

nation with a population of over 10 million. For the past 15 years, she has served with distinction as the Supervisor of the Second District, representing nearly 2.5 million residents.

Indeed, Mrs. Burke has blazed a path for African-American women in public service that had its genesis during her high school years when, as a teenager, she got involved in public speaking and competitive contests, earning scholarships to the University of California-Berkeley and later to the University of California-Los Angeles.

In 1953, she was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the University of Southern California Law School since its founding in 1928. Upon graduation from Law School, inasmuch as many private law firms showed no interest in hiring women as attorneys, particularly African Americans, she opened a law practice, specializing in civil rights and laws regarding housing, immigration, eminent domain, and the licensing of residential care homes for children and adults.

Mrs. Burke was active in the Civil Rights Movement, with memberships in various local and national organizations, and served as a staff attorney on the McCone Commission that investigated the causes of the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles. She became a spokesperson for the underrepresented and, through a grassroots campaign, won her first political office in 1966 as a California State Assemblywoman, a position she held for the next six years.

In 1972, Mrs. Burke was the first African-American woman, west of the Mississippi River, to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and, one year later, she was the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. In 1978, she ran for Attorney General of California winning the Democratic nomination, but subsequently losing in the general election. The Governor of California in 1979 appointed her to a vacancy on the Fourth Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. She also was appointed by the Governor in 1982 to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of California. In 1984, Mrs. Burke was selected to serve as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Olympics Organizing Committee, before becoming the first African-American elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1992.

Notably, Mrs. Burke served as the Vice Chair of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, and she played a significant role in the 2000 Democratic National Convention in hosting an event for hundreds of African-American elected officials nationwide.

She has received innumerable awards and honors both as an African American and as a woman, including being selected as one of Time Magazine's "America's 200 Future Leaders" in 1974, as The Los Angeles Times' "Woman of the Year" in 1996, UCLA's "Alumni of the Year" also in 1996, and UCLA's "Local Legislator of the Year" in 2008. She has served on the Boards of numerous prestigious organizations and corporations.

While these are just some of Mrs. Burke's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, the House of Representatives, and the State of California, we extend our deepest gratitude for her important contributions throughout her illustrious career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Mrs. Burke upon her retirement from elective office. We are pleased to join her many

co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

In conclusion, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's exemplary record testifies that she is a woman of indomitable compassion, courage, character, and faith. We believe that she will be remembered for the beneficial changes she made in people's lives.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

Today we declare once again that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide.

The tragic events began on April 24, 1915, when more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 93rd anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Two years ago I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Along with Representative ANTHONY WEINER, I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The United States must join the parliaments of Canada, France, and Switzerland in passing a resolution affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs took an important step last year in passing H. Res. 106, and I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. Government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. This year I have joined with my colleagues in requesting no military aid for Azerbaijan in the FY09 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We also have

requested \$70 million in economic assistance for Armenia and \$10 million for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia.

American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important east-west trade corridor.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

HONORING KATHRYN FLYNN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kathryn Flynn, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is being honored on May 2, 2008, with it 2008 Heritage Preservation Award for individual achievement from the New Mexico Cultural Properties review committee.

For the past 17 years, Kathryn has been committed to preserving the history and legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and its enormous impact on New Mexico and the Nation. She has labored tirelessly to locate, restore and document the undertakings of the Works Project Administration, WPA, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, in New Mexico. Functioning on shoestring budgets, Kathryn enlisted New Mexico volunteers to help in this effort and then went nationwide, state by state, to convince others to do the same. This resulted in the formation of the National New Deal Preservation Association, of which Kathryn was unanimously elected executive director, a position she holds today.

Through Kathryn's leadership, skills, talents and passion, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised in private and public funds for conserving New Deal art in New Mexico. This funding has allowed for the restoration and conservation of five Santos at the Palace of the Governor's Fine Arts Museum, seven Helmuth Naumer pastels at the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, the Bronson Cutter bronze statue on the Santa Fe capitol grounds, seven paintings and etchings in the Taos public schools, and seven murals in the Ilfeld Auditorium at Highlands University. Conservation work is currently underway on public art works at New Mexico State University and Silver City, and numerous other preservation projects have been conducted because of Kathryn's remarkable leadership and efforts.

Kathryn's and the National New Deal Preservation Association's efforts culminated into the honoring of the 75th anniversary of the New Deal. Several meetings in our Nation's capital have taken place among many departments, including the Library of Congress, various organizations and private citizens, who have joined the association in this noble project. During 2008, various events and activities will be held nationwide to call attention to the New Deal and the extraordinary time in which it took place in our nation's history.

It is appropriate that I also call attention to Kathryn's distinguished professional career. Earning a Master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling/Psychology, she served the State of New Mexico in health and rehabilitation services, as executive director for the Carrie Tingley Hospital and Foundation, and as executive director of Open Hands, Inc. She then became Deputy Secretary of State, where she edited for many years the Blue Book, an invaluable resource for such information as New Mexico history, landscape, government, educational institutions, political leaders, Native Americans and state attractions.

