroyed, and diplomatic cables from U.S. officials that described the atrocities. It should be an opportunity to resolve ourselves to fight crimes against humanity in all forms and all places. Instead, year after year, April 24 unleashes a battle of semantics.

Those who acknowledge what happened in Armenia as a ''tragedy,'' a ''catastrophe,'' or a ''massacre'' are correct. But nothing other than the term ''genocide'' can wholly characterize the systematic deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians and the deliberate annihilation of 1.5 million men, women and children. Anything short of that is unfair to those who perished and unhelpful to our plight against future acts of genocide.

SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1230, the Puerto Rico Self-Determination Act of 2007. I would also like to thank the Governor of Puerto Rico, Aníbal Acevedo Vilá, for his leadership in developing the concepts and ideals embodied by this legislation. H.R. 1230 allows for the voice of the Puerto Rican people to be heard through a democratic and unbiased political process. This bill affords the people of Puerto Rico one of the most fundamental human rights, self-determination.

Affording the people the opportunity to decide their own future and government is fundamental to the history of the United States. As representatives of American Government, we are responsible to uphold the ideals and virtues of democracy, freedom, and choice. As such, the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are entitled to a democratic process of self-determination defined by the well considered decision of the Puerto Rican people.

The process outlined by H.R. 1230 respects the right of the people of Puerto Rico to elect delegates to a constitutional convention that will draft and submit a proposal outlining the desired self-determination option. This proposal would then be approved by the people and then sent on for congressional approval. H.R. 1230 does not bias the decision of the people by imposing unsupported definitions and skewing the debate in the direction of any option; nor does it attempt to exclude others. This bill recognizes the right of the people of Puerto Rico to hold open and democratic debate on the topic of political status and affiliation with the United States. Congress should offer their input and response only after the Puerto Rican people have reached their own consensus on a self-determination proposal.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in this House not support any process that is imposed on Puerto Rico and its people by the Federal Government. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1230 and provide the Puerto Rican people the path to decide their future. The Commonwealth deserves, and is entitled to, true self-determination.

HONORING THE FIRST ANNUAL KEEP SEAGOVILLE BEAUTIFUL CITY CLEAN UP DAY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the many students, civic organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, service organizations, families and individuals who recently volunteered to ''Keep Seagoville Beautiful.'' On April 14, 2007, the City of Seagoville and the Keep Seagoville Beautiful Commission sponsored the first annual Keep Seagoville Beautiful city-wide clean up. On that Saturday morning, over 150 dedicated citizens of Seagoville met at City Park to clean up their community. By the end of the day, those hard working volunteers had persevered through wind, rain, and cold to collect over 12 truckloads full of trash.

This annual event strives to ''create an environment that continuously encourages the citizens to improve their quality of life and sense of pride in their community.'' It is the hard work of citizens like these, who take pride in their city, that will preserve our communities for future generations.

It is for these reasons that I have the distinct pleasure to honor the City of Seagoville, the Keep Seagoville Beautiful Commission, and the many dedicated volunteers who participated in this event. I am honored to represent them in the United States House of Representatives.