

of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, died and screamed as they did so, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, no one could hear them.

And all of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution, it says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth. It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard this Sunset Memorial tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,876 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that the America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust is still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

So tonight, Madam Speaker, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is April 24, 2008, 12,876 days since Roe v. Wade first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children, this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

CELEBRATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BETHESDA HOSPITAL IN SAINT PAUL, MN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Bethesda Hospital on its 125th anniversary in Saint Paul, MN. Since its founding in 1883, this hospital has been a leader in our community in providing quality health care services through a compassionate and holistic framework. Bethesda Hospital is now the largest long-term acute care hospital in the region and has earned a national reputation for excellence and innovation in health care.

In 1883, Bethesda Hospital was established by Reverend A. P. Montan, D.D., pastor of the first Swedish Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, along with the sponsorship of the Tabitha Society of the Swedish Lutheran Minnesota Conference. Rev. Montan and his fellow Swedish Lutherans converted a single family home near Lake Como in Saint Paul into a hospital with 20 beds to serve individuals who were impoverished and sick.

Today, Bethesda Hospital stays true to its deep roots, still helping those with illnesses recover, regardless of their ability to pay. Bethesda Hospital has also remained in Saint Paul these past 125 years. It has expanded its capacity since its modest origins, now providing 262 beds for patients, employing 740 staff, and treating about 1400 patients on an annual basis.

Bethesda Hospital has grown greatly throughout its history. In 1892, Bethesda moved from its Lake Como neighborhood to downtown Saint Paul at 9th and Wacouta Streets, near the Union Depot. This new facility featured two operating rooms on the third floor which were known to be the best operating rooms in the whole state.

Despite additions to Bethesda's facility at 9th and Wacouta, it eventually outgrew that location. By 1932, after an intense fundraising campaign to construct a new hospital, it reopened at what is still its current home, just steps away from the State Capitol.

As Saint Paul and its surrounding area has changed over the years, Bethesda Hospital has also adapted to meet the community's developing needs. During the closing and consolidation of hospitals in 1986, Bethesda joined together with St. John's and St. Joseph's Hospitals to merge under the newly created HealthEast Care system. Three years later, Bethesda was officially designated as a Long-Term Acute Care Hospital to focus on treating patients who require extensive and rigorous therapy to recuperate.

Bethesda Hospital is now a specialty hospital serving a wide-range of patients of all ages and illnesses, such as student football players with concussions, car accident survivors, and patients dealing with multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Bethesda Hospital's inter-disciplinary teams of trained professionals develop individualized treatment plans for patients that may not only include behavioral, cognitive, occupational, physical, respiratory, and speech therapies, but also a variety of recreational therapies such as art therapy, pet therapy, and virtual therapy.

Bethesda Hospital has been widely acclaimed for its award-winning programs and services. In particular, the Brain Injury of Minnesota as well as The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities have paid tribute to the hospital's outstanding service in the area of brain injury.

Building on its specialty in treating brain injuries, Bethesda Hospital continues to respond to the serious health care needs we face. Currently, Bethesda Hospital is collaborating with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Minnesota National Guard, the Department of Defense, and the Veterans Affairs Central Office in Washington, DC to identify ways that Bethesda Hospital can serve the veterans and injured soldiers across our nation who are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. I am so pleased that Bethesda Hospital plans to answer the call and serve our troops and veterans who have served us so honorably. Bethesda Hospital has the expertise to conduct critical predeployment baseline cognitive skills testing and follow-up post deployment testing to evaluate our veterans' health conditions and track their recovery.

Madam Speaker, in honor of the legacy of caring that the dedicated donors, staff, patients, and volunteers at Bethesda Hospital have created, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD recognizing the 125th anniversary of Bethesda Hospital.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CITIZEN AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2008

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Citizen and Community Preparedness Act of 2008, which reaffirms the Federal Government's commitment to helping our communities prepare for and respond to acts of terrorism, natural disasters and other emergencies.

I am glad to be joined today in introducing this bipartisan bill by the Ranking Member of my Subcommittee—the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response—the gentleman from Pennsylvania, CHARLIE DENT.

I am also pleased to have Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as well as Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, as original cosponsors of this legislation. They are true leaders in the area of emergency preparedness and have been instrumental in the drafting of this bill.

If a disaster—whether large or small—occurs in a community, local responders and disaster-relief organizations will be there to help, but citizens need to be ready as well.

In fact, when individual citizens, families and communities are prepared, the fear, anxiety,

and loss that accompany disasters is substantially minimized.

It is imperative that citizens know what to do in the event of an emergency and be ready to either shelter in place or evacuate their homes.

People must be ready to care for their basic needs should they be displaced for a period of time.

As we move toward the 3-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and the 7-year anniversary of 9/11, we must not lose sight of the lessons learned from these disasters.

While I recognize that the most effective emergency preparedness programs and messages are delivered locally and not from Washington, we must ensure that the Department of Homeland Security is working with State and local partners, providing them with the tools they need to get the message out.

Following the tragic events that occurred on September 11, 2001, Federal, State and local government officials agreed that the formula for ensuring a more secure and safer homeland consists of preparedness, training, and citizen involvement in supporting first responders.

