

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Laurel Grove Baptist Church on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary and also in expressing our deepest respect and admiration for the triumph of spirit that is symbolized by this "Little Church by the Side of the Road".

RECOGNIZING 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 738, a resolution honoring the 15th anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues I am proud to support landmark legislation that shined a light on the problem of intimate partner violence and provided women with the resources needed to escape violent relationships.

This 15th anniversary, we celebrate the tremendous gains we have made in raising awareness about domestic violence and empowering women to leave unhealthy relationships and rebuilt their lives away from their abusers.

President Clinton signed the Violence Against Women Act on September 13, 1994, as part of the Omnibus Crime Bill. And over the last 15 years we have made tremendous progress toward ending the cycle of abuse. States have taken up the charge and have passed close to 700 laws to combat domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. As a result, more victims are reporting their abuse and the number of women killed by an intimate partner decreased by 24 percent. The number of comprehensive service program has grown exponentially since the passage of VAWA.

However, we have more work to do. Despite these gains, the anniversary of VAWA reminds us that there are many women and children still living in terror and in constant fear for their safety.

Today, the cost of intimate partner violence exceeds \$5.8 billion annually, \$4.1 billion of which is for direct medical and mental health services. Nearly 1 in 4 women in the U.S. will be abused by a current or former partner at some time in their lives.

We need to continue looking for a wide range of solutions to this problem. We need to devote more resources to helping women and their children begin living healthy and happy lives free of violence.

I am glad we are honoring the legislation on its 15th anniversary and I look forward to re-authorizing the program next year. I hope that we will continue our efforts to protect women from abuse and encourage the building of healthy families.

I urge all of my colleagues to strongly support the resolution.

MILDRED L. COX

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to commemorate the life of a very important friend to my home state of Indiana, Mildred L. Cox.

For more than a quarter century, Millie, as she was known, tirelessly advocated for Indiana's credit unions and worked to ensure that they would provide the best financial services to their members.

Millie was born to William Clyde and Vonnie Pearl South in Jamestown, Tennessee on May 17, 1940. A graduate of Kennard High School in 1957, Millie's zest for life was obvious to all those who were fortunate to know her.

As the "Team Mom" of her late husband's little league teams and president of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Sorority, Millie touched many lives. In her free time, Millie could often be found reading, gardening, or researching her family's genealogy; however, it was her work on behalf of Indiana credit unions that will cast Millie's most lasting legacy.

Millie joined the staff of the Indiana Credit Union League in February of 1977, serving as secretary in the Governmental Affairs Department. Due to her tremendous work ethic, Millie was first promoted in 1980 and two years later, she became the department's legislative coordinator. In this position, Millie began actively lobbying the Indiana Statehouse and U.S. Congress on behalf of Indiana's credit unions.

Millie soon became a recognizable figure both at the Statehouse and in Washington, D.C. She was known for her passionate convictions and spent a great deal of time educating others with regard to the legislative process, as well as strongly encouraging political involvement.

In 1986, Millie became the Vice President of Governmental Affairs and served as a liaison between the credit unions and regulatory agencies that shape policy.

Upon her retirement in 2003, Millie had amassed a legacy of service that will be remembered for generations to come. Of the many honors she received, the late Governor of Indiana, Frank O'Bannon awarded Millie with the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash.

The Indiana General Assembly adopted a resolution honoring Millie's service as the Vice President of Governmental Affairs in 2003, and each year, the Indiana Credit Union Foundation now awards the Millie Cox Award. It is presented to a deserving recipient that best exemplifies Millie's qualities in advocating on behalf of the credit unions.

Millie was also blessed with a loving family. She will be sorely missed by her son Curt, her brothers and sisters, extended family and all those who were fortunate enough to know her.

We have lost an important figure in our community and I have lost a dear friend.

Let us keep Millie Cox and her family in our thoughts and prayers as we mark her passing.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL
RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Chair. I rise today in support of the legislation before us today, H.R. 3221.

A college degree is now deeply intertwined with the promise of the American dream, and it is our responsibility to provide equal opportunities to America's students. As the skill requirements of jobs continue to increase, so too should access to postsecondary education for all of our nation's students.

The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act directs the government to originate all student loans and it also ensures that there is a role for private industry, guarantee agencies, and non-profits in providing their services. This truly is a public-private partnership.

