

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 Shekerdjan, 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.

These volunteer ophthalmologists will provide them with a medical eye exam and up to one year of care at no out-of-pocket cost. Seniors without insurance receive this care at no charge.

EyeCare America has helped over 1 million people since its inception and is one of the largest public service programs of its kind in American medicine today.

I'd like to thank Rep. WHITFIELD, Chairman PALLONE, Chairman WAXMAN, and Ranking Member BARTON for their support and assistance in moving this bipartisan resolution.

CALLING ON JAPAN TO ADDRESS CHILD ABDUCTION CASES

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us this week addresses a painful issue: the problem of international parental child abduction. Over the last several years, I've gained a greater understanding of this problem through the travails of one of my constituents, Mr. David Goldman of Tinton Falls, New Jersey. As the case involving his son, Sean, has received international media attention, I will not revisit all of the details of that case now. Suffice it to say that even with a treaty on his side—the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction—Mr. Goldman needed my help and that of our State Department, along with countless other generous Americans, to finally secure the return of his son in December 2009. Their 5½ year separation and the legal maneuvering surrounding the case helped focus the world's attention on the problem of international parental child abduction, but unfortunately, the overall problem remains.

Over the last decade alone, thousands of American children have been kidnapped by a foreign-born parent and taken to other countries, where the American-born parents inevitably face a years-long process of trying to recover their children. In the case of Japan—which is not a signatory to the Hague Convention—it has proven literally impossible for American parents to recover their parentally-kidnapped children. The resolution before us calls upon the government of Japan to facilitate the resolution of all such abduction cases, and to ratify the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Nearly a year ago, the members of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission received testimony from parents whose children had been parentally kidnapped to Japan. Each story was heartbreaking, and the frustration and sense of despair of the affected parents was palpable. H. Res. 1326 will send a clear message to the government of Japan that the Congress remains seized of this issue, and it will also remind the affected parents that we stand with them and that we know we have much more work to do on behalf of their abducted children. I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of this measure, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, this morning, September 29, 2010, I was unavoidably delayed and not present to vote on the following bills:

(1) Republican Motion to Adjourn—Vote “no” on rollcall No. 545.

(2) Adjournment Resolution (H. Con. Res. 321)—To provide for the House to adjourn for the Autumn District Work Period—Vote “yes” on rollcall No. 546.

(3) Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule for H.R. 847—James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act; H.R. 2378—Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act; and H.R. 2701—Intelligence Authorization Act (H. Res. 1674)—Vote “yes” on rollcall No. 547.

(4) H. Res. 1674—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 847—James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act; H.R. 2378—Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act; and H.R. 2701—Intelligence Authorization Act—Vote “yes” on rollcall No. 548.

If present, I would have voted “aye” on all except the motion to adjourn.

HONORING EXACTECH'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Exactech's 25th anniversary. I also want to recognize Exactech for being a leader in the business community and for its commitment to improving the lives of individuals by helping them to maintain their activity and independence.

Exactech develops, manufactures and distributes orthopedic implants, related surgical instrumentation and biologic services to hospitals and physicians for use in the repair of bone and joints that have been damaged due to injury or disease, such as arthritis.

Today, more than 46 million Americans are living with some type of arthritis. For a quarter of a century, orthopedic surgeons have counted on Exactech, for innovations that allow them to make their patients more mobile.

With its headquarters in Gainesville, Florida, in my congressional district, Exactech is one of Florida's fastest-growing companies with more than 500 employees and distributing products throughout the U.S. and in more than 35 countries around the world. Its products meet the most stringent quality requirements and have demonstrated excellent long-term clinical results.

Exactech attributes its success to a strong corporate culture, where the values of integrity, compassion, teamwork, excellence and innovation guide each employee's daily decisions. After 25 years of company development, the dedication to patient quality care remains unchanged.

Please join me in honoring Exactech on their silver anniversary and hoping for another 25 strong years.

U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HELP- ING TO EXTEND CHINESE INFLU- ENCE

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the use of U.S. taxpayer financed foreign aid to expand Chinese influence around the world.

It recently came to my attention that the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has awarded Chinese state-owned enterprises millions of dollars in contracts to build roads, construct schools, and erect airports in countries with MCC compacts. On June 30, Reuters reported that “China's Sinohydro Corporations signed a contract with Mali to build a new airport for the capital, Bamako, a \$71.6 million project” financed by the MCC. This is not an isolated incident.

China's Sinohydro Corporation was also awarded a contract for construction work in Tanzania. Furthermore, according to news reports, on September 9 and 10 the MCC signed contracts with a Chinese state-owned construction company to renovate and expand 13 schools in Namibia. Thousands of dollars have been awarded to Chinese state-owned enterprises in Ghana for infrastructure construction. The list goes on.

According to the Treasury Department, China now holds \$846.7 billion in U.S. debt making China our largest banker. At a time of economic hardship at home, the United States should not be giving U.S. taxpayer dollars to China through foreign assistance.

Furthermore, the U.S. should not be subsidizing countries with abysmal human rights records. The State Department's 2009 Human Rights Report states that the Chinese “government's human rights record remained poor and worsened in some areas” during the reporting period. The report goes on to cite violations including the severe cultural and religious repression of ethnic minorities, the detention and harassment of human rights activists, extrajudicial killings and the use of forced labor.

China perpetrates gross human rights abuses outside of its borders as well. In 2008, the international non-governmental organization, Human Rights First, found that China sold over \$55 million worth of small arms to the genocidal regime of Omar al-Bashir in Sudan. According to the U.S. Campaign for Burma, China is one of the largest arms suppliers to the brutal Burmese military regime which has been implicated in gross human rights violations including murder, rape and the use of child soldiers.

Today, I sent a letter to the inspector general of the Millennium Challenge Corporation asking that he open an investigation into the extent to which Chinese state-owned enterprises have been involved in receiving grant awards through the MCC and determine if such actions are in violation of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003. I look forward to the inspector general's report and will continue to monitor this issue closely.