

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION

HON. BILL CASSIDY

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Magnolia Mound Plantation located in the City of Baton Rouge in Louisiana's Sixth Congressional District. It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of May 10th, 2010 the Plantation has achieved national accreditation by the American Association of Museums, joining an impressive and elite group of only 778 institutions around the country to achieve this distinguished accreditation.

Magnolia Mound Plantation has successfully demonstrated that it meets the high standards established by the accreditation program and the museum field. It has done this through its completion of a rigorous process of self study and reviews by a visiting committee of its peers and the Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process certifies a museum's commitment to excellence and professional standards of operation.

Located in Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, Magnolia Mound Plantation is a rare survivor of architecture influenced by early settlers from France and the West Indies. This landmark is unique in southern Louisiana not simply because of its age, quality of restoration, or outstanding collections, but because it is still a vital part of the community. Through educational programs, workshops, lectures, festivals, and other special events, Magnolia Mound's mission is to illustrate and interpret the lifestyle of the French Creoles who formed the fascinating culture which still influences and pervades life in southern Louisiana today. With this accreditation, I can only hope that Magnolia Mound Plantation will continue to be an asset to our community.

A GENOCIDE SURVIVOR STORY: HAROUTIOUN ANDONIAN

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 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.

This is one of those stories:

(Submitted by Nareg Krumian, the grandson of Haroutioun Andonian)

"Haroutioun Andonian was born in Gurun, Turkey in 1909 and grew up with his father, mother, grandmother and younger sister. At the age of 6, his father and mother were separated from him, his sister and his grandmother. His father was arrested by Turkish soldiers and his mother was taken away. He still remembers a line of people bound to each other at their wrists and being marched away from his village. Among them was Haroutioun's father, whom he never saw afterwards. He never saw his mother again either. He was rounded up with his sister, grandmother and other neighbors by another group of soldiers and taken away to various cities and villages. By the time they reached Aintab (presently called Gaziantep), his sister and grandmother were too weak from hunger and the forced marches that they lost their lives as well.

"In Aintab, various Armenian, American and European aid workers tried to contain the situation of children left without family. The orphans were disbursed to various Armenian and Turkish homes throughout the villages of Aintab. Haroutioun remembers the name of Balaban Khoja, a teacher, who was instrumental in placing the orphans with families who wanted children. After going through several homes, Haroutioun lived with a lady who would later become his mother-in-law.

"Around the time he was 10 years old, American and Danish missionaries began taking the children to orphanages in Lebanon and the U.S. Haroutioun was sent to Jbeil, a city in northern Lebanon, where he stayed until around 1925 when he was sent to France through the aid of the American charity Near East Relief. For a few years, he worked on a farm and later went to Paris to work at the Renault factory where he was responsible for chroming metal components.

"In the early 1930s, Haroutioun found out that the lady who had cared for him last as a child in Aintab had herself been forced to evacuate her village with her family and was living in Aleppo, Syria. He went to Syria, began working in various fields such as trading in cloth and yarn, and managing Turkish baths that were still prevalent during that period. He also married his host mother's daughter, Marie, with whom he had one daughter, Alice.

"Haroutioun and Marie left Syria for the last time in 1987 and came to Los Angeles to join their daughter and her family. In 2002, he became a U.S. citizen and shared a letter with the judge presiding over the procedure that he had kept for over 70 years. The letter was from the Near East Relief thanking Haroutioun for paying back funds he had borrowed during his journey to France. Though not obligated to do so, Haroutioun

had felt that re-paying into the fund would allow other unfortunate people with the opportunity to rebuild their lives. To this day, he maintains that the government of Turkey and its soldiers took away his ability to know what it was to have a family but that today, living in the United States at the age of 101 amid his two grandchildren and six great grandchildren, he has become a king who has everything."

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA AND SYLVAN MEILING

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Viola and Sylvan Meiling of Forest City who will be receiving the USDA Rural Development's Housing Manager of the Year Award. The couple was recently chosen by the USDA to receive this award for their five outstanding years of performance as managers of Forest City's Community Plaza Apartments.

Community Plaza was built in 1986 as a 24 unit family property. The building was financed through the USDA's Rural Rental Housing Section 515 Direct Loan Program, which provides affordable housing to moderate, low and very low income households. Shortly after its construction, the complex was experiencing high vacancy rates and was in generally poor, rapidly deteriorating physical condition. Viola and Sylvan Meiling were hired under the current owner in 2003. The semi-retired couple, with no previous property management experience, immediately went to work to improve the lives of the property's occupants. The Meilings have earned the respect of residents through their commitment to provide the community with a clean, safe and well maintained environment for families in need of affordable housing.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as Viola and Sylvan Meiling must be recognized and applauded for their sincere dedication to improving and maintaining a healthy community and for their positive impact on the lives of others. I am proud to represent them in the United States Congress.

EXTENDING AUTHORIZATION FOR NATIONAL GREAT BLACKS IN WAX MUSEUM

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman RAHALL, Chairman GRIJALVA and the hardworking staff on the Subcommittee on National Parks for getting this legislation to the floor today.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, originally enacted in June 2004, the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act will help to expand and develop museum exhibits and educational programs honoring African Americans who have made significant contributions to the nation, but whose names, faces and achievements may not be well known to the average citizen.