It was in the role of editing the Blue Book that Kathryn "found her true calling." She wanted to include a piece of WPA art for inclusion in the 1991 edition of the Blue Book, but it was nowhere to be found. The search for this artwork led to Kathryn's realization that much of what was created during the New Deal was being lost, not only through physical deterioration, but also as a legacy to younger generations. Kathryn wanted to ensure that the New Deal's history, artistic beauty, public works and, perhaps most importantly, the encouragement and hope that it created in the minds and hearts of millions of citizens who were out of work during the Great Depression, be preserved for posterity.

Kathryn Flynn is considered by many as our nation's leading authority on the New Deal, and she is well deserving of recognition. I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating her upon receiving New Mexico's 2008 National Preservation Heritage Award. On behalf of all New Mexicans, I extend our deepest appreciation for all Kathryn has done to protect and preserve the history and all that the New Deal created for generations to come.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA PROGRAM OF VITAS INNOVATIVE HOSPICE CARE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding community service provided by the volunteers of The Philadelphia Program of VITAS Innovative Hospice Care on the occasion of their annual volunteer celebration dinner taking place on April 30, 2008. This annual event is part of National Volunteer Appreciation Week from April 27 to May 3, 2008. National Volunteer Appreciation Week was created in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteerism.

VITAS Innovative Hospice Care has been a pioneer and leader in the hospice care move-

ment since 1978 and is the nation's largest provider of end-of-life care. The Philadelphia Program of VITAS, which started in 1993, has four inpatient units and serves the five-county Philadelphia area.

More than sixty Philadelphia-area volunteers perform numerous services and serve more than 350 patients a day. The volunteers are both young and old and provide a variety of services for the elderly. These services range from running errands and placing reassuring phone calls, to spending quality time with the elderly. The volunteers serve patients in their own homes, in hospitals, and in nursing homes.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking The Philadelphia Program of VITAS volunteers for their exemplary service to the citizens of Southeastern Pennsylvania. May their work be an inspiration to us all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, today we remember the 1.5 million innocent victims of the Armenian genocide who horrifically lost their lives 93 years ago. The tragedy of the Armenians was the first genocide of the 20th century, but sadly not the last. Now, in a 21st Century rife with renewed ethnic and religious hatreds, the memory of the Armenian victims must remain fresh in our minds. It was Adolf Hitler who asked his generals, after deciding to brutally attack Poland in 1939, "Who still talks nowadays about the Armenians?" By remembering the Armenians on this day, as well as the millions of other victims claimed by genocides worldwide, we can individually and collectively contribute to the prevention of future atrocities and the end of genocide once and for all. I'd like to thank the Armenian-American community and the millions of others who have worked to ensure the American people never forget the victims of the Armenian genocide.

STATEMENT ON THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were murdered in Constantinople by the government of the Ottoman Empire. This event marked the beginning of a systematic mass murder of 1.5 million Armenian people and the displacement of nearly 500,000 refugees. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the beginning of an 8 year siege against the property, dignity and lives of the Armenian people.

We are here today to fully recognize the impact of this event. More than a dozen other

countries including France, Canada, Austria, Sweden, and Greece have acknowledged genocide and passed resolutions similar to H. Res. 106, commemorating those who lost their lives in Armenia between 1915 and 1923. Yet, despite the great suffering of the Armenian people, they have overcome adversity and continue to preserve their culture, traditions, religion and history. The United States and Armenia have had a strong, long-lasting relationship, including U.S. humanitarian and technical assistance to Armenia totaling nearly \$2 billion to date. With the recent election of President Serge Sargsian, Armenia continues to demonstrate a maturing democracy. Armenian-American citizens have contributed to our society in countless ways and the memory of their ancestors deserves to be honored. Acknowledging the 1915–1923 genocide as a tragic piece of Armenian history is a stepping stone in preventing future atrocities from taking place around the globe.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the in paying tribute today to those who lost their lives in this horrible event against the Armenian people and honoring the survivors who continue to commemorate the memory of their lost family and friends.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CAPTAIN JAMES C. HOWE

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I take this occasion to honor Captain James C. Howe for his service to the United States House of Representatives and for his 27 years of service to our country in the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Howe was assigned as Chief of the Office of Coast Guard Congressional and Governmental Affairs in July 2005, and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him. In my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues, my staff and I have often relied on Captain Howe's knowledge and understanding of the operational missions, the current day-to-day challenges, and the roles and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard.

During his career he spent 11 years at sea, conducted over 200 search and rescue cases, saved dozens of lives, interdicted nearly 1,000 illegal migrants, and seized 16 drug-laden vessels carrying more than 75 tons of marijuana and cocaine.

Captain Howe began his career at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, where he graduated in 1981. Ensign Howe was assigned to his first unit as a Deck Watch Officer aboard USCGC *Active* in New Castle, New Hampshire, conducting search and rescue and fisheries patrols in the North Atlantic. He then was assigned as Executive Officer of USCGC *Petrel* in Key West, Florida, which proved to be an extremely action-packed tour of duty. In one drug case, his crew seized three smuggling vessels simultaneously, and in another he embarked a seized go-fast vessel to hunt down a second go-fast, chasing it at speeds in excess of 40 knots; his crew also pulled 265 Haitian migrants off a