

This momentous occasion has been a long time coming for the ever-growing veterans' population along Florida's Emerald Coast. With the highest veterans' population of any congressional district in the Nation, many of the residents of Okaloosa County and the immediate areas have had to drive significant distances for some of the most basic outpatient care from the VA. This area was identified years ago as an underserved area for VA healthcare, and was marked as a priority location for future VA construction. Now completed and ready to receive patients, this CBOC will alleviate travel time and provide efficient access to VA healthcare for those veterans.

Beautiful beaches, warm weather, and friendly neighbors encourage many to call the Florida panhandle "home." With five military installations in my district alone it is little wonder that active and retired military and nearly 110,000 veterans make up a tremendous portion of my constituency. While many already saw the need for improved access to VA care, it took a coordinated effort from many interested parties to make this event a reality. There was no doubt that this facility is what our area's veterans needed and deserved.

A co-sharing agreement between VA and the Department of Defense has been a huge factor in bringing about this moment. By using land on Eglin Air Force base, in close proximity to the base hospital, veterans using the VA clinic have access to various DoD resources and active servicemembers stationed there have access to part of the clinic's specialty care. In addition, the use of DoD land ensures that VA does not have to deal with finding and acquiring land, resulting in the best deal for taxpayers and veterans alike.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to recognize the efforts of all who worked toward bringing this important facility to Okaloosa County, Florida. We have an eternal debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women, and this much-needed VA clinic is one way that we can begin to say thank you for ensuring that the liberty continues to shine a bright light over our country.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide and to celebrate a people who despite murder, hardship, and betrayal have persevered.

Throughout three decades in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, millions of Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland of three thousand years and deported or massacred. From 1894 through 1896, three hundred thousand Armenians were ruthlessly murdered. Again in 1909, thirty thousand Armenians were massacred in Cilicia, and their villages were destroyed.

On April 24, 1915, two hundred Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arbitrarily arrested, taken to Turkey and murdered. This incident marks a dark and solemn period in the history the Armenian people.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate Armenians. In eight short years, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through atrocities such as deportation, forced slavery and torture. Most were ultimately murdered.

Many of our companions in the international community have already taken a final step towards healing and reconciliation. The European Parliament and the United Nations have recognized and reaffirmed the Armenian Genocide as historical fact, as have the Russian and Greek parliaments, the Canadian House of Commons, the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies and the French National Assembly. It is time for America to join the chorus and acknowledge the Armenians who suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. And let me stress that I am not speaking of the government of modern day Turkey, but rather its predecessor, which many of Turkey's present day leaders helped to remove from power.

As I have in the past, as a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I will continue to work with my colleagues and with the Armenian-Americans in my district to promote investment and prosperity in Armenia. And, I sincerely hope that this year, the U.S. will have the opportunity and courage to speak in support of the millions of Armenians who suffered because of their heritage.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 1.5 million men, women and children who were killed and the 500,000 survivors who were expelled from their homes during the Armenian Genocide. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the beginning of a systematic effort carried out by the Ottoman Empire, which ultimately resulted in the elimination of ethnic Armenians from their historic homeland.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman authorities arrested approximately 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Istanbul. Following this episode, the military proceeded to round up hundreds of thousands of Armenians and force them to march hundreds of miles into present day Syria, denying them food and water along the way. Those that were not slaughtered and survived the treacherous journey were brutally raped and beaten along the way.

The root of this occurrence can be attributed to an official policy of discrimination, which culminated in genocide. I urge my colleagues to read Samantha Powers widely acclaimed book, *A Problem From Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, which clearly describes this as genocide.

May we all take a moment to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, one of the most horrible tragedies of the 20th century. We remember, not so that we may dwell on the events of the past, but so that we may renew our personal commitments to never stand idly by and let such a tragedy happen again.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker. I wish to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 23, 1915, the world suffered its first deliberate act of systematic mass murder of people of one culture by another—and the unspeakable crime of genocide was born. The massacre and mistreatment of approximately 1.5 million Armenians in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire epitomizes the depths of inhumanity that the human race is capable of.

