

things I work for is clarity." The completed piece was released during an American bicentennial ceremony and captures the very essence of American pride and patriotism. For those of you who have seen "The Prayer at Valley Forge", the suffering, the pressure, and General Washington's faith in America is perfectly understood and visualized.

In the 1950's, Mr. Friberg partnered with Hollywood producer Cecil B. DeMille to serve as chief artist and designer for DeMille's epic motion-picture, "The Ten Commandments." Mr. Friberg's 15 paintings for "The Ten Commandments" served as the pictorial basis for the scenes, characters, and costumes of the legendary film. For his efforts, Mr. Friberg earned an Academy Award Nomination in 1956.

Other famous works include Mr. Friberg's work for his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mr. Friberg painted and designed covers for the children's magazine, The Friend, and has depicted well-known scenes and moments from The Book of Mormon. These paintings are loved and celebrated by members of the LDS Church around the world.

Mr. Friberg was born in a Chicago suburb, but by the 1950's, he was an established resident of Utah. Utah Governor Gary Herbert recently called Mr. Friberg Utah's "adopted son." His Utah family will miss him, but his memory and his artwork will live on forever.

#### CHECHNYA A YEAR AFTER THE KILLING OF NATALYA ESTEMIROVA

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, a year ago this month Natalya Estemirova, the leading human rights defender in Chechnya was abducted near her apartment building in the capital city of Grozny by unidentified men, transported to the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, and brutally killed. She led a courageous life of denouncing corruption, calling for a fair judicial system, and standing up for human rights. For that she was cut down. While her killers may have ended her life, they will never silence the voice she brought to these issues. Ms. Estemirova's work was well known to the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, and colleagues there recall her 2006 visit to discuss the situation in Chechnya. Like Estemirova, all too many of her fellow human rights defenders and journalists are targeted because they have the temerity to speak out about human rights abuses.

Today, inspired by Estemirova's work, I introduce a measure expressing solidarity with human rights defenders in the Russian Federation; urging the Russian authorities to take appropriate steps to end the harassment, persecution and attacks against activists; and calling for an end to impunity for those responsible for such acts, including through the conducting of timely, transparent and thorough criminal investigations into the unresolved murders of human rights defenders, journalists, and political opposition members and the prosecution of all of those responsible for these crimes.

The Helsinki Commission has been at the forefront of drawing attention to the human rights situation in Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus region of Russia, having held numerous hearings and briefings. Notwithstanding the assertions by the powers that be in Moscow that the situation in Chechnya has returned to normal, the reality on the ground reveals otherwise. The recently released 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, issued by the Department of State, found that the Russian government's already poor human rights record in the North Caucasus worsened during the reporting period, with a marked increase in extrajudicial killings by both government and rebel forces and politically motivated disappearances in Chechnya as well as in neighboring Ingushetia and Dagestan. The Helsinki Commission remains deeply concerned over ongoing human rights abuses, legal impunity, and the permeating climate of fear in the North Caucasus.

While one cannot discount that terrorist elements are responsible for some of the rights violations in that region, many of the reported abuses are perpetrated by federal and local security forces in Chechnya, including the private militia of Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, the republic's Kremlin-backed president. While it remains unclear what, if any role Kadyrov had in Estemirova's killing, his contempt for her and other human rights defenders is palpable. Earlier this month Kadyrov publicly labeled independent journalists and rights activists as "traitors and enemies of the state." Among those targeted by the Chechen leader is the respected Russian rights organization Memorial.

Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I remain concerned over the deterioration of the human rights situation in the North Caucasus generally, and Chechnya specifically. I am not alone in this regard, as the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution late last month on the North Caucasus. The measure pointed to a series of specific concerns in Chechnya against the backdrop of what it characterized as "a climate of pervading fear" nurtured by the current authorities: recurrent disappearances of government opponents and human rights defenders still remain widely unpunished; continuing threats and reprisals, including abductions of relatives of persons suspected of belonging to illegal armed factions; and ongoing intimidation of the media and civil society, among others.

Ramzan Kadyrov's utter contempt for human rights and fundamental freedoms was again manifested recently in his reaction to paintball gun attacks against women on the streets of Grozny apparently because they were not wearing headscarves. Instead of condemning the assaults, the Chechen president reportedly praised the perpetrators. While Kadyrov has largely been given free rein in Chechnya, that does not absolve his backers in Moscow from responsibility for the deteriorating human rights situation in that part of the Russian Federation.

