

COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began on this date ninety-three years ago. From 1915–1923 the Ottoman Empire carried out the deportation of approximately 2 million Armenian men, women, and children from their homeland of which 1.5 million were killed. And to this day, neither the Ottoman nor Turkish governments have been held to account for their involvement.

The 20th century witnessed some of the worst violence and atrocities in history: the attempted extermination of the Jewish people during the Holocaust, Tutsis slaughtering Hutus in Rwanda, Stalin's campaign of mass murder and starvation, the killing fields of Cambodia, and, of course, the Armenian genocide. Millions upon millions of innocent people were killed solely because of the color of their skin, the tribe they belonged to, or the religion they practiced.

As you know, too often in the past the world has stood by or looked the other way when genocide was taking place. And now we see it happening once again in Darfur. We must stop this horrible violence taking place in Sudan at once and make sure genocide is never repeated anywhere around the world. The call of "never again" must not just be exclaimed but rather acted upon.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, today we observe the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, a tragic persecution of Armenians that was both a systematic and intentional ethnic cleansing.

Before this tragedy, Armenians had only limited freedom living under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. Armenians did not have the liberties that Americans consider to be self-evident. In particular, they were limited in public practice of their Christian faith. Because the international community paid little attention, the conditions of Armenians deteriorated throughout the 1800s.

In the late 1800s, the situation became worse. Ottomans began to provoke, exploit, and murder many Armenians. Europe and North America took notice, but were weary of the economic and political consequences of intervening.

On this day in 1915, hundreds of influential and important Armenians were taken from their homes, imprisoned, and stripped of their remaining freedoms. The Ottoman military marched crowds of Armenians to be deported or exterminated. Hundreds of thousands Armenians were victims of this massacre, and an exact number of casualties is still unknown.

The systematic, state-sponsored extermination of these good, decent people dem-

onstrates the need for protection of individual liberties and from injustice.

Years later, Adolf Hitler referenced the Armenian genocide, "the physical destruction of the enemy," as an example of the rest of the world forgetting or ignoring. My hope is that we can recognize these stains from the past and learn an important lesson from history. We must never forget about those in other lands who do not enjoy the freedoms found in America. We must not forget to stand for what is right and stand beside widows, orphans, and our fellow brothers.

Madam Speaker, today we honor the lives lost during the Armenian genocide and in their memory pledge to protect liberty and freedom by preventing similar injustices in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at the funerals of two dear friends in my district, I was absent for all twelve recorded votes on Wednesday April 23, 2008 (rollcalls 208–219). I wish to offer the following explanations for how I would have voted.

Had I been present:

On rollcall 208, the motion to adjourn, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 209, Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 210, Recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 211, Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 212, the Rule providing for consideration of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 213, the Matheson amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 214, the Capito amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 215, the Foster amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 216, motion to recommit, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 217, passage of SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 218, ordering the previous question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall 219, the rule providing for consideration of Coast Guard Authorization Act, I would have voted "aye."

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE
HONORABLE BILL SANDBERG,
MAYOR OF NORTH SAINT PAUL,
MINNESOTA

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I come to the floor to speak about my dear friend, my mentor, and a tremendous Minnesota civic leader, Mayor Bill Sandberg of North Saint

Paul. Mayor Sandberg passed away earlier this week to the great sadness to all who loved him and worked with him. For 30 years Bill served as North Saint Paul's mayor and his extraordinary leadership, warm smile and soft laugh will be missed.

Mayor Sandberg was profoundly committed to his family, our community, and his country. Having lived in North Saint Paul and raised my children there, I can say the success and well-being of our city was in large part due to Bill's hard work and his pride in serving his neighbors. Bill loved North Saint Paul and his constituents loved him.

All of us who worked with Bill Sandberg over the years were fortunate and blessed. We are all better for his friendship. In the mid 1980s it was Mayor Sandberg who encouraged me to stay involved in politics after I lost my first election and he created the opportunity for me to enter public life with an appointment to a city committee. Even though he was a Republican and I am Democrat, it didn't matter to Bill who always put public service and common sense first. He went out of his way to work with me and I am a better public official because of him.

