

HONORING YOSEMITE NATIONAL
PARK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 120th birthday of Yosemite National Park. Yosemite National Park was designated a national park by an Act of Congress on October 1, 1890. Yosemite was the third national park to be designated as such in the United States, following Yellowstone in 1872 and Sequoia in 1890. Friday, October 1, 2010 marks the 120th birthday of the park.

Although Yosemite was the third official national park, it was the history of Yosemite Valley that gave birth to the national park concept. In the 1860s, when commercial interests began to take a foothold in Yosemite, prominent citizens and politicians who were concerned about the effects of these interests began lobbying for Federal protection for the area. A park bill creating the Yosemite Grant passed both houses of Congress and was signed by President Abraham Lincoln on June 30, 1864. The Grant, which set aside the Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove, stated that the lands be held "... for public use, resort and recreation ... inalienable for all time." It was the first time in history that land was set aside purely for preservation and recreation for all people by action of the U.S. Federal Government. The Grant's creation set the precedent for the eventual creation of the first national park, Yellowstone, in 1872. The Yosemite Grant was ceded to and administered by the State of California as a State park until 1906. The Grant was then ceded to the Federal Government and included in Yosemite National Park.

Today, Yosemite National Park encompasses 747,959 acres, stretching across 3 counties and the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Almost 95 percent of the park is Federally designated as wilderness. The park is home to thousands of species of plants and more than 400 species of vertebrates, including fish, amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals. Approximately 4 million people from around the world visit Yosemite every year. With endless opportunities for outdoor recreation, most visitors spend their time in the Yosemite Valley, where they hike the John Muir Trail, wander under the canopy of the Giant Sequoias and breathe in the mist of Bridalveil Fall. Other visitors backpack through the wilderness, ascend the granite peaks of Half Dome and El Capitan, or simply enjoy the beauty of Yosemite's nature and wildlife. It is no wonder that Yosemite, with its spectacular waterfalls, high country lakes, meadows and granite domes, is often referred to as the crown jewel of the national park system.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 120th birthday of Yosemite National Park. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the history and beauty of Yosemite National Park.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING VOL-
UNTEER FIREFIGHTER RYAN
SEITZ

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker,
Whereas, Ryan Seitz, a volunteer firefighter in McArthur, Ohio, lost his life while fighting a brush fire,

Whereas, in addition to serving as a volunteer firefighter, Seitz also served as assistant director and technology coordinator for the Herbert Wescoat Memorial Library,

Whereas, Seitz risked his life to help others by working as a firefighter,

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, we remember and honor the life of Ryan Seitz, whose courage was matched only by his selflessness, and whose sacrifice should serve as an example of the highest patriotism and devotion to duty.

A PROCLAMATION CONGRATU-
LATING GRANT ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL IN SOUTH CHICAGO
HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker,
Whereas, Grant Elementary School located at 2712 Miller Avenue in School District #170 of Chicago Heights, Illinois opened its doors in 1910.

Whereas, Grant Elementary has provided education to tens of thousands of children from the Chicago Heights/South Chicago Heights community during the past 100 years.

Whereas, Grant Elementary has served a diverse student body, providing an exemplary education for children in kindergarten through eighth grades.

Whereas, On October 19, 2010 current and past students and their families, as well as residents and elected officials of Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights will celebrate Grant Elementary's Centennial Anniversary.

Resolved, That along with the past and present students, teachers, faculty and friends of Grant Elementary and the residents of the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Grant Elementary School for providing 100 years of excellence in education to students in Chicago Heights and South Chicago Heights.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL GEAR UP
DAY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize National GEAR UP Day and the outstanding work of thousands of GEAR UP

participants, families and staff. National GEAR UP Day is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of both former and current teachers, counselors, program staff, and students who have been committed to GEAR UP and without whom GEAR UP would not be the success it is today.

This year, I will celebrate national GEAR UP Day with U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan at Friendship Charter Academy in Washington, DC and with students in Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Texas remotely. Governors in Iowa, New Mexico, Maine, Washington, Colorado and North Carolina have issued proclamations proclaiming GEAR UP Day, as has the Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa. They are joined by the Mayor of Lowell, Massachusetts and a message from New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Nevada has a proclamation and 130 Wisconsin students will be travelling to Eau Claire to celebrate GEAR UP Day. In Richland, South Carolina, students will sign a College Dreams Wall with the name of the college they plan to attend and in Puerto Rico students welcomed a group of law students to serve as mentors.

Twelve years ago, after witnessing far too few students from low-income communities graduate from high school and enter college, I created Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP). The program supports cohorts of students from 6th grade into their first year of college by providing essential services such as tutoring, scholarship assistance, college campus tours, counseling services, mentoring, and financial aid awareness. In addition, GEAR UP has created partnerships between postsecondary institutions, community groups, businesses, and parents aimed at increasing support for our students to ensure success not only in high school but college as well. The services and partnerships created by GEAR UP have proven to be a successful educational model that prepares students both academically and emotionally for the rigors of college.

Today, I am pleased to announce that twelve years after GEAR UP was enacted, 12 million students in 49 states have participated in the program. This year alone, GEAR UP is providing vital services to approximately 670,000 students in over 5,000 schools across 46 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. GEAR UP has been remarkably successful. In fact, 80% of GEAR UP students have completed high school and approximately half have matriculated into college—a significantly larger proportion than their non-GEAR UP peers. Furthermore, GEAR UP students take more rigorous and advanced courses. For example, half of all GEAR UP students complete Algebra by 9th grade—an important indicator for high school graduation and college matriculation. These results have proven that with essential services, appropriate resources, and high expectations, students from low-income communities can and will graduate from high school ready to pursue postsecondary education.