Out of this wretched episode of history, we have made a determined effort to move beyond hatred, to recognize mistakes, and to prevent similar events from occurring in the future. It is our obligation to learn from lapses in moral judgment and forge safeguards for all oppressed, vulnerable, and subjugated peoples.

I would like to express my sympathy to the survivors and descendants of the Armenian Genocide. I hope we can all take time to reflect on this solemn day of remembrance.

HONORING TURKEY'S SHARED COMMITMENT TO SPREADING DEMOCRACY AND DEFEATING EXTREMISM

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a strong friendship that has proven enormously important since the beginning of the Cold War. Time and time again, the Republic of Turkey has stood firmly with the United States as we have pursued our shared goals in a region where we have few steady allies. Turkey, a fellow NATO country, is a vital partner in our fight against extremism and an example of a vibrant democracy in a region burdened with inequality.

Turkey's assistance in supporting combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan has been instrumental in our efforts to bring opportunity and prosperity to millions of people. Its proximity to both countries has made it an ideal place to coordinate logistics and center supply routes. Over 74 percent of the air cargo that reaches American forces in Iraq passes through Incirlik Air Base in Southern Turkey, and around 4,000 trucks carrying fuel, food, and water cross into Iraq from Turkey every day.

The Turkish government also has provided over \$50 million for reconstruction efforts in Iraq, and another \$100 million for Afghanistan. Turkey has committed over 800 troops and assumed command of the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) Regional Command Center in Kabul. Their Provincial Reconstruction Team has trained over 1,900 members of the Afghan army, treated 650,000 patients at two fully equipped hospitals and four clinics, and educated 37,000 young minds at

the more than 30 schools it has constructed. In Iraq, Turkey's training programs for both Shiite and Sunni officials alike has been able to fill an important void in encouraging cooperation and reconciliation between the two rival factions.

Of course, our common bond goes deeper than mere military and political cooperation in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have in Turkey an ally that has proven it shares our commitment to spreading democracy, both within its own borders and amongst its neighbors. Their 70 million citizens have rejected an extremist version of Islam in favor of a secular, democratic government. Turkey also has been a valuable contributor to United Nations peacekeeping missions intent on halting the bloodshed in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Sudan.

Madam Speaker, Turkey has earned our respect, friendship, and gratitude, and deserves recognition for its crucial assistance over the last 60 years. I look forward to strengthening this important relationship as we continue working toward our mutual interests.

TRIBUTE TO TORREL HUSKEY

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of my constituent, Mr. Torrel Huskey. Mr. Huskey is a 91-year-old World War II veteran living in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1943, Mr. Huskey was assigned to the 3496th Quartermaster Brigade as a truck driver on the "Red Ball Express," ferrying men, supplies and equipment to the front lines of battle as part of Operation Overlord.

During these missions, Mr. Huskey often dodged obstacles such as barbed wire and land mines and repeatedly came under attack from enemy small arms fire, mortar fire, artillery barrages and strafing runs by the German Luftwaffe. It was during one of these attacks that Mr. Huskey was wounded from enemy mortar fire.

With shrapnel embedded in his legs, and at the insistence of his commanding officer, Mr. Huskey bandaged his own wounds and carried on with his duties. He continued driving, despite his wounds, risking death or permanent injury because that was his job—to keep the wheels of the battlefield moving forward as the Allies raced to the Rhine.

When the "Red Ball Express" ended in September 1944, Mr. Huskey was assigned the arduous task of locating hastily buried comrades and transporting them to the U.S. gravesites sprinkled throughout France, Belgium and elsewhere in Europe.

In June 2006, I was contacted by Mr. Huskey's oldest daughter, Lynda McClelland, with a request for assistance to obtain the Purple Heart medal for her father.

After nearly 2 years of researching medical records, reviewing morning reports and hearings before the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records, I learned that Mr. Huskey's files were destroyed during the 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center. There exists no record of Mr. Huskey's injuries or treatment for the wounds he sustained in action either in his medical records file or in

existing morning reports. Therefore, the recommendation for the award of the Purple Heart was denied.

