

the U.S. Capitol Building and beyond the Washington Monument to the newly constructed World War II Memorial on the National Mall. As we know, it was inspiring. At long last, nearly 60 years after the war ended, veterans who did so much to protect our country and liberate the world, were to receive recognition for their service, their sacrifice and the victory through a national monument.

I had my cell phone with me, and I stepped away from the memorial and I called my 90-year-old father back in our hometown of Plainville. He is one of the thousands of Americans who left their families and lives behind in World War II to fight for our country. My father fought in Northern Africa and Sicily and Italy.

Fortunately, when I called, I got the answering machine. It's often difficult for sons and daughters to tell their fathers the things we should tell them. The message I left my dad was, "Dad, I love you. Dad, I'm proud of you, and Dad, thank you for your service to our country." I told my dad what I should have said a long time ago, and what we all should say to our veterans.

It was too bad that many of the veterans of this greatest generation, now in their 80s and 90s, are unable, physically or financially, to visit our Nation's Capitol and see this beautiful tribute to their service and sacrifice and to hear those important words.

Earlier this year, Senator Bob Dole, himself a World War II veteran who led the charge to build the memorial, told me about a grassroots, not-for-profit organization called Honor Flight. Honor Flight enables World War II veterans to travel to our Nation's Capital to see the memorial created in their honor. Staffed by volunteers and funded by donations, Honor Flight used commercial and chartered flights to send veterans on a one-day, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

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Earl Morse of Ohio and Jeff Miller of North Carolina created the Honor Flight Network, which now operates in 30 States.

Over the past months I have joined Senator Dole to greet Kansas veterans arriving at the World War II Memorial by means of Honor Flight. It is a very moving experience as veterans recount tales of their time in the service to volunteers who are often local high school students. Tourists stop their sightseeing to shake the veterans' hands, and you see the excitement of the veterans' eyes, and many are moved to tears. It's a special day for that generation of heroes.

Of the 16 million veterans who served in World War II, only 2.5 million are alive today. And we are losing them at a rate of 900 each day. Honor Flight is working against time to say "thank you" to these veterans.

Tomorrow, after months of preparation and fundraising by volunteers, an Honor Flight of World War II veterans

from Plainville to Stockton, from Hays, Hill City, Ness City, and a lot of other small towns of northwest Kansas will be arriving in Washington, D.C. On that flight will be my father, my dad, and 101 of his fellow Kansas veterans will finally see firsthand the World War II Memorial and experience our Nation's gratitude for their service.

Tonight I want to thank the Honor Flight Network and the thousands of volunteers and donors across the country who make these moving experiences possible. In particular, I thank Pat Hageman of Natoma for organizing tomorrow's Honor Flight, the students from Rooks County high schools who are serving as volunteers, the medical personnel, and especially the local businesses, individuals, and veterans service organizations in northwest Kansas who have financed this Honor Flight.

I doubt my dad or any of the other men and women who will be in Washington, D.C., tomorrow will be able to sleep when they go to bed tonight in the small towns across Kansas. They will lay wide awake with nervous anticipation and excitement. But though they lay awake tonight, the rest of America has been able to sleep because of the sacrifice of the World War II veterans.

Tomorrow, once again we all can say that these men and women of our country and our country's other World War II veterans, "We love you; we are proud of you, and we thank you for your service to our country."

SOCCER DIPLOMACY BETWEEN ARMENIA AND TURKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to congratulate Armenia and its President on the historic soccer match between Armenia and Turkey this past weekend. On July 9, President Serge Sargsian and the "Wall Street Journal," Europe edition took a surprising and historic step by inviting President Gul of Turkey to sit with him and watch the two nations play the World Cup qualifier match in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

In an effort to warm relations between the two countries, President Sargsian wrote, "Just as the people of China and the United States shared enthusiasm for ping pong before their governments fully normalized relations, the people of Armenia and Turkey are united in their love for football."

President Gul accepted the offer, and on Saturday, September 6, he became the first Turkish leader to visit Armenia.

