

SCHEDULE FOR THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE VOTING IRREGULARITIES OF AUGUST 2

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, the Select Committee would like to give the Members a brief update on the activities of the Select Committee to Investigate the Voting Irregularities of August 2. The Select Committee held a series of briefings and hearings designed to inform the members of the Select Committee of the mechanics of conducting a record vote on the House floor, the electronic voting system, and the precedents and procedures relevant to the voting process. The Select Committee has been conducting a thorough investigation of rollcall 814, including the motion to reconsider that vote (rollcall 815). The Select Committee has completed 18 staff interviews and 4 Member interviews, perused almost 5000 pages of documents related to rollcall 814, and engaged in discussions on possible recommendations of changes to the rules and procedures of the House as mandated by the Select Committee's authorizing resolution (House Resolution 611). In the next month, the Select Committee will hold two public hearings relative to its investigation, one public hearing relative to its recommendations, and one public meeting on its final report. The Select Committee intends to file its final report by the end of May.

OBSERVING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today we mark a sad anniversary, the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide, April 24, 1915 was the day that over two hundred Armenian political and intellectual leaders were arrested by Ottoman authorities. Subsequently, the systematic killing of Armenians resulted in well over one million deaths. This horrible mass killing is well-recognized and well documented, including in the United States' national archives, and it has been confirmed by the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

It is important to commemorate those who lost their lives. And it is important to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it was. At the time, the United States government and its citizens acted with generosity and diplomatic support in response to the mass killing. Today's observance is a continuation of that response. And only by recognizing and studying past cases of genocide will we have a chance of preventing them in the future.

93RD COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide. As the first genocide of the 20th century, it is morally imperative that we remember this atrocity and collectively demand reaffirmation of this crime against humanity.

In 1915, Henry Morgenthau, America's ambassador stationed in Istanbul described a "systematic attempt to uproot peaceful Armenian populations." He warned Washington of the government's plan to "crush the Armenian race."

After these warnings from Morgenthau, the U.S. Government took action and responded to the Armenian genocide. During a time when hundreds of thousands were left orphaned and starving, a time when a nation was on the verge of complete extermination, the United States took the lead and proudly helped end these atrocities. In fact, Americans helped launch an unprecedented U.S. diplomatic, political and humanitarian campaign to end the carnage and protect the survivors.

Yet, 93 years later, the United States has not officially recognized the Armenian genocide. We owe it to the Armenian-American community, to the 1.5 million that were massacred in the genocide and to its own history—to reaffirm what is fact.

Last October, the Foreign Affairs Committee passed the Armenian Genocide Resolution, giving full recognition to the genocide, but, since then, the bill has stalled due to the deep pocketed and well oiled Turkish lobby.

By not recognizing the Armenian genocide for what it was, the government sponsored, systematic killing of a people, we fall prey to the Turkish government's threats. At the expense of truth, we buckle to Turkey out of geo-political convenience.

Refusing to recognize the Armenian genocide only erodes our international reputation as human rights leaders. By remaining silent, we encourage Turkey to continue denial. While we look the other way, the Turkish government continues to prosecute those who speak out about the Armenian genocide in Turkey. This cannot continue. We must stop pandering to Turkish government.

Fortunately, there are citizens of Turkey who refuse to deny the facts of the Armenian genocide. The Human Rights Association of Istanbul opposes the government muzzle. They recognize that state denial is the continuation of genocide, depriving the decedents of the Armenians the right to mourn their loved ones.

We cannot let denial continue. By doing so, we show the international community that not only is genocide accepted, but that we are indifferent. Recognizing the Armenian genocide is crucial to helping end the cycle of genocide that has continued to plague civilization. If no one is held accountable, if America and the International community fail to act, then we allow these atrocities to continue.

A large majority of our colleagues want to support this resolution. Members want to reaffirm the United States' record on the Armenian

genocide. Unfortunately, the strong Turkish lobby is making it difficult for this House to take a firm stance for the truth.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide will bring closure to a people and send the message that crimes against humanity cannot be silenced.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR. ERNEST MUNTZ

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Ernest Muntz. Dr. Muntz left Wheaton College during his second year to join his fellow countrymen in defending freedom around the globe. Seeing his country in peril, simultaneously fighting a war on two fronts, Dr. Muntz enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 because he believed that it was "the right thing to do."

During Dr. Muntz's time of service in the Army Air Corps, he played a key role as a cryptographer in the Pacific Theater. He received and deciphered messages as part of the Army Airways Communications System, saving lives with each decoded message. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1975 with the rank of full Colonel.

After the war, Dr. Muntz decided to complete his education at Wheaton College, graduating in 1948. He continued his education at the University of Rochester, earning his doctorate in history in 1960. Dr. Muntz held various professorships and contributed his knowledge and passion for academia to institutions of higher education. He had a distinguished career as a full professor of history at the University of Cincinnati and then dean of the Raymond Walters College.

I am honored to have Dr. Ernest Muntz as my constituent, and I hope that today's generation of young men and women will follow the shining example of patriotism and scholarship that he has set.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, every year we mark the anniversary of a terrible event that took place over the years of 1915–1923, during the First World War, when 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered and over half a million survivors were forced to leave a homeland they had inhabited for over two millennia. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 106, a resolution which simply affirms a historical fact. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive records, open to the public, which meticulously document the Armenian genocide. Furthermore, the post-World War I Turkish government indicted leaders who were involved in these killings which

it labeled a "massacre." On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers of England, France, and Russia issued a statement charging the Ottoman government of committing a "crime against humanity." President Ronald Reagan in proclamation number 4838, dated April 22, 1981, said, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians, which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten."