Finally, I sincerely want to thank all GEAR UP staff and students throughout the country who have made the program an extraordinary success. I look forward to witnessing future GEAR UP accomplishments and continuing to see increasing numbers of low-income students succeeding in high school, entering college ready to succeed!

GUIRAGOS SHEKERDJIAN: A
SURVIVOR'S STORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 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 Angel Shekerdjan):

My father, Guiragos, was born in 1905 in Adana, Turkey. He was 4 years old in 1909, when the massacres started in Adana. Several Armenians took refuge in the church; so did his pregnant mother with her 2-year-old daughter and little Guiragos. The Turks surrounded the church and set it to fire. As the people inside realized what was happening, they started running outside. So did my grandmother, carrying the toddler in her arms and holding my father by the hand. As soon as they were outside, a Turk killed her and the little girl. And he stabbed my father 3 times in the back—two stabs as the sign of the cross and a 3rd stab—all around the spine. A "good-hearted" Turk saw that the Turk who was stabbing was aiming again, stopped him saying: "leave the child, he is already dead." However, instead of leaving him to die, the "good" Turk took him to a hospital. Once he recovered from his wounds, they asked my dad what his name was. He said it was Guiragos. And the last name? He did not know. So they asked what the profession of his father was. My father told them that his father used to make candy, lolipops. . . . So they gave him the name of Shekerdjian, meaning make of sugar. 'Sheker' is 'sugar' in Turkish. He was sent to an orphanage. He eventually ended up in Beirut, where he met my orphaned mother, also from Adana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE
AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE
ENERGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2010

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2010, a bill to promote the development of renewable en-

ergy from our oceans and rivers, using the tides, currents, waves and even the thermal properties of our oceans to generate electricity. I also want to acknowledge the work of Chairman BRIAN BAIRD, my friend and Washington state colleague, who joins me in introducing this important legislation.

This bill will bolster research and development in marine renewable energy, to ensure the industry overcomes existing barriers to deployment so that our ocean and tidal currents can deliver power to homes and businesses in American communities. Improved federal research programs are key to meeting our long-term energy security and climate mitigation goals, and creating American jobs in the marine hydrokinetic industry.

A study by University of Washington, Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute, and Electric Power Research Institute that was published in HydroReview stated that marine renewable resources could yield 51,000 MW of power—equivalent to 34 conventional coal-fired power plants. Yet at this time, our nation's commitment to this technology lags behind countries in Europe and Asia.

In Washington state, the private sector, universities, research institutions and public utilities are already working to bring affordable, reliable and abundant electricity to major urban load centers located near Puget Sound. But these, and similar efforts across the country, need national support in order to truly realize the benefits of commercial-scale marine hydrokinetic projects in the United States.

This bill will expand the renewable energy research and development program at the U.S. Department of Energy, so that Americans do not lose out on the global race to create and manufacture marine renewable energy technologies. To do so, the bill creates a competitive demonstration grant program to test technologies, devices and systems at a variety of scales to facilitate commercial application. The environmental research program established in this bill will also help us best monitor the environmental impacts of these projects, to help disseminate information on ways to identify and avoid any negative environmental impacts to protect our marine environment. Additionally, the bill will expand a Department of Energy research program to set up MHK test facilities in the United States, which are critical in our efforts to demonstrate a wide range of technologies, and evaluate the technical viability of each new and emerging type of technology at different scales.

In closing, I also want to thank the expert staff on the Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment for their extensive knowledge of this issue and hard work. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, and hope that we can work together to move it towards passage as soon as possible.

IN HONOR OF MARGARET WONG,
RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL
"SALUTING THE DREAMER" AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Margaret Wong, internation-

ally known immigration attorney from Cleveland, Ohio, as she is honored by the Cleveland Public Library as the first recipient of the "Saluting the Dreamers" Award.

As a young woman, Ms. Wong settled in Cleveland, Ohio, journeying here from her Chinese homeland. She studied in Cleveland and eventually became a practicing attorney. For more than twenty-five years, Ms. Wong has developed Margaret W. Wong and Associates, LPA, into a law firm known throughout the United States and the world for its expertise in immigration law. Currently, she co-chairs the Immigration Law Committee for the National Asian Pacific Bar Association, and she is chair of the Cleveland Bar Association's Immigration Law Section.

Ms. Wong has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including Cleveland Magazine's "Most Interesting People" award and the 1997 Creative Philanthropy Award from the Women's Community Foundation. Ms. Wong was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Margaret W. Wong of Margaret W. Wong and Associates, LLP, upon being named the first recipient of the "Salute the Dreamers" Award presented by the Cleveland Public Library. Ms. Wong's great success as attorney and business owner continues to inspire us to follow our dreams, and to achieve our dreams.

COMMENDING EYECARE AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1226, recognizing the 25th anniversary of EyeCare America, the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Founded in 1985, EyeCare America's mission is to reduce avoidable blindness and severe visual impairment by raising awareness about eye disease and care, providing free health education materials and facilitating access to medical eye care.

EyeCare America has programs for seniors, glaucoma, diabetes and children.

In 2010, EyeCare America celebrates its 25th anniversary and across our nation, nearly 7,000 ophthalmologists volunteer their services to this worthwhile public service program.

Approximately, 35 million Americans experience an age-related eye disease, including age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts, with this number expected to grow to 50 million by 2020.

Vision impairment and eye disease is a major public health issue, especially as 2010 begins the decade in which more than half of the 78 million Baby Boomers will turn 65 and be at greatest risk for aging eye disease.

EyeCare America works to ensure that eye health is not neglected, by matching eligible patients with one of nearly 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists across the country committed to preventing unnecessary blindness in their communities.