As a result, the Citizen Corps Program and Ready campaigns were created.

To date, with limited resources available, over 2,000 communities in all 56 States and territories have established Citizen Corps Councils to help inform and train citizens in emergency preparedness, and promote volunteerism.

However, I think these programs can be improved.

The legislation I am introducing today formally authorizes the Citizen Corps Program and provides it with the necessary funding to be effective.

It also authorizes key Citizen Corps components administered by the Department of Homeland Security—Fire Corps and CERT.

Fire Corps promotes the use of volunteers to assist fire and rescue departments in non-operational roles such as fire safety outreach, youth programs, and administrative support.

The Community Emergency Response Team, CERT, program concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985 and has since spread to over 1,000 communities nationwide.

Under the CERT Program citizens are training citizens in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

As our Nation continues to glean lessons from the catastrophic events of Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Government must ensure that preparedness efforts help our Nation's most vulnerable populations.

To that end, this legislation requires the Secretary to work closely with organizations representing the elderly, the disabled, the hearing and visually impaired, communities with language and income barriers, and children to promote preparedness.

This legislation will also create a pilot program to enhance citizen preparedness at primary and secondary schools, as well as on university or college campuses, by providing training, exercises, and public awareness campaigns.

Finally, my bill directs the Secretary to carry out a public affairs campaign utilizing diverse media outlets to get the word out to the public

to assist them in preparing for acts of terrorism and other emergencies.

Addressing the issue of citizen preparedness continues to be a major issue for our Nation.

In fact, the National Governors' Association 2007 State Homeland Security Directors Survey, which polled the 56 State and territorial homeland security advisors, cited citizen preparedness as one of the top 5 priorities for their States.

It is now time to stop paying lip service to the issue of citizen and community preparedness and to start acting.

In closing Madam Speaker, let me say that our citizens' lack of preparedness is often cited as an impediment to an effective emergency response. I believe this legislation will make strides to change that fact and I urge my colleagues to support it.

SBIR/STTR REAUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5819) to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5819, the SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act. Enactment of this bill will extend important programs that improve American competitiveness in the world, and I urge its adoption.

The State of Colorado houses a strong and vibrant collection of cutting-edge small businesses, and businesses in my own district employ SBIR awards to promote advanced research in aeronautic, biotechnology, and other important industries. This bill will ensure that small businesses and research firms will continue to have access to the capital that enables them to compete with large firms both at home and abroad. Ultimately, this bill is about increasing competition and ensuring that good ideas are not lost for a lack of resources.

This bill also modernizes the SBIR and STTR programs in order to better suit the needs of small businesses, ensuring that small businesses that receive funding from venture capital firms are allowed to receive SBIR grants. Though some suggest that this policy undermines the spirit of the program, the reality for many small businesses is that their most consistent sources of funding are from venture capital firms and the SBIR program. This bill proposes sensible limits on the participation of venture capital firms so that small businesses can continue to rely on these two important sources of funds.

As co-chair of the House Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education Caucus and a representative of a district with a major research institution, I support this legislation because it will help keep America more technologically and economically competitive. I commend the committees for their hard work on this legislation, and I look forward to its enactment.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were killed by Ottoman authorities during World War I.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government began its genocidal plan by arresting and murdering over 250 Armenian intellectuals and political figures in Istanbul. In the interior of the Ottoman Empire, where the bulk of the Armenian population lived, the government then arrested and killed village leaders. Meanwhile, most able-bodied Armenian men, who had been conscripted into the Ottoman army, were separated into labor battalions and subsequently murdered. Next, in various provinces, gendarmes and the army massacred Armenian villagers outright, while in other provinces, the remaining Armenian population of women, children and the elderly were forcibly deported over the mountains and into the scorching deserts of Syria, without food and water. Many of the female deportees were raped and killed en route, while other deportees died of starvation and dehydration. By the end of 1915 the centuries-old Armenian civilization of eastern Anatolia no longer existed.

U.S. diplomats who were stationed in Anatolia at the time were some of the main eyewitnesses and chroniclers of that horrific period. U.S. Consul Leslie Davis, stationed in Harput in eastern Anatolia, wrote the following in a cable to U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, dated July 24, 1915: "It has been no secret that the plan was to destroy the Armenian race as a race, but the methods used have been more cold-blooded and barbarous, if not effective, than I had first supposed." He also wrote in this same cable: "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has been conceived in the mind of man."

This cable, and many others of a similar nature, is housed in the U.S. National Archives only a few blocks from the U.S. Capitol and the White House. They provide unambiguous, documentary evidence of what occurred. Yet there are those who still refuse to properly characterize what happened to the Armenian people during World War I as genocide. Although the word "genocide" was not invented in 1915, what these diplomats described was indeed genocide of a people.

I am deeply disappointed that many of our current officials avoid characterizing what occurred as "genocide." This avoidance does a disservice to the memory of the victims and their descendants, and hurts our moral standing in the world. I hope that one day soon, this legislative body and the U.S. Administration will properly characterize what happened to the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

Many of the survivors of the Armenian genocide settled in the United States. Bearing painful physical and emotional scars, they