

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ST. PETERSBURG AUDUBON SOCIETY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society celebrates its centennial anniversary this month, marking 100 years of serving our community's conservation and awareness of local birds and the wild areas they call home.

The St. Petersburg chapter, Florida's oldest, was founded in 1909 as part of a crusade by the Florida and National Audubon Society to save wading birds from extinction. At that time, birds' feathers, aigrettes, and wings were used to decorate women's hats. This threatened many of Florida's unique wading birds with extinction. The result of this effort was the saving of these species of birds for future generations of Floridians and visitors to Florida to watch and enjoy.

The St. Petersburg chapter, under the leadership of President Mauri Peterson; Vice President Maureen Arnold; Secretary Nancy Ogden; Treasurer Rick Potter; and Board Members Harold Albers, Mary Brazier, Wanda Dean, Judi Hopkins, Saskia Janes, Dave Kandz, Mark Mueller, Lee Snyder, and Alice Tenney; continues to serve our community in many important ways including conservation leadership and educational opportunities. These activities include weekly field trips, monthly programs, and a long list of volunteer activities.

Specifically, the St. Petersburg Audubon Society raises funds to give Pinellas County fourth grade students an Audubon Adventure program, to provide scholarships to National Audubon Ecology Camps for local teachers, and to give monetary awards to Science Fair winners. The chapter also hosts its annual Pinellas Native Plant Society meeting every December to bring together members of local environmental organizations for a time of celebration and education.

The members of the chapter have also done what they do best — protect our shorebirds and habitats. They helped establish the Shell Key County Preserve and they led an effort to conduct a comprehensive study of beach-nesting birds in partnership with Eckerd College, Pinellas County government employees, and public land managers.

Chapter members have even taken their work neighborhood to neighborhood and house to house through their "In Harmony With Nature" programs to help homeowners create wildlife-friendly habitats in their yards and to become aware of bird nesting in their own neighborhoods. And they continue to sponsor annual Migratory and Christmas Bird Counts, a Florida tradition that dates back to 1900.

A special exhibit about the centennial celebration will be unveiled this Saturday at the St.

Petersburg History Museum. It will feature information about the chapter's founder Katherine Bell Tippetts, milestones from the chapter's history, and information about the chapter's continuing commitment to the community.

Madam Speaker, The St. Petersburg Audubon Society continues to serve our community today just as energetically as it has throughout these past 100 years. The members of the chapter volunteer to protect our local wildlife and natural habitats and to make Pinellas County a better place to live. Please join me in congratulating the members of the St. Petersburg Audubon Society for their rich history of service.

CRYSTAL BELL AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven exceptional teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been recognized as outstanding educators by their peers for the 2008–2009 school year. These individuals are: Robert Backe, Elizabeth Eaton, Wendy Magley, John McCarthy, Nancy McClatchey, Tom Reed, and Donna Scheidt. For their outstanding efforts, these honorees will be presented with the Crystal Bell Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This prestigious event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 5, 2009.

Robert Backe, an eighth grade science teacher at Grimmer Middle School, has been in the teaching profession for more than 38 years with the Lake Central School Corporation. Throughout his tenure, Bob has always made a point of bringing fun and enjoyable learning into his labs in order to make sure his students remain interested and actively involved in science. In just one of many examples of his innovative lessons, Bob, an avid Chicago White Sox fan, organized a trip to a game as a means of showing his students how even a baseball game can be integrated into their studies.

Elizabeth Eaton, from the Hanover Community School Corporation, has been a role model and a true inspiration to not only her students but to adults in her community as well. For the past 38 years, Elizabeth has motivated her students to excel inside and outside her classroom. Known for her expertise in gardening, Elizabeth's efforts have led to the creation of an outdoor lab at Lincoln Elementary School. For the past 11 years, she, with the assistance of many of her students, has worked tirelessly to preserve this remarkable example of nature's beauty. For her efforts, Elizabeth Eaton has been named the "Lake County Conservation Teacher of the Year," and her lab has been recognized for being the first of its kind in Lake County.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Tri-Creek School Corporation is Wendy Magley. Wendy, of Lowell Senior High School, has been in the teaching profession for the past 28 years. The passion Wendy has for teaching and for her students goes far beyond the classroom. In addition to the grueling task of preparing for six English classes, Wendy also coaches basketball, where she instills in her players the same principles of hard work and dedication that she expects of her students. One other example of the immense impact she has had on her school and her students, Wendy spearheaded the creation of the Lowell High School Shakespeare Festival, which has been a memorable experience for hundreds of high school students.

Currently an elementary school teacher at Ernest R. Elliott Elementary School, John McCarthy is this year's recipient from the School Town of Munster. A truly selfless educator, John has made a point of preparing children to not only become better students but to become better people as well. John's desire to accomplish this goal is witnessed through his dedication to the Camp Tecumseh program. As participants in this program, Elliott Elementary's fifth graders partake in activities that promote team-building, positive values, and personal growth. In addition to his personal involvement with the students, John has also served on numerous committees with the School Town of Munster that aim to improve the quality of life and education for the students.

Nancy McClatchey, this year's recipient from the North Newton School Corporation, has had an outstanding teaching career, marked by innovative programs that allow her students the opportunity to experience real-world settings as part of their curriculum. Over the past 19 years, the Family and Consumer Science teacher at North Newton High School has developed a program that is recognized statewide. An educator whose responsibilities seem endless, Nancy's efforts have led to the creation of the ProStart Culinary Arts Program, which aims to make students better prepared for careers in the food service industry, and the Advanced Child Development and Cadet Teaching programs, which allow aspiring future educators the opportunity to gain critical experience in a classroom setting.