The Armenian genocide resolution is offensive to some simply because it characterizes that massacre as "genocide." We do not use that term loosely, but violence on such a tremendous scale has earned that terrible title. These deaths were not caused by the inevitable hostility of war, but by systematic murder aimed at eliminating a people. We gain nothing by pretending it was anything less.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum includes a quote from Adolf Hitler who justified his own atrocities by saying, "[w]ho, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Shortly thereafter, the world would learn of the horrors of the Holocaust.

I wonder whether the horrors of the Second World War may have been averted had people loudly and with conviction condemned the Armenian genocide of the First World War. We cannot erase the events of history, and we ignore them at our peril. In the United States, we are still dealing with the consequences of slavery—a blight on our own historical record. But we cannot be committed to the principle of "never again" if we do not acknowledge the evil that first committed us to make that vow.

RECOGNIZING MARIO AND JOE SIMOES FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join with my colleague, Mr. COSTA, to recognize these two brothers, Mario and Joe Simoes, for their accomplishments as both immigrants and farmers.

After the death of their mother when they were only 9 years old, Mario and Joe, aged 15, along with their father and younger sister, emigrated from Portugal in search of a better life for their family. Their first jobs were with the Manuel Faria and Sons Dairy in California. In 1970, some 20 years after coming to America, Mario and Joe bought their first dairy farm from this same family. Today, Mario and Joe, along with their extended families, own more than 10,000 cows and farm around 3,000 acres between them.

These brothers, born only 12 minutes apart, embody the hard work and perseverance that are so emblematic of the first American immigrants. They have always shared a special bond that has pushed them to share both their lives and livelihoods with each other. They even share the same wedding anniversary, although Joe was married four years after Mario.

Because of their active involvement in the agricultural community, Mario and Joe were both named as the 2007 Dairyman of the Year

by the Tulare High School's SOPAS Club. Both brothers have served as president of the SPDES and both are members of the TDES, Land O' Lakes Tulare Division, the Dairy Farmers of America, and the St. John's of Tip-ton Men's Club.

On April 25, Mario and Joe will be honored as "Farmers of the Year" at the annual Kiwanis Luncheon in Tulare, CA. On behalf of myself and Mr. COSTA, it is an honor to recognize their hard work and dedication to community. Mario and Joe serve as a constant reminder of the values of this Nation and the unbreakable spirit of the American people.

L. NATHAN WINTERS RECEIVING GIRL SCOUTS AWARD OF DISTINCTION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. L. Nathan Winters of Harlingen, TX, for receiving the Award of Distinction from the Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas.

Mr. Winters has been a valuable member of our community and is known for his hard work and dedication to the Girl Scouts and numerous nonprofit organizations. When serving on the board of directors he was instrumental in acquiring Camp Bayview to serve girls all over South Texas. He also served as president of the Girl Scouts Tip of Texas Council, which later merged with the Paisano Council.

Not only is Mr. Winters dedicated to the advancement of the Girl Scouts, but he is also a remarkable husband, father, and grandfather.

The Girl Scouts of Greater South Texas serves more than 9,200 members in the 4-county area, including girls in low-income public schools, housing authorities, the Texas Migrant Council, and Boys and Girls Clubs.

We are now in an era where more women serve as leaders in our government, corporate board rooms, and communities. The Girl Scouts of America have done extraordinary work in molding young women into positions where they go on to achieve great things. Their mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who—as women, leaders, sisters, and mothers—will make the world a better place.

I commend the good work done by the Girl Scouts of America, and the Girls Scouts of Greater South Texas Council for awarding Mr. L. Nathan Winters their Award of Distinction.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment

of the sovereign and independent State of Israel.

Over the last 60 years, Israel has built a nation, forged a new and democratic society, and created thriving economic, political, cultural and intellectual life. For six decades now, the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship and the U.S. continues to regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

On the House floor this week, H. Res. 322, reaffirmed Congress's support for Israel and the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel and commits to strengthening those bonds. I too support Israel, its continued stability, democratic principles and its important role in the Middle East by extending the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and the Israeli people for a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

2008 RETIREES FOR NORTH CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS, MENOMINEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize four dedicated educators at the North Central Schools in Menominee County, Michigan. These four individuals will be retiring at the end of the current school year and I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives, join me in honoring their decades of service to educating children.

Deborah Bedogne came to North Central Area Schools (NCA) in 1985 after teaching at Marquette Area Public Schools. She has served as a guidance counselor and taught many different courses throughout her tenure at North Central. Her assistance in helping students choose their career path has impacted many lives, as has her dedication to the district and the students. Debbie's guidance will be greatly missed by the NCA community.

Janice Hafeman started her career in education in the North Central community with the Northern Menominee Community School program in 1989. She later came to North Central Area Schools in 1994 and has served as a Teacher of Special Education and Adult Basic Education. Both in and out of the classroom Janice treated all of her students with the utmost respect and kindness.

Donald Palmer began his career at North Central Area Schools in 2006 after serving as Superintendent of Hesperia Community Schools in Hesperia, Michigan. Although Mr. Palmer's time with NCA schools was short in years, it was great in impact, including a column that he wrote in the Escanaba Daily Press about his role as superintendent of schools. Throughout his career he has served as a teacher, principal and a Superintendent at several schools throughout the State of Michigan.

Mark Veeseer was a dedicated and loyal teacher at North Central Area Schools for 31 years. He has taught in the very same community that his mother, Nell Veeseer, and brother, Greg Veeseer, also taught. His wife Barbara continues to teach there as well. Mark