

named April. This calf represents the 23rd Asian elephant birth at the CEC. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service granted the Ringling Bros. CEC with F2 status in 2007, which essentially designates the elephants as a self-sustaining herd as a result of successful reproduction.

While the ivory trade remains a threat to the Asian elephants, a loss of habitat continues to plague elephant populations throughout south and southeast Asia. Estimates indicate that only about 30,000 Asian elephants live in the wild today. Conservation programs to protect this species are vital and must be supported throughout the world and Ringling Bros. has been among the leaders in advocating and supporting conservation of the Asian Elephant.

I have had the honor of visiting the Ringling Bros. CEC and seeing—first hand—the important work completed and the care provided to these elephants. The success of the Ringling Bros. CEC and the commitment Ringling Bros. maintains to saving Asian elephants has contributed greatly to conservation efforts throughout the world.

I applaud the efforts of the Ringling Bros. CEC and their staff of trained professionals on the remarkable success of this important facility over the last 15 years. The progress they have made in growing the Asian elephant population is remarkable and I am proud that such amazing work is being done within the 12th Congressional District.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Ringling Bros. CEC on their 15th anniversary and the contributions they have made to the conservation of the Asian elephant.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAY OF PRAYER TO BENEFIT THE PEOPLE OF THE GULF COAST

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to lend my voice in support and recognition of the Day of Prayer to benefit the people of the Gulf Coast, which is scheduled to take place this Sunday, July 18, 2010, in Alabama.

As every Member of the House knows, the April 20th explosion of the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig caused the loss of life of 11 rig workers and is the cause of the largest oil spill in our nation's history. The aftermath and impacts of this disaster will be felt for many years to come. The destruction of the coast and the industries that depend on the coastal fishing and seafood industries as well as the tourism industry, has displaced and caused the loss of jobs and income for hundreds of thousands of families along the Gulf Coast.

Those who are struggling to make ends meet and to provide for their families deserve our thoughtful consideration at this difficult time.

The collective prayers and support of faith based ministries, institutions and congregations, can make a direct difference in the lives of those devastated by the oil spill, by connecting directly with families affected by the disaster.

In this spirit, I urge the people of the United States to pray for a solution to the gulf oil spill,

each according to his or her own faith, and to join many in South Alabama who will mark July 18, 2010 as a day of prayer for those suffering in the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon disaster.

CONGRATULATING SOUTH AFRICA ON FIRST TWO CONVICTIONS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 1412, a Resolution Congratulating the Government of South Africa upon its first two successful convictions for human trafficking.

Since June 11, South Africa has been hosting the 2010 FIFA World Cup. The global event has attracted nearly half a million visitors to South Africa. In the midst of this worldwide sports event, concerns of human trafficking have been renewed.

Now, more than ever, children in South Africa are vulnerable to trafficking. The government has closed schools for the duration of the World Cup, leaving many children unattended throughout the day. Yet, South African law enforcement has been working overtime in a joint effort with the international community to combat human trafficking.

I congratulate South Africa on its first two successful convictions for human trafficking. However, much is left to do. I call on the South African government to promptly adopt the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill to aid in future investigations. Trafficking by tourists must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me today in recognizing our dedication to human rights and justice in South Africa by supporting this Resolution.

STORY OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE SURVIVORS: MARY HASESIAN AND HER HUSBAND ARTIN (HAROUTYOUH) SAMANLIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through

the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Below is one of those stories:

Mary Samanlian Poladian's grandmother, Mary Hasesian, married Artin (Haroutyouh) Samanlian when she was 16 years old—it was Artin's second marriage and Mary's first marriage. They were from the city of Marash. From Mary Samanlian Poladian on behalf of her grandmother, grandfather and ancestors:

"My grandfather's first wife had died and left behind an 8-year-old daughter named Siranoush, and a 7-year-old son named Panos. After a year of marriage, my grandmother was already expecting a child.