This year's recipient of the Crystal Bell Award from the Crown Point School Corporation is Thomas J. Reed. Tom has been nurturing young minds and sharing his passion for music for the past 22 years. Known for his enthusiasm and willingness to put in extra time to work individually with his students, Tom has also had an immense impact on younger educators. Tom has shown true commitment to his students and his community through donating his time and efforts to programs such as the local 4H and the Lake County Fair. He has also made his mark on his community through his musical abilities, where he can often be found performing at weddings, at church, and within the community.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Donna Scheidt, this year's recipient from the School Town of Highland, is known for her ability to engage her students in a way few other teachers can. For the past 13 years, Donna, an eighth grade language arts teacher at Highland Middle School, has constantly devised new ways to bring classic literature into her classroom. It is not uncommon to witness Donna as a character from a classic story to help bring the author's words to life. Donna's ability to reach others is not limited to her students. She has also taken a lead in developing staff and the school's curriculum. In fact, many of her colleagues would tell you they have grown from her guidance just as her students have.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2009 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have played a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each recipient is truly an inspiration to us all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

This year, our Nation has the opportunity to finally recognize the Armenian Genocide as such in the annual commemoration from the White House. Year after year, we have seen the same standard letter from the White House which offers sympathy and apology for the "mass killings," yet refused to label these events as genocide. However, President Obama made promises during his campaign that he would right this wrong, and recognize the Armenian Genocide. I am hopeful Madam Speaker, we finally escape from being under Turkey's thumb on this issue. It is vital our Nation has a foreign policy that accurately reflects history.

Despite my optimism, I am told yet again that now is not the right time for our Nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Two years ago, we were told recognition would hurt our troops fighting in Iraq. Four years ago we were told the same thing. This year, we're being told that recognizing the Armenian Genocide will hurt American jobs. How? We cannot develop a foreign policy based solely on what other countries want to hear about their past. Should we not recognize the Soviet

orchestrated famine which killed millions in the Ukraine? Should we allow Cambodia to rewrite the atrocities committed under the reign of the Khmer Rouge? What if our schools stopped teaching the American Revolution and we stopped celebrating the Fourth of July because it offended the British? All nations must recognize past events, both good and bad, and learn from it.

To ensure Congress does not mention or pass the Armenian Genocide resolution, Turkey hires powerful and expensive lobbyists to meet with Members and staff, distort the historical facts, and make veiled threats on what might happen if the Genocide is recognized. For the last 20 years, Turkey has been very successful. I firmly believe that we should work with foreign nations on challenges and mutual interests. However, I do not believe another nation can hold our foreign policy decisions hostage because they do not want to admit to dark periods in their past. It is unacceptable that we continue to allow threats from Turkey to hinder our Nation from recognizing a historical fact that has been recognized by historians, scholars, theologians, philosophers, common people, and President Ronald Reagan.

My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. When I am home, I am often approached in the store or on the street by my Armenian friends asking when our country will honor their parents and finally recognize the genocide. We are quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, and I am hopeful we do not have to wait until then to bring justice to my Armenian friends and neighbors.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I will say again, genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian Genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 252 to recognize the Armenian Genocide in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO KIDANGO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kidango, a quality early education and child care provider with administrative offices in Fremont, California. Kidango is celebrating 30 years of serving children in the California cities of Fremont, San Jose, Livermore, Dublin, Union City and Newark with plans for expansion in San Jose and Hayward.

In 1979, formerly known as Tri-Cities Children's Center, is now known by the community as Kidango. Kidango began providing mental health consultation to the staff and parents of the children enrolled at Kidango. Utilizing a relationship-based training strategy, staff was specially trained to understand and work with children with social and emotional challenges.

Kidango has a long history of serving children, including infants with developmental

delays and disabilities, by providing Early Intervention Services. In 1994, Kidango merged with the Agency for Infant Development and expanded Kidango's services to children with special needs.

In 2002, Kidango created its own in-house mental health department and Inclusion Team comprised of staff from its Education, Intervention and Mental Health Departments. This program utilizes the relationships developed with families and teachers to provide effective mental health services and responsiveness to the special needs of all children.

Seven Kidango centers in San Jose, California received the honor of being designated as Smart San Jose sites. Smart San Jose is the City of San Jose's premier Early Education Initiative that works to expand the availability of high quality, affordable early care and education spaces in centers and family child care homes.

In 2006, Kidango added Community Family Services as part of their expansive program offerings. This partnership strengthened the work Kidango does with children and families by allowing Kidango to serve more infants and those children who do better in a family child care home environment.

Kidango currently serves 3,300 children annually through its quality early care and education programs, child development services, early intervention services, Mental Health Department, Head Start Department and Community Family Services.

I join the community in recognizing Kidango on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in childcare, education and child development services to meet the diverse needs of children and families throughout the Bay Area. I send best wishes to Kidango for continued success.

HONORING WORLD MALARIA DAY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, a person dies of malaria every 30 seconds. The vast majority of these deaths occur in children under five years in age. Today, malaria continues to cripple developing countries with the high costs of treatment and the loss of productivity.

However, there is continued hope on the horizon. A recently discovered drug could prevent mutations that led to drug resistance. There are significant efforts to discover a malaria vaccine, with over 20 vaccines currently in development. Treatment with A.C.T. is extremely effective, but unfortunately unavailable to poor people in developing nations who are ill and dying.

We must remember that almost half the world's population is at risk of dying from this preventable and treatable disease.

Madam Speaker, let us recommit ourselves with renewed vigor this World Malaria Day, April 25, to combat malaria and rid the developing world of this scourge.