

Guard detail with a 21-gun salute and taps. I am honored to remember the life and memory of a Texas hero. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his friends, his community, and his country. Semper Fi, Charlie Young. Semper Fi.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE SOCIETY OF KASTORIANS "OMONOIA" OF NEW YORK ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Society of the Kastorians "OMONOIA" of New York, located in Whitestone.

The first Kastorian immigrants, hailing from Kastoria, a North-Western Province in Greece, have deep roots in New York City. After their arrival in 1887, the community quickly grew. These new Americans organized a philanthropic group that has done charitable work and donated resources both in Greece and here in the United States.

Founded on August 7, 1910, the Society first began sending aid back to its members' homeland, Kastoria. The first donations supported a girls' school, a pharmacy, and earthquake-recovery efforts. During both World Wars, the Society was active in providing assistance to Greece's infrastructure and its defenses. During those turbulent times, the Society's efforts helped Greece construct a warship, a power plant and a water supply distribution system, as well as providing shipments of flour to Greek refugees.

Through the years, the Society's generosity has not been limited to Greece; it has supported many initiatives in New York and throughout the United States. In 1941, the Kastorians purchased \$16,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds, and an aircraft was named *The Kastorian Spirit* in their honor. They have donated to the American Red Cross and have annually given over \$50,000 for scholarships. The Kastorians donated to the World Trade Center Fund after the 9/11 attacks, and to Columbia University for its Hellenic Studies and Ancient History program. They also purchased a two-building complex in Whitestone that the Society uses as its headquarters, where cultural lectures and celebrations are hosted.

Madam Speaker, for the last hundred years, the Society's members have been able to maintain their heritage and devotion to Greece, while at the same time dedicating themselves to their home in the United States. I look forward to seeing the Society of Kastorians "OMONOIA" of New York's future efforts in improving the lives of not only Greek-Americans, but also all Americans, for many more years to come.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me, and rise in recognition of the Society of Kastorians, its President, Dr. Elias Panides, its Vice President, Vasili E. Zisis, and all its members, on their centennial anniversary.

A GENOCIDE SURVIVOR STORY:
ARAM DEMERJIAN'S FATHER

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 Aram Demerjian):

My father, born in Diarbekir in 1901, told me about the real events as I was growing up. His experiences of what happened to his father and how he made to escape death were not pleasant for me to hear. I was born in Lebanon. I would like give you some of the accounts related to me.

My grand-father was an iron smith. He made hand-cuffs for the prison inmates. His own hand-cuffs clamped his own hands by the Turks. He was taken away from his home for questioning and his family never saw him again.

I consider my father a very talented man. For instance, he could play musical instruments, he could sing with a vibrant voice. He was not fanatic about his religious practice. On his way to exile, he stopped at many villages for few days or for few months. Some religious man (sheikh) gave him shelter during one stop. This host noticed that he has a good voice. So he invited my father to sing in the mosque. Of course, having nothing to support himself, he could not refuse Sheikh's request. I forgot to mention that my Dad also spoke Kurdish.

Three months later, my father who is also a good horse rider, left the village at night time. Not knowing anything about his destiny. At this time, I have not many details about how he made to Aleppo (Syria).

Someday, I shall sit down to write many other events regarding his brothers and his mother whom survived this genocide and how my Dad was able to meet them again in Lebanon. His older sister was forcefully taken away by a Turkish soldier.

I also have some recollections told to me by my mother's side whose family was also exiled from the town of Konia.

On my mother's side, the story is different. Her father (Sarkis) was a merchant. Sarkis owned some wealth. He converted his assets into gold coins. But he did not make the exile with his family made of 3 girls, one boy and his wife (my grand-mother). Sarkis was taken away one morning and never came back. The gold coins were hidden inside underwear of the women. A local Turk helped

them ride the train out of Konia to Tarousse against a certain amount of monetary payment.

SECURING AMERICA'S VETERANS INSURANCE NEEDS AND GOALS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Speaker, the intent of H.R. 5993, the Securing America's Veterans Insurance Needs and Goals (SAVINGS) Act is to increase transparency and disclosure of the Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. The intent is to increase financial counseling for beneficiaries and to allow Congress to play a better role in providing oversight and access of the program.