In 1987, I was elected to the North Saint Paul City Council where I served with Mayor Sandberg for the next four years. After that, in the Minnesota State House and in Congress, I have had the honor of representing North Saint Paul and working closely with the mayor to keep the city strong and vibrant.

Bill Sandberg was also a devoted family man. His love and lifelong companion, Dolores, was a wonderful person who Bill cared for throughout her life. Bill was also blessed by a loving daughter, Karen, and son-in-law, Jack, have two wonderful children who also loved their grandfather very much.

Madam Speaker, I personally feel a great personal loss with Bill's death and I will miss him profoundly. He was a kind, loving man who was a blessing in my life and the lives of the many who he served over the years.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL HATCHETS

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Coach Gene Miller and the Washington High School Hatchets on their 2008 3A Division Indiana State Basketball Championship. The title is their fifth State title in school history and was a fitting conclusion to an outstanding season.

The Hatchets defeated the Fort Wayne Harding High School Hawks in the championship game by a score of 84–60, capping off an impressive 23–2 season.

Their victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication and sacrifice. The team and coaching staff have demonstrated outstanding talent and an unwavering commitment to achieving their goals.

The Washington Hatchets are shining examples of the idea that success in life comes to those who are willing to set goals and work hard to achieve them. They are an inspiration to me and everyone in the Washington, Indiana community who have followed their progress this season.

Go Hatchets!

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

In September of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson spoke of his vision of a future Armenia. He said, "Armenia is to be redeemed . . . So that at last this great people, struggling through night after night of terror, knowing not when they may come out into a time when they can enjoy their rights as free people that they never dreamed they would be able to exercise."

The Armenian people finally have the ability to enjoy the rights that President Wilson hoped they would have so many years ago, and for that we are all thankful.

The nights of terror that President Wilson spoke about, the Armenian genocide, was the first genocide of the 20th century. It was the opening chapter of what was arguably the most violent period of human history. In the decades following this initial genocide, the world witnessed genocidal acts against the Jews and against the Roma in World War II, and subsequently in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in too many wars to list here. Today, the world is witnessing genocide yet again in Darfur.

There is no more important way to commit ourselves to preventing the genocides of the future than to commemorate and never forget the genocides of the past. As such, I would like to note my continuing support for House finally passage of H. Res. 106, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. In my view, it is long past time for the United States to officially recognize the massacre of one and a half million Armenians in early in the 20th century for what it undeniably was: a genocide.

Countries all around the world have adopted similar resolutions to ensure that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people are properly recognized as genocide. Canada, France, Switzerland, Greece, and Poland have passed resolutions affirming the recognition of the Armenian genocide. Properly recognizing the Armenian genocide here in America is essential to ensure that all past genocides are never forgotten and all future atrocities are never permitted. This House must afford the proper recognition to the Armenian genocide. We must do so not only because of our solemn obligation to recognize those that were lost, but also because of our duty to those that can still be saved.

A STUDENT'S THOUGHTFUL ESSAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, every present and former college student knows that writing a solid essay or research paper is not easy.

So, I think it's appropriate to recognize the careful effort displayed by Theresa Snyder in

an essay published last month in the Pueblo Chieftain newspaper.

Ms. Snyder is a student at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Her topic is a proposed water-delivery project called the Southern Delivery System, which would pipe water to that city from the Pueblo Reservoir—part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project—with return flows back to the Arkansas River via Fountain Creek.

Because of the complexity of the project, I joined others in asking the Bureau of Reclamation to provide additional time for comment on it—a request that I am happy to say has been granted.

I think Ms. Snyder's essay, written in connection with a class in Western Water Policy, reflects well on her and on the quality of instruction at Colorado College.

For the benefit of all our colleagues, here is the full text of her essay:

[From the Pueblo Chieftain, Mar. 16, 2008]

SPRINGS NEEDS TO CORRECT FOUNTAIN CREEK PROBLEMS

(By Theresa Snyder, Colorado College Student)

First things first . . .