Moving all loans to the Direct Lending program will save the federal government and taxpayers almost \$100 billion over the next 10 years as it eliminates tax-payer funded subsidies private lenders have been receiving to make student loans. Students in Sacramento will see a dramatic increase in their Pell grant awards over the next 10 years with total amounts going from \$44 million to over \$110 million in our community alone.

The savings found through this proposal will help strengthen the Pell grant program, keep interest rates on student loans low, improve community colleges, and expand early childhood education.

Given the recent economic downturn, more and more students are seeking aid, and additional Pell funds will allow them to achieve their goals.

Elisa Piña is a fourth year student at California State University, Sacramento, which is located in my district. She is receiving the Cal Grant and the Pell Grant, and is also a participant in the Federal Work-Study Program. With the recent state budget cuts to the Cal Grant, the Pell Grant is crucial to her ability to stay in school.

Elisa comes from a low-income family. Without the financial aid afforded to her through these programs, she would have never been able to afford college.

Elisa's story, thanks to the federal loan program this Congress has supported, is one of millions in communities all across the country. The bill before us today will make her dream of going to college a reality for millions more.

Madam Chair, for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill.

TURKEY-ARMENIA
NORMALIZATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to hail the efforts underway to heal past wounds between the Republics of Turkey and Armenia.

For several years, the two countries have quietly been meeting, with the assistance of Switzerland, to come to an agreement to normalize diplomatic relations and open the borders between Armenia and Turkey. I am quite pleased that these negotiations have been fruitful. I also encourage the two countries to continue to work together to finish the process quickly since it will not only benefit the citizens of these two countries, but the region and the world as well.

I would like to put into the RECORD an article by Hugh Pope from the International Crisis Group who calls this recent action by Turkey and Armenia as taking, ". . . a brave and statesmanlike step.

Like the International Crisis Group, I too am optimistic that these efforts will lead to greater stabilization of the region and am proud to stand here today and congratulate the governments of Armenia and Turkey on their efforts to date and offer our friendship and help as they move on to the next steps in the process.

THE EU-TURKEY-CYPRUS TRIANGLE: "TURKEY AND ARMENIA VOW TO HEAL PAST WOUNDS", BY HUGH POPE

1 SEPTEMBER 2009

It's been a long time coming, but Turkey and Armenia's vow on 31 August to establish diplomatic relations, open their long-closed border and begin to talk seriously about the past is excellent news. As laid out in our 14 April report *Turkey and Armenia: Opening Minds, Opening Borders*, normalization between Turkey and Armenia will benefit not just the bilateral relationship. If successful, it could win back for Turkey and its AKP government much of their recently faded prestige as domestic reformers, as regional peace-makers and as a country seriously intending to push forward with its accession process to the European Union.

The brief joint announcement from Ankara, Yerevan and the Swiss mediators in Bern said that two protocols had been initialed on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the development of bilateral relations. The two sides committed to seeing the protocols through to parliamentary ratifications within six weeks—that is, two days before a 14 October World Cup qualifier match between Armenia and Turkey due to be played in the western Turkish provincial city of Bursa. Turkey hopes that Armenian President Serzh Sarkisian will accept its invitation to attend, just as Turkish President Abdullah Gül initiated the current process by attending the first round match in Yerevan in September 2008.

Texts of the two protocols circulating in Turkey and Armenia set out a fully rounded and reasonable plan. In a "Protocol on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations" the two sides promised to establish diplomatic relations on the first day of the first month after ratification; to exchange diplomatic missions; to reopen the border within two months of ratification; and to mutually recognize the existing border. In a "Protocol on Development of Relations"—to go into effect

simultaneously with the diplomatic opening—the two sides promised to promote cooperation in all areas from energy infrastructure to tourism; to set up a mechanism of regular foreign ministry consultations, including a main intergovernmental commission and seven sub-commissions; to act jointly to preserve the cultural heritage of both sides; and to establish consular cooperation. The protocols are accompanied by a detailed timetable, in which all steps and commissions would be fully implemented and in motion within four months.

On the vexed question of how to describe the Ottoman-era massacres of Armenians in the First World War—widely known as the Armenian genocide, a label rejected by Turkey—the "Protocol on Development of Relations" agreed to "implement a dialogue on the historical dimension with the aim to restore mutual confidence between the two nations, including an impartial scientific examination of the historical records and archives to define existing problems and formulate recommendations." The timetable adds that this dialogue will be conducted under the aegis of the main intergovernmental commission in a "sub-commission on the historical dimension . . . in which Armenian, Turkish as well as Swiss and other international experts shall take part."

