

JUBILEE ACT FOR RESPONSIBLE
LENDING AND EXPANDED DEBT
CANCELLATION OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2634) to provide for greater responsibility in lending and expanded cancellation of debts owed to the United States and the international financial institutions by low-income countries, and for other purposes:

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my full support for H.R. 2634, the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation of 2008. This is extremely important legislation that will have no budgetary impact on the United States Federal budget but stands to have a lasting and life changing impact for up to 24 additional poor countries. The Jubilee Act is one of the most humanitarian efforts this Congress could undertake.

Poverty is one of the greatest ills to plague mankind. We have recent evidence of the impact of poverty in the demonstration of desperately hungry people for food no longer affordable because of economic forces beyond their control. Those who survive in poverty are under constant threat of death. The debt forgiveness offered by the Jubilee Act will enable poor countries to address the issues of poverty, create opportunities for economic growth and establish sound governing practices. The Jubilee Act also promotes responsible development assistance by prioritizing grants over loans, which is an important measure to prevent these countries from falling back into debt.

It is inconceivable for the United States not to act immediately in passing this legislation; there are many poor countries desperately awaiting our assistance. By granting authorization for the U.S. Treasury Department to begin negotiations within the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral creditors is the first step towards improving the lives of so many impoverished people. Above all other reasons, we are morally obligated to help those less fortunate, therefore I urge my colleagues to support the Jubilee Act for Responsible Lending and Expanded Debt Cancellation Act.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID
BRELAND

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. CRAMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career of Judge David Breland.

On April 12, Judge Breland was honored with the Newton B. Powell Loyalty Award by the Democratic Party of Morgan County, AL.

Judge Breland has served the people of the State of Alabama for over 25 years as a District Judge in Morgan County. Judge Breland

is best known as a tireless advocate for the children of the Tennessee Valley. During his judicial career, Judge Breland established over 35 programs throughout the State of Alabama designed to assist at-risk youth.

Additionally, Judge Breland was the Chairman of Northwest Alabama Corrections for Youth, the Co-Chairman of the Morgan County Children's Policy Council, and a member of the President's Summit on Youth. His efforts have helped countless young people throughout Alabama become successful and responsible adults.

Judge Breland's civic involvement has inspired many in North Alabama. He has received commendations from organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club, the NAACP, and the Rotary Club. In 2008, Judge Breland was named as the Citizen of the Year by the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce.

I commend Judge David Breland's work on behalf of North Alabama and, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate him on a distinguished career.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT AND
CAROLYN CRAWFORD FOR RE-
CEIVING THE MOTHERS AGAINST
DRUNK DRIVING (MADD) HERO
AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert and Carolyn Crawford for receiving the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Hero Award. The Lewisville couple received the award on Saturday April 19th, 2008, for their commitment to educating others about the dangers of drunk driving while volunteering for MADD.

The Crawfords' mission began back in 1993 when their daughter, son-in-law, granddaughter and another unborn grandchild were killed in a car wreck by a drunken driver. From that moment the couple has made it a priority to inform others of the dangers involved with drunk driving.

Since 2007, Robert Crawford has traveled all across the country participating in the MADD speaker's tour. He has spoken to over 10,000 people, and in these first few months of 2008, Robert has talked to almost 400 convicted drunk drivers at Victim Impact Panel meetings at the Denton County courthouse. Robert has also attended court trials to provide moral support to victims' families affected by drunk driving.

MADD was founded in 1980 and has more than 2 million members and supporters nationwide. Like Robert and Carolyn, the organization's goal is to stop drunken driving. The Crawfords' avid participation in MADD can be attributed to their passionate aspiration of trying to ensure that no other families endure the pain and devastation they suffered as a result of a drunken driver's poor decision.

Madam Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor two worthy citizens who strive every day to make this world a better place. Robert and Carolyn Crawford are truly deserving of the honor MADD has bestowed upon them. I am proud to represent them in the 26th District of

Texas and greatly appreciative for their ongoing service to their local community and the Nation. Their passion and devotion to such a worthy cause is admirable.

CONGRATULATING DENNIS
KAVANAUGH, RECIPIENT OF 2008
SHELLEY ARTS ADVOCACY
AWARD

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dennis Kavanaugh, recipient of 2008 Shelley Arts Advocacy Award from the Arizona Citizens Action of the Arts. As a member of the Mesa City Council and a leader within numerous boards and organizations, Dennis has been a tireless advocate for the arts in Arizona. Dennis recognizes the importance that the arts have on strengthening communities and enhancing our quality of life.