"One evening, when the French army left the city, the Turkish army armed with knives and axes attacked the city before sunrise. The Armenian people were still asleep. My grandfather and grandmother were awakened by the noises and realized that they should run to safety. They immediately took the children and got out their home to go to the nearby church. On their way, the Turkish soldiers fired at them from far away. Panos cried in pain when one of the bullets struck his leg. His father carried him, and they all continued walking towards the church. Not long after, my grandmother began to feel pain, and she knew she was ready to deliver her baby.

"When they reached the church, my grandmother gave birth to a baby girl who she named Zarouhi. The church was full of people, and sadly my grandmother and grandfather lost each other. During this time, she also found out that Lutfia and Gulen, two of the nine sisters, had been burned alive in the furnace with their husbands and children. With no sign of her husband, she carried her baby and asked her husband's son and daughter to hold her skirt as they walked out of the church with the rest of the people.

"Now, they had to walk from Marash to Aleppo (Syria). The weather was cold and it began to snow. They ate snow when they felt hungry. It was a long way and they were exhausted. Panos's pain was not subsiding as well. Eventually, they all made it to Aleppo, where they joined other Armenian refugees. An Armenian priest sent them, as well as three other Armenian women and their children, to Damascus by train. In Damascus, they lived together in an old house.

"One day, some Armenians and Americans came and took the children to the orphanage. My grandmother was devastated. As time passed by, good news sparked a ray of hope in her life. Three years later, there was a knock on her door, and guess who it was? My grandmother fell on the ground unconscious when she saw her husband standing in front of the home. After she absorbed what had happened, he told her that he had been looking for them for a long time, and was told by some relatives that they had heard of them coming to Aleppo. He immediately brought back his children from the orphanage, and they went to Beirut where my father Georgie was born. Years later, they were also blessed with two daughters.

"They named their two daughters Lutfia and Gulen in memory of my grandmother's sisters who lost their lives during the Armenian Genocide."

HONORING JAMES L. MARTIN,
PRESIDENT “THE 60 PLUS ASSO-
CIATION”

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a man who has fought for the honor of millions of Americans.

Jim Martin has a distinguished track record of public service that began as an United States Marine from 1953–1958. He then went on to have a successful career in politics and journalism. In 1992, Jim founded “the 60 Plus Association” an organization that has become an influential voice for seniors all across the nation. Jim has been a fierce advocate for all issues facing seniors, especially the solvency of Social Security, energy independence and the “Death Tax.”

Jim has been the voice of our nation’s seniors in Washington, reminding Congress of the importance of taking action to ensure Social Security is able to meet the needs of seniors who depend on the program, while at the same time ensuring our children and grandchildren have the same opportunity for a retirement safety net. Grandparents are just as concerned with their grandchildren’s future as with their own welfare.

Over the past year, Americans have been feeling additional strains on their budgets with the increased energy prices—this is especially true for seniors. The increase in energy prices has a burdening effect upon those with fixed incomes who struggle to pay bills and are too often forced to make difficult choices between food, medicine and transportation costs. Jim knows and understands their concerns and has been a leading proponent for energy security.

Jim has also led the charge against one of the most egregious taxes in our tax system, the estate tax. Jim is credited for reframing the debate over the estate tax by renaming the tax to the more appropriate term, the “Death Tax.” As a result of this tax, a business that has been in a family for generations can be lost overnight because of the enormous burden of the death tax. When a business leaves its family roots, there is a loss of pride in the fundamental traditions that helped make the business successful. This is not the legacy parents want to leave their children and grandchildren.

On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank Jim Martin for his service to our country. On behalf of our nation’s seniors, I want to thank Jim and the 60 Plus Association for their efforts to ensure the solvency of our Social Security system, protecting seniors against rising energy costs, and permanently eliminating the “Death Tax.”

**TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM “BILL”
GWATNEY**

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Bill

Gwatney, a public servant, faithful husband and father, and a true Arkansan, who worked tirelessly as the State Chair of the Arkansas Democratic Party, and previously as a State Senator for 10 years. He was a man dedicated to public office, and is sorely missed by many. It is my humble request that we stand and recognize the life and work of Mr. William Gwatney.

Over the past two decades, Bill Gwatney served the public good of Arkansas in one position or another. From 1993 to 2002, Bill served as an Arkansas State Senator, and also served as the financial chair for Mike Beebe’s run for Governor in 2006. In 2008, he also received the honor of being selected as a superdelegate for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. When he was not directly involved in Arkansas politics Mr. Gwatney owned and managed three successful car dealerships.

Bill was also honored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Athletic Department, who posthumously inducted him into their Hall of Fame.

Bill was respected and loved by many as a man who appreciated integrity and honesty in his business, as well as in his personal life. Throughout his rise as a politician and successful businessman, Bill maintained a sense of humor, humility, passion, and respect for others that was magnetic to those around him.

I wish Bill’s family the deepest condolences for their loss, and hope they can find some comfort in the thought of what a powerful and positive impact Bill’s personality had on those he met, and those that carry his memory on. He has left an indelible mark on the state of Arkansas, and I ask today of my fellow colleagues that we stand and honor the legacy of Mr. William Gwatney.

REMEMBERING JOHN J. HORGAN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today and pay tribute to a good friend, John “J.J.” Horgan. J.J. passed away on Monday, July 12th in Saginaw, Michigan, at the age of 72.

Born in New York, J.J. served in the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force. He moved to Bridgeport Township and was active in the community. He served as Chair of the Bridgeport Festival Committee, the Bridgeport United Community Task Force, and as Director of the Bridgeport Area Chamber of Commerce. He was a longtime volunteer, member and past Chairman of the Saginaw County Democratic Party. J.J. was an active member of St. Christopher Catholic Church. He functioned as the President, past Treasurer and member of the Administration Commission and he served as the President of the Men’s Club.

He ran for a seat on the Bridgeport Board of Trustees and he was a candidate for the 95th Michigan House of Representatives when he was diagnosed with cancer. After having won two battles against cancer in 2001 and 2007, J.J. was upbeat until he succumbed to the disease. He leaves behind to treasure his memory his wife, Geri, his daughter, Frances, sister, Maureen, brother, William, a large ex-

tended family and numerous friends. J.J. touched many lives and everyone has fond memories of his kindness, his intelligence and his decency.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and take a moment to remember John “J.J.” Horgan. He was a thoughtful, kindhearted, forthright man, full of enthusiasm for life, his family, his church, his community and his country. I valued his friendship and wisdom, and I will miss his cheerfulness, his integrity and his optimistic spirit.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR AFTER TROPICAL STORM AGATHA

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1462, stating our nation’s unequivocal support for those people of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador who have been affected by Tropical Storm Agatha. In the aftermath of the storm, mudslides and sinkholes formed, not only marring the natural beauty of these countries, but also causing immense amounts of damage and suffering.

Hundreds of people lost their lives, and tens of thousands were displaced from their homes. Food shortages, destruction of infrastructure, economic losses in agriculture, and damages to vital buildings will inevitably adversely affect these countries for a long time to come.

These Latin American nations represent crucial U.S. allies in the region and key economic trading partners. It is in the interest of our economic stability and national security to help them through these tough times.

Our own experiences from Hurricanes Rita and Katrina remind us that we are all vulnerable to the cruel whims of nature. We will never forget how many countries around the world stood with us during those trying times for our nation, and we need to stand with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador now.

I commend the United States Southern Command for providing food, water, and necessary supplies to the victims of these natural disasters. We have not been alone in providing assistance to the disaster areas; the international community has come together in support of those who have been affected, contributing millions of dollars in medical supplies and other assistance.

I urge the House of Representatives to keep in mind today those lives and livelihoods that have been destroyed in the aftermath of this disaster by supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO WOODY LAUGHNAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and outstanding career of Mr. Woody Laughnan.