In short, Turkey and Armenia have taken a brave and statesmanlike step. Both will win if it succeeds. Armenia will overcome the sense that it is surrounded and under siege, will open a new commercial and psychological gateway westward to Europe, will be able to look better after the interests of the many tens of thousands of Armenians working in Turkey, will be able to market its electricity surplus and have easier access to the many Armenian cultural and religious sites in eastern Turkey. For Turkey, the gains are just as significant: the ability to show European and Western partners that it is working toward closure with Armenians on the contested matter of the First World War massacres; to add a new plank in its efforts to bring stability, prosperity and cooperation through relations with all three of its Caucasus neighbours; and, finally, to achieve the satisfaction of full and public Armenian recognition of its borders.

The 31 August step towards normalisation was originally expected in April, but Turkey backed away from the deal. All that could be announced on 22 April 2009 was a vague road map. This hesitation was apparently due to pressure from Azerbaijan—a major supplier of cheap gas to Turkey, and with which Turkey shares close linguistic ties—and continued nationalist opposition to compromise with Armenia inside the Turkish political system. This coincided with a period in Turkey in which reforms towards EU accession had virtually halted; in which Prime Minister Erdoğan appeared disengaged with EU ambitions and to be pursuing alternatives in Russia and the Middle East; and in which Turkey appeared to be taking sides in Middle Eastern issues, with notably harsh criticism of Israel. Turkey also appeared to side fully with Azerbaijan against Armenia, and it remains unclear what will happen to Erdoğan's 14 May promise to the Azerbaijani National Assembly that there would be no opening of the Armenia-Turkey border until there is an Armenian withdrawal from occupied Azerbaijani territory.

The news that normalisation with Armenia is back on track, therefore, is a signal that Turkey may be changing direction again. In

the past few months, Turkey and the AKP leadership have also begun to push hard for progress on two other difficult dossiers, coming to terms with the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq and firmly setting out a framework of reconciliation with its own substantial Kurdish community. Progress towards Turkey-Armenia normalisation has also been helped by the unusual way that the US and Russia appear to have been working separately toward a similar compromise outcome, and pushing more actively for progress toward a settlement of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict over Nagorno Karabakh.

The fact that Turkey is now leaning back towards a reconciliation with Armenia will do much to clear doubts about the country's posture and the priorities of Prime Minister Erdoğan. It will also do proper credit to the polls that showed 70 per cent of the Turkish population supported President Gül's gesture of visiting Armenia for last September's first round football match, and the great strides Turkey's intellectual and political elites have taken in the past decade to dismiss the old-fashioned narrative of nationalist denial towards the catastrophic Armenian massacres of 1915. Normalisation with Armenia will also give real substance to new Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu's stated goals of "zero problems" and "peace in the neighbourhood".

However, while reconciliation with Armenia will rightly attract great positive attention in Europe, the next test will not be long in coming. Turkey has to find a way to expedite a solution to the long-running Cyprus solution in the next several months, or see its EU accession process effectively grind to a halt.

HONORING REVEREND ANNABELLE
MCKUNE

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, Reverend Annabelle McKune was born in Brooklyn, New York on November 16th, 1924. The youngest of Francinia and Joseph Stanley's six children, she and her siblings Elizabeth, Louise, Eleanora, Vivian and Joseph, Jr. were raised with strong Christian values at Evening Star Baptist church. Reverend McKune was educated in Brooklyn Public Schools attending P.S. 25, P.S. 3 and graduating from Sarah J. Hale High School.

Her appreciation of music and dance led to her meeting her first husband, the late Micah Diego Chandler at the Savoy Ballroom. They were married in 1941 and the union produced two sons, the late Micah Diego Jr., and Paul Fitzgerald Chandler. Known for her strong work ethic, commitment and tender touch, Reverend McKune worked at several city hospitals, including Baptist Medical Center.

She met her second husband, Reverend Earl McKune at West Baptist Church where they both served as deacons. They were married in 1952 and together, they went on to found Christ Memorial, St. Marks Baptist Church and Fellowship Baptist Church. Following her calling, she became an Evangelist, and later, became the first woman ordained at Fellowship Baptist Church.

After 48 years of marriage, Reverend Earl McKune passed and although she remained a faithful member of Brooklyn's Fellowship Baptist church, she relocated to Florida in August