This recognition can and will be accomplished and preserved with the expansion of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, a national treasure that is located in my district and hometown of Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Dr. Elmer Martin and Dr. Joanne Martin, who started the museum with their own funds carrying a few wax figures and exhibit materials around the country in their car.

I am proud to report that the museum currently occupies part of a city block in East Baltimore and includes more than 200 wax figures. It is America's first wax museum of Black history. The museum now receives well over 200,000 visitors per year—more than half of these visitors are school children.

Several members of Congress and their staffs have visited the museum and relayed to me the awesome nature of their visit—how the figures and exhibits both moved and informed them, resulting in a truly enriching experience. Enactment of H.R. 3967 makes certain that the Museum can continue its mission to preserve a great part of our nation's history.

Lastly, this legislation authorizes assistance in establishing a Justice Learning Center as a component of the expanded Museum complex. The Justice Learning Center will include state-of-the-art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth, about the role of African Americans in our nation's judicial system. It will include a special focus on the civil rights movement, and on the role of African Americans as lawmakers, attorneys and in the Judiciary.

Federal dollars used will be spent efficiently and effectively. This is an issue that is critical to assess when we ask citizens for funding any program. This expansion will provide jobs, but it will also create a link for our children to a past that is so often forgotten.

Learning is enhanced when all of the senses can be engaged. This museum will bring the past to life, not just in the minds of the students, but in front of their eyes. Funding this educational opportunity is another critical step in creating an appreciation and understanding of history in our young people.

These gains are well worth the cost. This is simply a technical measure to reauthorize legislation that was enacted by Congress in 2004.

Again, I thank Chairmen RAHALL and GRIJALVA for their support, and encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KIDNEY DISEASE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. WILLIAM L. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. OWENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Nephrology Nurses As-

sociation as well as all those involved in the annual Kidney Disease Awareness Week, which will take place this year from August 9th through August 13th.

There are over 400,000 Americans who have irreversible kidney failure, and the only treatment for this disease is dialysis or kidney transplantation. However, transplants are limited due to the shortage of donors, and the majority of patients who suffer from this forgotten ailment must undergo regular dialysis treatments.

The leading causes of end-stage kidney disease (ESRD), a disease that 24,000 New Yorkers suffer from, are hypertension and diabetes. An additional 15,000 people in my State suffer from these two ailments and are at risk of ESRD. Despite these staggering numbers, debilitating kidney diseases are typically forgotten.

Our area nephrology nurses play a fundamental role in providing our sick with dialysis and related treatments in my community and across the entire country. I applaud them for their efforts to contribute to the overall health of our nation.

Madam Speaker, I thank the American Nephrology Nurses Association for their work to treat these diseases and urge every American to observe Kidney Disease Awareness Week this August.

HONORING THE OPERATION LOBSTER DINNER AND OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary event and the many people and organizations that have helped make it happen. This year in Groton, Connecticut, Grossman's Seafood will host its second annual "Operation Lobster Dinner" on July 18, 2010, for military personnel and their families.

This event provides local military families with 600 lobster dinners free of charge. These families will enjoy not only the dinner, but entertainment and a variety of activities for the children in attendance. The event is also a fundraiser for Work Vessels for Veterans, an effective organization that seeks to help returning servicemen and women start or restart their careers after fulfilling their military duties by donating boats and other vehicles to be used for those purposes.

"Operation Lobster Dinner" is a sterling example of the true sense of community in the Groton area for the military families who are based in our state. These brave Americans spend countless weeks and months away from their loved ones and put their lives on the line in defense of our freedom. We can never do enough to thank these true patriots, but "Operation Lobster Dinner" provides a unique opportunity for these folks to sit back and enjoy a delicious meal.

I also want to highlight the role of Captain Marc Denno and the Sub Base New London in contributing to this special dinner. I look forward to attending this event and joining with the sponsors and countless volunteers who help make it possible. I ask my colleagues to

join me in honoring Grossman's Seafood for their generosity.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. BILBRAY. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Central America Caucus, I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the people of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for their suffering as a result of the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Agatha. Beginning on May 29, 2010, Tropical Storm Agatha left a wake of death and destruction in its path through Central America, leaving more than 200 people dead and almost 100,000 people displaced into shelters by this devastation.

As a San Diegan, I am no stranger to how devastating natural disasters can be. In October 2007, 400,000 acres burned across our county while more than 1 million individuals were evacuated from their homes and more than 115 firefighters were injured while fighting to contain the fires. Any natural disaster tests the resolve of a community so our thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha.

In addition to affecting the long term functionality and prosperity of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, Tropical Storm Agatha has also severely affected the countries' critical and physical infrastructures, damaging buildings as well as water and sanitation systems, and agricultural stock.

It is a testament to the generosity of the American people as well as the innate goodness of human nature that so much aid from both American and international organizations have contributed to the relief efforts of Tropical Storm Agatha. I am proud to report that the United States has participated in providing relief supplies while governments and humanitarian organizations globally have contributed millions of dollars in relief funds.

I would like to reiterate the profound sympathy we have for those affected by Tropical Storm Agatha, as well as laud their perseverance and progress in recovery. I urge the United States to continue to assist their recovery efforts, both in the short as a well as the long term. Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected, and for these reasons I ask my colleagues to support the underlying resolution.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD BANKS AND FOOD PANTRIES

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 19, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of food banks and food pantries in the 10th District of Virginia and their hard work and dedication to serving their communities.