

inheritors of these fateful policies of the Ottoman government—to normalize relations and begin working through this history. Indeed, reconciliation of painful history is an important means of preventing future tragedies of this scope.

We believe this process will be strengthened if the President—in his annual message commemorating the April 24, 1915 declaration by Allied Powers—to accurately characterize the mindless massacre of Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud record of U.S. opposition to this persecution.

IN HONOR OF THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3182

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus “Christopher Council” (Council #3182) as they celebrate their 60th anniversary of service to the Church and Community in the State of Delaware.

The Knights of Columbus exists throughout the United States, providing valuable services to their communities that would otherwise be left undone. For over 125 years, the organization has dedicated time, money, energy, and service to the sick, disabled, and anyone in need of help through a variety of programs. During the last sixty years, the Christopher Council has gone above and beyond its call of duty and provided an extraordinary amount of service to our local community. I commend them for their efforts.

This Council’s work here extends to a variety of organizations and interests, as the members have continually sought to help others indiscriminately since the inception of its charter on September 29, 1948. Most recently, this Council has given major support to the St. Helena and Holy Rosary Parishes and Schools by actively supporting their annual carnivals and by sponsoring scholarships. Furthermore, the Christopher Council regularly offers numerous services to the Claymont and Wilmington area outreach programs as well as Claymont’s annual Community Pride Festival and their yearly Christmas parade. Additionally, this organization assists the Cub Scouts, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Special Olympics, among other worthy organizations. They act as a leader within their own great institution by hosting our statewide Knights of Columbus summer picnic each year.

Once again, I am proud to recognize the Knights of Columbus Christopher Council for the profound impact they have made on our community. I am confident that they will continue to build on their accomplishments and strengthen their organization while improving our community even further. I wish them all the very best for the future.

INTRODUCING THE SENATOR PAUL
SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD
ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in honor of the 39th Annual Earth Day celebration, I am introducing the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009, with Representatives DONALD PAYNE, DANA ROHR-ABACHER, JESSE JACKSON JR., ZACH WAMP, PETER WELCH, JOHN BOOZMAN, DAN BURTON, GEORGE MILLER, and JEFF FORTENBERRY as original cosponsors. The purpose of this Act is to empower the U.S. Government to respond to the pressing poverty, security, and environmental threats presented by the dire mismanagement and shortage of global freshwater.

Today, one-fifth of the world’s population relies on freshwater that is either polluted or significantly overdrawn. A lack of safe water and sanitation is an ongoing threat to global security and remains the world’s greatest health problem, accounting for 2 million deaths a year and half the illness in the developing world.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015. I worked with the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Henry Hyde and Tom Lantos, and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders Bill Frist and HARRY REID to enact the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This landmark bipartisan legislation established investment in safe and affordable water for the world’s poorest as a major goal of U.S. foreign assistance.

We are halfway to the 2015 Millennium Development completion date and we must redouble our efforts. Although progress is being made through innovative partnerships between the U.S. Government, NGOs, businesses, and local partners, nearly 900 million people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water and 2 out of 5 people on the planet lack basic sanitation services. By 2025, climate change and rapid population growth will further stress water resources and are expected to leave 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries facing severe and chronic water shortages.

The United States cannot sustainably meet its poverty alleviation, global health, or development assistance goals without addressing the issue of safe water and sanitation. This legislation answers the call to act. The overarching goal of the Water for the World Act is to provide 100 million of the world’s poorest with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015. To accomplish this goal the legislation builds upon the Water for the Poor framework for investment, expands U.S. foreign assistance capacity, and recognizes sustainable water and sanitation policy as vital to long-term diplomatic and development efforts.

The Water for the World Act complements legislation introduced recently in the Senate by Senators RICHARD DURBIN, BOB CORKER, and PATTY MURRAY. Through this legislation we will

help the U.S. government focus its efforts and fully implement a smart and efficient global water strategy that meets our commitment to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF BART ANDERSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Southern Utah has lost a local treasure with the passing of Bart Anderson of St. George, Utah.

Bart Anderson was often described by people who meet him for the first time as “bear-sized Bart Anderson”. He loomed large in the community life of Washington County. He was a retired St. George hematologist, historian and folklorist. Everyone knew him as “Ranger Bart” because he devoted his golden years to giving slide shows at nearby national parks—including Zion National Park—as well as at state parks.

I knew Bart Anderson as a man with a passion for the stories of this part of the West, known as Utah’s Dixie—so named because cotton was one of the crops grown by the Mormon settlers here at the time of the Civil War.

One of Bart’s most popular presentations was one on the outlaw Butch Cassidy. It featured vintage photos of Butch Cassidy, who Bart often pointed out, could charm the locals and even the lawmen of that era.

Bart was a talented and versatile man, who turned down a number of more lucrative business offers because they would take him away from Dixie and he said he had too much red dirt running through his veins to leave.

As a child, he contracted polio and when doctors said he wouldn’t walk again, his father threw him in the swimming pool to help make him strong. When he was 11, Bart’s father arranged for him to work for the Boy Scouts as a guide into the back country. He developed a great love of hiking, including the Grand Canyon.

As an adult, he merged his love of hiking with his passion for story-telling by giving walking tours in downtown St. George. That morphed into a series of history lectures for which he developed over 100 slide programs that communicated his love of place to residents and visitors alike.