Armenia initiated soccer diplomacy with Turkey despite nearly a century of Turkish genocide denial and 15 years of an economic blockade. For years, Armenia has been ready to establish

relations with Turkey without preconditions, and President Sargsian's recent efforts reinforced this commitment. President Gul must also be commended for his efforts to see past the opposition of some in his country by attending the match.

With the recent violence between Russia and Georgia, further steps to promote stability in the Caucasus must be taken, and strengthening Armenian and Turkish relations is essential to these efforts.

Turkey can strengthen its relationship with Armenia by ending its policy of genocide denial, a policy that is imposed both globally and domestically. Turkey should lift all restrictions imposed by section 301 of the Turkish Penal Code on individuals who study, discuss, or recognize the Armenian genocide. Silencing academics and writers limits freedom of speech and makes any serious discussion of the Armenian genocide within Turkey taboo.

To improve relations, Turkey must also lift its stifling economic blockade on Armenia. The State Department estimates that the blockade inflates Armenia by 30 to 35 percent. Removing the blockade will enable the development of immediate infrastructure projects and regional communications, energy, and transportation in the Caucasus. The removal of the blockade would also do much to catalyze global investment in Turkey and Armenia.

With the recent conflict between Russia and Georgia, Armenia proved itself to be a constructive partner to Georgia. The Armenian government provided safe transit for U.S. and international officials and thousands of Georgia nationals and nongovernmental organization representatives.

But Armenia experienced significant economic distress due to the conflict between Georgia and Russia. The country lost an estimated \$650 million and shortages in fuel and wheat were rampant. With renewed volatility in the Caucasus, Armenia can no longer afford to suffer from dual blockades.

President Sargsian's initiation of soccer diplomacy and President Gul's reciprocal invitation to watch a game next year in Turkey is a positive breakthrough in a region of historic violence and tense emotions.

As President Sargsian wrote, "A more prosperous, mutually beneficial future for Armenia and Turkey, and the opening up of a historic East-West corridor for Europe, the Caspian region and the rest of the world, are goals that we can and must achieve."

Mr. Speaker, let me just say as a Congressman and speaking for all Members of Congress, we must do all that we can to support these efforts to bring Armenia and Turkey together. It may seem that a soccer match is not that significant, but it is very significant. No Turkish leader has ever visited Armenia before. So I want to commend this occasion and hope that it leads to more of further developments and relations between the two countries.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WE NEED NUCLEAR POWER AND WE NEED IT NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, when I visited my district in August, people had one thing on their mind and one thing only, and that was the high gas prices, exactly, what a hardship they were on the people of Alabama, and I think people throughout the Nation.

One of my constituents in Bibb County, Alabama, handed me at a townhall meeting his gas receipt. As you can see, he paid \$90, \$89 to fill up his truck. Now, Bibb County, Alabama, the average resident of that county makes \$312 gross a week. Now, imagine a county where the average income is \$312. Now, further imagine that 59 percent of people in that county commute out of town to work; 59 percent of them have to drive 40 and 50 miles to work every day. And they're like this gentleman, \$90 a day out of a paycheck of less than \$300.

They told me of stories of how they pay their gas bill, they struggle to pay their rent or their mortgage, they struggle to put food on the table, they struggle with all sorts of financial hardships. Is it any wonder that 9 percent of the people in this country are behind on their mortgage when they're putting hundreds of dollars on their gas bills?

They're also angry about something else. They're angry because we're not doing anything about it. Not only is this money coming out of the United States and out of our citizens' pockets, but let me tell you where it's going.

I recently went to a country—many countries in the world that we're getting oil from, they don't like us. They hate us. But one country that is actually our friend is Dubai. And I went to Dubai recently.

First, I want to show you a picture of Dubai in 1976. This was before oil prices went up. That's the main street in Dubai in 1976. It's a dirt road. The highest structure in Dubai is that mosque that many are in, about three stories high.

When I went to Dubai, it didn't look anything like a small coastal village. It looked quite different.

The next picture that I am going to show you is a picture of when I went there. Now, you saw that \$89 gas bill. You're wondering where that money is going? This is where it's going. And this is what it's accomplishing for Dubai.