It is a shame that Mr. Huskey is still without the Purple Heart Medal, despite the fact that the Department of Veterans Affairs has found Mr. Huskey to be service-connected for both Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and scars from the residuals of shrapnel embedded in his legs and knees.

It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Torrel Huskey. Without the service and sacrifice of Mr. Huskey, and all of the men and women of the "greatest generation," our Nation would not be the resilient and flourishing country it is today. By continuing his mission, despite being wounded, Mr. Huskey lent great credit to himself, the Army Motor Transport Brigade and the United States of America.

HONORING NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF RICHLAND COUNTY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Neighborhood Housing Services, NHS, of Richland County for the 25 years of service this agency has provided to its communities. As America's first Rural NHS, Richland County has partnered with numerous entities in the areas of housing, insurance, and construction, allowing this agency to offer comprehensive services and assistance to area residents.

NHS of Richland County is able to revitalize communities and address current needs. Recent initiatives have addressed the mortgage crisis and the August 2007 flood in western Wisconsin. With interest rates rising and property values decreasing, many hardworking families have had an increasingly difficult time making their mortgage payments, thus now more than ever it is especially important that our local communities have the necessary resources to provide affordable housing for those who need it most.

NHS of Richland County responded to this need and in 2007 when in spite of this downturn in the housing market they assisted 81 households with loans and maintained a near zero percent foreclosure rate. NHS also created the Responsible Homeownership, R-HOME, initiative. This project is a comprehensive mortgage loan program created to better serve the needs of consumers with little or no credit history. In addition to the above endeavors, when the flood of August 2007 hit, NHS was part of local flood recovery effort in providing critical assistance to families.

Foreclosure prevention, homeownership seminars, flood recovery assistance and establishing renewable energy systems are just a few of the programs contributing to the success of Richland County's Neighborhood Housing Services. Since 1983, NHS of Richland County has responded and assisted over 3,000 households by building 39 affordable, energy-efficient homes, repairing more than 40 homes in the tornado stricken town of Viola, Wisconsin and constructing a 25-unit apartment complex for low-income seniors.

I applaud Neighborhood Housing Services of Richland County for providing invaluable

support for homeowners in western Wisconsin, being a leader to housing services around the country and most importantly, upholding their motto of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

HONORING REID COLLIANDER AND REID'S LEMON-AID RIDE FOR RESEARCH

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to recognize an outstanding young man from my Congressional District, Reid Colliander, for his hard work and dedication to raising money for Children's Memorial Hospital Brain Tumor Research.

Reid was diagnosed with a brain tumor when he was just 7 years old. As a benefactor of brain tumor research, he underwent brain surgery and over 3 years of rehabilitation. Today Reid is happy, healthy, normal, and active in basketball and baseball.

Reid's journey did not end when he was cured. In 2005, he formed Reid's Lemon-AID stand, which seeks to raise money for brain tumor research at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, and develop a lifestyle for local youth of charity and service. To this date, Reid has raised over \$45,000.

As part of Lemon-AID, Reid, along with friends and family, visits several local communities to build awareness on the critical need for the funding of brain tumor research and to gain support for his organization.

More than 100 children, ranging in age from 5 to 12, have participated in various Reid's Lemon-AID fundraising events, learning citizenship and much more along the way.

One such event is the second annual Reid's LemonAid Ride for Research event. During this event, more than 100 kids will lead as many as 700 cyclists on a 5K bike ride through downtown Glen Ellyn, Illinois this Saturday April 19th.

This family fun bicycle ride is working to hit Reid's ultimate goal, \$1 million for research of brain tumors.

Reid Colliander truly has turned what was once a tragic moment in his life to an outstanding service project, benefiting many children who are stricken with brain tumors.

To honor Reid, I encourage my colleagues to sign onto H. Res. 424, a resolution that calls for the recognition of National Brain Cancer Awareness Month in May.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me in congratulating Reid Colliander and all that he has done for brain tumor research.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TILSNER CARTON COMPANY IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Tilsner Carton Company of St. Paul, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.