He married his sweetheart, Delorice, whom he called “the wind beneath my wings.” She was often in the audience during his lectures and performances. Whether he was reciting “The Ballad of Sam McGee” around a campfire with a troop of Boy Scouts, or researching history at the Washington County Historical Society, Bart Anderson was happiest when he was immersed in folklore. He received many local state and national honors, including an award as Outstanding Volunteer from former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

One of his close friends, Lyman Hafen, told the local newspaper that Anderson was one-of-a-kind—with a heart as big as Zion Canyon. I was very proud to be his friend and while he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.

HONORING MRS. JOYCE HERNCANE

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Joyce Herncane of Schellsburg for her efforts in preserving the history and heritage of Bedford County and its people.

Mrs. Herncane led efforts, on behalf of the Schellsburg Bicentennial Committee, to celebrate the town's 2008 bicentennial. This included the opening of a museum that documented much of Schellsburg's past, and was made free to the public throughout the summer. This exhibit, brimming with memorabilia of the town's beginnings as well as items from throughout Schellsburg's history, contained displays ranging from school and sports history, to a saddlebag belonging to Peter Schell that was carried in the 1908 Centennial Parade. Exhibits paid tribute to author Dean Koontz and songwriter Maribeth Derry as well. The town's bicentennial activities culminated with a Christmas Home Tour of new and historic Schellsburg homes. All these events served to fund the continued restoration and preservation of the Old Log Church and Cemetery in Schellsburg.

I congratulate Mrs. Herncane for all her hard work. Her efforts, to preserve and make known the history of her community, will afford future generations the opportunity to benefit from Schellsburg's rich past.

COMMEMORATING THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare once again that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was an act of genocide.

The tragic events began on April 24, 1915, when more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 94th anniversary of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied, and never, ever allowed to happen again.

Three years ago I joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a plat-

form to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Along with Representative ANTHONY WEINER, I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The United States must join other parliaments in passing a resolution affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs took an important step two years ago in passing such a resolution. In the 111th Congress, I am a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 252, and I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor.

An acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. This year I have joined with my colleagues in requesting economic and military assistance for Armenia.

Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia.

American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important East-West trade corridor.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian Genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
REVEREND CHESTER RIGGINS, SR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Reverend Chester Riggins, Sr. of Fresno, California, who passed away at the age of 80 years old. Reverend Riggins was preceded in death by his first wife Lillian Hines, his son Rodney Chester and daughter Diedra Grazelle and is survived by his second wife Anna Marie and his children Chester Jr., Shawn Mark, Noel Patrick, Sheila Antionette and Freida Yvonne along with their families.

Chester was born on December 8, 1928 in Marshall, Texas to John and Effie Riggins. Chester grew up in Marshall, Texas, until the middle of the fifth grade at which time his family moved to Fresno, CA, in December of 1938. Upon arriving in Fresno, he began at-

tending Lincoln Elementary School. During his teenage years he attended junior high at Thomas A. Edison Jr. High School and graduated from Thomas A. Edison High School in 1945. In 1946, he volunteered for the U.S. Army and following his basic training was stationed in Guam. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army in 1947 he enrolled at Fresno State College.

As a child Chester answered an altar call during a chapel service at Park School in Marshall, Texas. Upon settling in Fresno his family attended the Second Baptist Church where he was baptized by Reverend Charles H. Byrd and Reverend L.C. Garret, and then transferred to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. In 1950, he served as a Sunday school teacher, Director of Baptist Training Union, church clerk and church financial secretary. Two years later he was ordained as Deacon and served as Deacon Chairman for 5 years.

Chester continued to grow in his religious studies when he was called to the Gospel Ministry in 1960. On January 8, 1961, he was licensed as a Pastor by Reverend H.S. Moore. In 1961, he was invited and served as Youth Minister for Mt. Pleasant. He was ordained on January 25, 1962, to the Gospel Ministry by Reverend L.C. Garrett and assumed pastorage at St. Rest on February 13, 1962.

Reverend Riggins was instrumental in bringing many people back to the church even after being inactive members. The church grew both in spirituality and financially under the leadership of Pastor Riggins. As the congregation grew so did the need for a bigger building. His leadership in the community proved to be instrumental as the new building broke ground in March of 1979 and was ready for use at the Christmas Eve celebration in December 1979.

Pastor Riggins was also an active member of the community throughout the years. He was a founding board member of the Fresno Police Chaplains Organization, member of the Concerned Citizens for Quality Education, temporary Chairman of the Fresno Model Cities Program and a member of the West Fresno Interdenominational Alliance.

It is my privilege to say Reverend Chester Riggins, Sr., was an honorable and respected man with a commitment to God, family, and the community. He will forever live in the lives of the people he so graciously touched. I am honored and humbled to join his family in celebrating the life of this spiritually amazing man whose legacy lives on at Saints Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Fresno, California.

HONORING ARMSTRONG WOODS
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 75th Anniversary of California's Armstrong Woods State Natural Reserve, the only protected old growth Redwood forest in Sonoma County that was once thick with some of the largest trees on the planet. This serene and stunning natural retreat comprises 805 acres of land and is home to California's majestic coast Redwoods.

Armstrong Woods boasts a diversity of trees and shrubs that create a multi-layered canopy