That's where our money is. The Highway Trust Fund will run out of money next week. The people of Dubai are not running out of money. That's why the Highway Trust Fund has no money in it.

You see all of the construction there? I was in Minneapolis this week. I saw

very little construction. You go to cities around America, you see very little construction. You see very few of these high-rise cranes. But let me show you what you're seeing in Dubai. Let me show you another picture of Dubai.

This is a picture I took from a five-star hotel that we toured. Look at the construction frames. Those are construction frames that if we would solve our energy dependency, they would be in Minneapolis, they would be in Denver, they would be in Atlanta. But 15 to 25 percent of them are in Dubai. That's where our money is going.

Not only should our people be angry about what they're paying—they should be angry—and these are our friends. This is a country that is our friend. Most of our money goes to countries that are not our friends.

Let me tell you what Dubai is doing. They've got plenty of oil, and they've got a lot of money. Do you know what they're spending their money on? Let me show you.

China, India, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, they get it. They're doing something about their energy problem. China is building 32 nuclear power plants. India is building 17. The slide I just showed you of Dubai, an oil rich country, and Abu Dhabi, they're building nuclear power plants. They're going to build 14 nuclear power plants. We're building none. And let me tell you the people in Alabama and this Nation are upset that they are building, China is building, India is building, and we are standing still. That's another thing they're angry about.

We need nuclear power, and we need it now.

Mr. Speaker, during my energy presentation on the House floor this evening, I received assistance from our congressional page, John Brinkerhoff. John is a junior at Spain Park High School in Hoover. He is an accomplished young man who will reflect well on the page program and on his family, school, and community during his time in Congress. My sincere thanks go to John for his help on the floor.

HONORING HARRY A. MARMION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Harry A. Marmion who recently passed away after a long and distinguished career in which he served of president of two colleges and as president of the United States Tennis Association during the time when the Arthur Ashe Stadium what constructed and opened.

He was an outstanding leader in all of these roles, but more than that, he was an outstanding person. He remained active and involved in life until the day he died. And I am proud to have called him my mentor and my friend.

Harry Marmion loved people, and they loved him. His quick wit and en-

gaging personality enabled him to rally people to get the job done, whether it was establishing the John Steinbeck Room in the Southampton College Library or overseeing the naming of Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Following his graduation from Fairfield University, Harry served for 2 years in the United States Marine Corps as an infantry officer. He then served in the Marine Corps Reserve for 26 years, retiring as a colonel. Dr. Marmion held a law degree from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut.

At the age of 37, he was appointed president of St. Xavier College in Chicago, a position he held from 1969 to 1972. In 1972, he was appointed president of Southampton College of Long Island University. During his presidency, I was an administrator at the college and thus I had the opportunity to see firsthand his leadership style and his ability.

He was always accessible and able to talk to people from all walks of life. He helped position Southampton College as a liberal arts institution with specialties in marine science and the fine arts, and it was during his tenure that Southampton students won the college's first three Fulbright Scholarships.

Harry was always available for advice and good counsel. I often relied on his judgment and advice after I was appointed provost of Southampton College and later when I was elected to Congress.

In 1980, he was appointed vice president for academic affairs and professor of law and management at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

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He retired after 10 years, only to embark on a second career with the United States Tennis Association.

His love of tennis began in the 1980s when he was ranked a senior player in the East, despite the fact that he had never played tennis until he was in his 30s. After serving as the president of the Eastern Tennis Association and on the USTA's board of directors, Harry became its 43rd chairman and president of the USTA's board in 1997. During his tenure, he oversaw the renovation of the USTA's facility in Flushing Meadows. He was instrumental in ensuring that the stadium be named in honor of Arthur Ashe, the great African American athlete, rather than for a corporate sponsor.

Harry loved a good joke as much as anyone I know, but he also loved a good cause and was never afraid to do the right thing. He played a key role in the election of Judy Levering as his successor at the USTA, the first female to hold that position. And when Southampton College was facing closure in 2005, he helped form the "Save the College" group and served as one of its most influential members, proudly participating in the ultimately Stony Brook/Southampton campus.