Dennis currently serves as Chair of both the Mesa Arts Center Foundation board and the Development Committee of the National Association of State Arts Assemblies. Through his work on the National Association of the State Arts Assemblies, Dennis has been a champion for efforts to increase federal funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.

Dennis was also instrumental in building the new Mesa Arts Center which has become a point of pride for the entire community. Dennis served for more than 6 years on the Center's Architect Selection and Design Committee. The center now serves as a place to showcase world-class performances and exhibits but also houses studio space for art education.

I commend the Arizona Action of the Art's for selecting such a deserving arts advocate. Dennis truly understands the tremendous impact that the arts have in achieving educational excellence and a greater sense of community. Dennis was recently elected to the Mesa City Council where he has displayed his leadership skills previously and where I am sure he will continue to support public policy that will advance the arts in Arizona.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Dennis Kavanaugh's continued work and advocacy for the arts in Arizona.

JUAN SEGUIN—TEXAS FREEDOM
FIGHTER

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as Texans we are proud of our fight for independence. We often celebrate the courage and sacrifice made by the Alamo defenders. We boast of the cunning and valor displayed by the victorious troops at the Battle of San Jacinto. When celebrating these two historic events, I would be remiss not to mention the vital role that Juan Seguin played in both of those battles.

Juan Seguin was born in 1806 at San Antonio, in what was then Mexico. He soon grew

tired of President Santa Anna's policies and in 1835, he responded to a call for support by raising a company of Tejanos, Texans of Hispanic descent, to aid in the revolution. In October of 1835, following a battle in Bexar, Stephen F. Austin granted a captain's commission to Seguin.

Seguin's company would soon arrive at the Alamo with other Revolutionary heroes such as, Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett, and William Barrett Travis, who were taking shelter as General Santa Anna's army was advancing on San Antonio.

As the Alamo came under constant bombardment, Colonel Travis sent out messengers to get help. The last messenger sent out was Juan Seguin on a mission to seek reinforcements from Colonel James Fannin to send troops from nearby Goliad to help the defenders at the Alamo. After his failed attempts to persuade Fannin, he journeyed to the ranches along the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers to recruit more Tejanos.

His company then met up with General Sam Houston at the town of Gonzales. There, the tragic news that the Alamo had fallen was delivered. A decision was made to burn the town of Gonzales in order to deny shelter to Santa Anna's troops.

As General Houston's armies retreated, he gave Seguin's company the task of riding into the frontier and warning the settlers of the coming danger. Because of this great service to the Texas Revolution, he has been dubbed "The Paul Revere of Texas."

Later, Seguin commanded the only Tejano unit to fight in the Battle of San Jacinto. None of the Texans at San Jacinto wore uniforms on the battlefield. In order to distinguish themselves from the Mexican soldiers, only Mexican officers wore uniforms, Seguin's Tejanos wore playing cards in their hats to avoid friendly fire. After the battle, Seguin personally accepted the surrender of a number of Mexican officers. After his company's valiant effort in the battle, Seguin was promoted to Lt. Colonel. Texas liberty would not be secure without the help of the native Tejanos in this and other battles during the fight for Texas independence.

Each year, approximately 220,000 people visit the World's tallest war memorial, The San Jacinto Monument. The monument, which stands 15 feet taller than the Washington Monument, has two roads leading to the park. In honor of the contributions made by Seguin and his Tejanos one of those roads is named Juan Seguin Boulevard.

One of the oldest towns in Texas, Seguin was originally founded in 1838 near the Guadalupe River. In 1853, it was incorporated and named Walnut Springs. Six months later the name was permanently changed to Seguin. Today, the city nicknamed the "Pecan Capital of Texas" is home to the Texas Lutheran University. In October of 2000, the city of Seguin unveiled a 17-foot statue of its namesake in the town square. The statue depicts this Texas hero valiantly leading the charge atop a horse with his saber in hand. As I stand here one day after we celebrated the historic battle of San Jacinto that gave Texas its independence, I want to acknowledge this Texas legend that played such an instrumental role in the victory.

And that's just the way it is.

HONOR THE TRUTH OF THE PAST:
COMMEMORATION OF THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the survivors and their descendants of the Armenian Genocide. On Sunday, April 20th, a service in remembrance of the 93rd Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide took place at the Armenian Church of Our Savior in Worcester, Massachusetts. The message of the generations gathered there is simple: "Honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again."