As a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, it is incumbent upon the Russian authorities to ensure that fundamental freedoms are respected throughout the country, including in the North Caucasus. Turning a blind eye to human rights violations is unacceptable. I urge President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin to

take effective measures to stop the harassment, persecution and attacks against human activists and journalists in the Russian Federation and to end the impunity for those responsible for the murder of Natalya Estemirova and others. Only then will there be hope that the situation in Chechnya will return to anything approaching normal.

#### IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRYAN BARBIN AND HIS EFFORTS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hundreds-of-thousands of U.S. service members and veterans impacted by traumatic brain injuries.

Earlier this morning, Congressman BILL PASCRELL and I welcomed Pennsylvania State Representative Bryan Barbin to the U.S. Capitol. Representative Barbin completed a seven-day motorcycle ride through seven state capitals to raise awareness of the impact of traumatic brain injuries, and to deliver the following resolution that was adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on June 23, 2010. It reads:

Whereas, More than 1.5 million United States military personnel have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since the start of military operations in 2001, and military statistics show that at least 115,000 troops have suffered brain injuries related to IED explosions since the Iraq and Afghanistan wars began; and

Whereas, Brain injury has been labeled a signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and brain injuries occurring among soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are strongly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical health problems after soldiers return home; and

Whereas, Concern has been emerging about the possible long-term effects of combat-related brain injuries. Significant numbers of undiagnosed injuries and the failure by medical personnel to include such information in soldiers' permanent medical files has been identified as serious in studies prepared by medical and army experts; and

Whereas, Without diagnosis and official documentation, soldiers with head wounds have struggled to receive appropriate treatment, sometimes receiving psychotropic drugs instead of rehabilitative therapy that could help retrain their brains; and

Whereas, The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DVBIC, in Johnstown has been assisting returning veterans with rehabilitative therapy since 2006; and

Whereas, In January 2009, Congress mandated DVBIC to establish an assisted living pilot program to determine the best practices to rehabilitate soldiers with mild, moderate or severe traumatic brain injuries to enable them to return to their own communities, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives designate July 7, 2010, as "Combat-Related Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to promote public understanding and encourage all citizens to help bind the wounds of our returning soldiers.

Madam Speaker, I would like to commend State Representative Barbin for his advocacy on behalf of this important cause.

### 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

#### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today marks the 36th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of the Republic of Cyprus. July 20, 1974 began the Turkish occupation of the northern part of Cyprus and to this day 43,000 Turkish troops occupy nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory.

Since 1974, the people of Cyprus have endured mass violation of their human rights and fundamental freedom along with forcible ethnic segregation. The people of Cyprus also witnessed the destruction of their culture and their religious heritage destroyed.

The international community has been actively involved in developing a solution for the people of Cyprus. However, Turkey has repeatedly ignored all international pressure including 75 resolutions that have been adopted by the United Nations Security Council and more than 13 by the United Nations General Assembly since 1974.

Members of Congress along with the international community must continue to work diligently to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. We must strongly urge Turkey to respect human rights and ultimately withdraw its forces from Cyprus.

Cyprus and the U.S. share a deep commitment to uphold the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, human rights, and the international rule of law. I believe the international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with the Cypriots to reunify their island and end the military occupation.

### HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER J. MOON

#### HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor United States Army Specialist Christopher J. Moon, who passed away on July 13, 2010 from wounds sustained during an IED attack in Afghanistan.

Originally from Tucson, Chris was a natural athlete and stand-out baseball player. While attending Tucson High Magnet School, he received many accolades including 2006 Southern Arizona Player of the Year and a scholarship to the University of Arizona.

Known for his outstanding personality and attitude, Chris was always willing to help out anyone who needed it.

"Specialist Moon was the type of person we have all heard of but have very seldom ever met," said First Sergeant Derek Gondek, Moon's company First Sergeant. "He was one

of those men who, no matter what he put his mind to he became a star at it, whether it was on the baseball field or on the battlefield. He will truly be missed by his fellow warfighters."

Assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, part of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg, Chris was on a combat mission in the Arghandab Valley when he triggered an IED device, wounding him severely. Chris succumbed to his injuries at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany on July 13, 2010.

We remember Chris and offer our deepest condolences and sincerest prayers to his family. My words cannot effectively convey the feeling of great loss nor can they offer adequate consolation. However, it is my hope that in future days, his family may take some comfort in knowing that Chris made a difference in the lives of many others and serves as an example of a competent and caring leader and friend that will live on in the hearts and minds of all those he touched.

Specialist Chris Moon leaves behind his mother Marsha, his father, Brian, and his sister Sunday.

This body and this country owe Chris and his family our deepest gratitude, and we will today and forevermore honor and remember him and his service to our country.

### A GENOCIDE SURVIVOR FROM PIRAN: SARKIS SARYAN'S STORY

#### HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 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:

TRANSLATED BY LEVON A. SARYAN, PH.D.

In January of 2008, I traveled to Beirut to participate in the International Symposium on the Culture of Cilician Armenia, which was held under the sponsorship of His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia. One morning, as I took my seat in the meeting hall, I turned around and introduced myself to two women scholars seated behind me, Dr. Verjine Svazlyan and her daughter Knarik Avagyan. Both were among the contingent of academics from Yerevan who were participating in the symposium. As

we got to talking (the usual "where are you from, where are your parents from" questions that Armenians are so fond of), Dr. Svazlyan removed from her briefcase a small book that she had written and opened it to a page containing several photographs. After searching for a moment, she pointed to one of the photos. It was a picture of my father, whose account was one of several hundred that Dr. Svazlyan has been collecting over the years. Dr. Svazlyan transcribed my father's story in July 1999 at the Louvre Museum in Paris, when they were both attending the Sixth International Conference of Armenian Linguistics. My father's account was not contained in the small book she showed me, but it is recorded in Armenian in Dr. Svazlyan's major work, Hayots Tseghaspanutian: Aganades Verabroghneri Vgayutiunneruh (Armenian Genocide: The Testimonies of Eyewitness Survivors), published in Yerevan by the Republic of Armenia National Academy of Sciences in 2000. After returning to Yerevan, Knarik kindly sent me a scan of the relevant pages from this book, enabling me to prepare this translation.

The village of Piran is located on the southern slopes of the Taurus mountain range, approximately midway between the towns of Palu (to the north) and Diarbekir (to the south). Kharpert is to the west, and Sassoun is to the east. Piran was a relatively small village, with probably less than 1,000 inhabitants. It does not appear on most maps. As we will see, it did not escape the fate of other Armenian towns and villages in the region. In 1915, through murder and deportation, Piran was nearly emptied of its Armenian inhabitants.

I present here an English translation of my father's account as transcribed by Prof. Svazlyan. Some additions and clarifications are noted in brackets. I have also made a few minor factual adjustments based on our personal family knowledge.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the most part, the inhabitants of our village were Kurds; there were a few Turks, and the rest were Armenians. Our village was not far from the source of the Tigris River. The Tigris begins at Dzovk Lake; Dzovk is where Nerses Shnorhali was born. Dzovk was one and one-half days away from us. In the spring, the Tigris River flowed so swiftly that it would carry trees with their roots in its current. I have seen how, if the trees became tangled in the river, some swimmers would enter the water and straighten the trunks so that the water could flow unimpeded. Four or five miles from Piran, our village, there was a red rock outcropping, where wild bees made honey which would collect in a hole [in the rock]. Our villagers would go [to this place] with pans to collect the honey, fill their pans, and take it home.

I was born in 1911. My father's name was Krikor, my uncle's name was Garo, my grandfather, Sarkis. Three months before the Great Catastrophe, I awoke to find myself on my grandmother's back. My father had been taken in handcuffs to the police house. The last time I saw my father he was tied with handcuffs. All of the Armenian men in the village were taken from the prison and driven to the northeast. Later, the Kurds told us that all of them had been killed.

It was a hot day in the month of July, 1915. The Kurds had come; they were sitting in the shade of a tree watching the proceedings. The command for deportation had arrived and everywhere there was confusion. The Turkish gendarmes were saying to each other: "Firman geldi, bir giavourn kafa kalmaichak." (Turkish for "an official