In a time when water is becoming increasingly scarce, Colorado Springs has failed to explore its many options for responsible water use. The Springs, which has experienced rapid population growth in the past 40 years, is expected to grow by an additional 250,000 people by 2025.

To supplement water supply for this urban development, a \$1 billion project known as the Southern Delivery System has been proposed by Colorado Springs Utilities. The project includes storing water in Lake Pueblo and running a 43-mile long pipeline from Pueblo Dam to Colorado Springs.

The city, while possessing all the required water rights to use the additional 78 million gallons a day from Lake Pueblo, currently is completing an Environmental Impact Statement as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Drafts of the statement led the citizens of Pueblo to wonder about their future as downstream water users.

The focus of Pueblo's concern is Fountain Creek. This watershed begins as Monument Creek in Colorado Springs, flows south and joins Fountain Creek, continues to Pueblo and eventually joins the Arkansas River in Pueblo.

The creek has long been used to channel return flow wastewater from Colorado Springs. As a result of the Southern Delivery System, return flows from the city into Fountain Creek would greatly increase.

Anyone who walks along the creek can see the obvious problems with erosion, sedimentation and water quality already present in the creekbed. Current return flows from Colorado Springs have altered this previously intermittent stream to a year-round flow, and are to blame for the multitude of other problems in Fountain Creek.

Increased sedimentation along the creek bed produces stretches of dirt with no trace of vegetation. Other sections of the river have channelized as severely as 20 feet below previous flow lines. The result is a creek that looks sprawled in some areas and like a small canyon with steep, abrupt walls in others.

The Southern Delivery System would only increase average flows and consequently the sedimentation and erosion that results in an unappealing creek with muddy water. Where does all of this poor-quality, heavy-sediment water go? Downstream to Pueblo.

As Colorado Springs Utilities officials prepare to launch a \$1 billion project, they have

failed to address a serious issue that will only worsen upon completion of the project. Clean-up of Fountain Creek should be first on the list of projects to tackle. Colorado Springs brings in the majority of its water from the Western Slope of Colorado. Seventy percent actually comes from Fryingpan-Arkansas water storage projects across the Great Divide. This means fresh, crisp mountain water. Yet the city passes on poor-quality water and disregards the negative effects the flows have on a natural ecosystem and downstream municipality.

Pueblo has begun to speak up and demands that Colorado Springs dam Fountain Creek to control the overall flow of the creek. A dam would control flooding as well as mitigate the negative effects from erosion and sedimentation.

Yet Colorado Springs Utilities has cited cost as the primary reason for not damming the creek. How is cost an object when the utility is prepared to shovel out \$1.1 billion for more water? It seems selfish and unfair of a municipality to not only ignore a problem such as Fountain Creek but to propose a huge project that only worsens the situation.

Colorado Springs is considered the "big bully" in this ongoing water issue. It's time for them to take a step back.

First things first: Colorado Springs officials should address the issues at hand such as Fountain Creek. They should become responsible water users before they gain access to more of the precious commodity.

Though they may have the legal rights to follow through with the Southern Delivery System, it's unfair and irresponsible to ignore the current mess and follow through with a project that brings more detrimental effects.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of National Minority Cancer Awareness Week. This week increases awareness about the effects of cancer in minority communities and is dedicated to emphasizing the importance of early cancer detection.

Today, minorities are more likely to be diagnosed and die from cancer in comparison to the rest of the United States population. According to the American Cancer Society, African American men have a 37 percent higher cancer death rate than white men, and death rates for African American women are about 17 percent higher than rates for white women, despite the fact that African American women have lower cancer incidence rates than white women.

Disparities in breast cancer for minority women are among the most common. Studies have highlighted that African American women are 1.9 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. Hispanic women are 1.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with an advanced stage of breast cancer than white women. It is clear that, although there have been efforts to eliminate disparities in breast cancer related care, substantial disparities remain.