Each year we mark the anniversary of the cataclysmic events that occurred in the Ottoman Empire from 1915–1923, when 1.5 million Armenians were killed and over half a million survivors were exiled.

I would like to enter into the RECORD the letter I sent to the parishioners of the Armenian Church of Our Savior on this solemn and special occasion, as well as the April 21st article that appeared in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette describing the commemorative event.

Memory is a precious commodity. I urge all my colleagues to support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution before we lose the last survivors of this terrible period of genocide against the Armenian people.

OPEN LETTER FROM REP. JAMES P. MCGOVERN TO THE PARISHIONERS OF THE ARME-
NIAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

APRIL 20, 2008.

DEAR FRIENDS: As you know, this year marks the 93rd anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th Century, the Armenian Genocide. Carried out between 1915 and 1923, the Armenian Genocide was a systematic and deliberate campaign by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to destroy its Armenian minority, which resulted in 1.5 million Armenian deaths and the exile of nearly all Armenians from their ancestral homeland.

The Armenian Genocide is officially recognized and commemorated in 40 States, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and by nearly two dozen nations, including 11 of our NATO allies. The federal government must follow suit.

I believe adopting the Armenian Genocide Resolution is the right thing to do:

As a matter of morality—and in the name of humanity—the United States should recognize and condemn all genocides.

In the name of historic truth—and in honor of the historic role so many American diplomatic personnel and humanitarian and relief workers played in saving lives and condemning the genocide as it was taking place—the U.S. especially should recognize the Armenian Genocide.

And in the hope of preventing future genocides—we have to recognize and honor the truth of the past. Denial of the Armenian Genocide—just like denial of the Holocaust—makes future genocides more likely, not less.

No nation, not Turkey, or any other country, should be allowed to block the official recognition or commemoration or the teaching of historic truth about the Armenian Genocide.

I am disappointed that the Federal government has not yet taken the necessary and courageous steps to recognize the Armenian Genocide. I will continue to work to change that reality.

It's ironic that the current Turkish government doesn't seem to realize that the more it denies the Armenian Genocide, the more people begin to think that there really is a connection between the Turks who carried out the Armenian Genocide at the beginning of the 20th Century and today's 21st Century democratic government.

By denying the truth, Turkey undermines its own standing throughout the world, blocks its own acceptance into the European family, and increases regional tensions, especially with neighboring Armenia. Turkey's recognition of the Genocide, its reconciliation with the past, would widely be viewed as the act of a mature democracy, which the world would rush to embrace and reward.

This is why America must also officially recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Some will always argue that the timing is not right to act on this bill. But when will the timing be right? After the last surviving witnesses of the Armenian Genocide are gone?

In April of last year, I was in eastern Chad. And the reality of genocide was right before my eyes. There are over 250,000 refugees from Darfur, Sudan living in camps just inside Chad. I met with individuals and families who had been forced to flee their villages in Darfur. Each had a story about loved ones murdered, homes destroyed, people and family left behind. Many didn't know if some of their family or children were even alive.

So 93 years after the Armenian Genocide, I struggle to find meaning in the words, "Never Again."

I am thankful I can turn to Worcester's Armenian-American community for inspiration, one of the oldest in the United States and the first to establish a church in America. They have worked tirelessly for nearly a century to keep alive the historic memory of the Armenian Genocide and to speak out, condemn and organize against the genocides—too many—that mark the past nine decades of human history. They were among the very first to bring to my attention the events unfolding in Darfur.

The least we can do is honor and recognize this selfless community by passing the Armenian Genocide Resolution, so that their history and heritage will be remembered for all time, even after the last survivor passes away.

With warmest respect and friendship,
CONGRESSMAN JIM MCGOVERN.

[From the Telegram & Gazette, Worcester,
MA, Apr. 21, 2008].

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBERED

(By Lisa D. Welsh)

WORCESTER.—Three generations of Armenians—a 99-year-old woman, a three time—Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a high school essayist—spoke from differing perspectives but shared one message during the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide recognition yesterday at the Armenian Church of Our Saviour: "Honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again."

Heghine Minassian was 6 years old the day Turkish soldiers went house to house and emptied all the buildings in her village. She said most Armenians were marched into the desert, where they were left to starve to death; but some of the women, like her aunt, were kept as slaves.

"My grandparents were in the attic hiding," Mrs. Minassian said in Armenian through an English interpreter, Van Aroian. "My grandmother's sister yelled, 'Don't open