It is the intent of H.R. 5993 to have Congress weigh in on the legal question of whether or not the Department of Veterans Affairs has the authority to allow 'retained asset accounts'. The language in H.R. 5993 is not intended to validate in any manner whether 'retained asset accounts' are authorized in section 1970(d) of title 38, United States Code.

PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CONSORTIA ESTABLISHMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 758, the Pediatric Research Consortia Establishment Act.

This legislation is an important step towards understanding and eradicating diseases in children. The consortia will lead to new insights to the major disorders that affect children and will empower researchers to discover innovative strategies for diagnosis and treatment.

Pediatric research and care is currently underfunded despite the fact that children comprise 20 percent of our nation's population. Enrolling and evaluating a sufficiently large group of children is the most effective way of understanding these disorders and to monitor how they manifest in adults. By having Pediatric research institutions collaborate and share information in a methodical way, we can speed up breakthroughs and treatments to fight diseases that affect children.

This investment in research is an important step in speeding up the development of therapies to combat devastating diseases in children. I am proud to support this legislation.

HONORING FRÉDÉRIC CHOPIN'S
200TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 200th anniversary of the birth of

the composer and pianist, Frédéric Chopin, and recognize the influence his music has had on the world.

Frédéric Chopin was born in 1810 in the Napoleonic Duchy of Warsaw to a French father and Polish mother. He was a child prodigy in both playing and composing on the piano. In the following years Chopin moved to Paris after the Polish Uprising of 1830. There, he supported himself by teaching piano and an occasional public performance. In 1837 he became involved with the French novelist Amantine Dupin, better known under her pseudonym, George Sand. Unfortunately, for most of his life the artist suffered from a variety of maladies and died at the young age of 39.

Because of the strong Polish influence of his parents, Chopin never learned to fluently speak French. As such, much of his music retains influences of Polish culture; his Revolutionary Étude is interpreted as the story of the Polish Revolution—because of which he fled his homeland. While France and Poland both influenced the artist, he credits Bach and Mozart as the main forces that shaped his music.

While Chopin saw many of his contemporaries as lacking, he associated himself with many romantic artists, including many writers and painters. Under the direction of Bach and Mozart, Chopin's music is regarded as the epitome of the Romantic Style. Chopin preferred his music to remain unnamed except for the genre and number, as he wanted the listener to create their own associations. He is for these reasons regarded as one of the greatest composers and pianists who has ever lived.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Frédéric Chopin for his vast contributions and lasting effect on the world of classical music. We would be joining much of the world in celebrating, as festivals in honor of Chopin have occurred in places such as Warsaw, Paris, and my hometown Chicago. For 200 years, he has been renowned as a talented composer and will continue to be regarded as such for future generations.

RECOGNIZING THE SAGINAW VALLEY BABE RUTH 13-15 ALL-STAR TEAM

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague from Michigan, DAVE CAMP, to honor the Saginaw Valley Babe Ruth 13-15 All-Star Team as the National Runners-up at the Babe Ruth World Series. The Saginaw Valley team was crowned this title on August 25th in Monticello, Arkansas.

Hailing from across Mid-Michigan, the Saginaw Valley Babe Ruth 13-15 All-Stars completed the year with a 16-3 record including the Michigan State Championship and the Ohio Valley Regional Championship. They played against teams from across the Midwest and East Coast to earn their spot at the World Series tournament playing against 11 teams from across the United States.

The players are: Connor Foley, Grant Bridgewater, Grant Miller, Sam Brooks, Zach Olszewski, Brandon Vittitow, Chase Krager,

Ryan Jankowski, Luke Scharich, Jordan Stainforth, Tyler Palm, Jake Warren, A.J. Rubio, and A.J. McInnis. The team was coached by Howard Miller, and Matt Jankowski. Mark Krzysiak serves as team Manager. During their World Series run, Grant Bridgewater and Brandon Vittitow were named to the All Tournament Team. A.J. McGinnis was named to the All Defensive Team as a pitcher.

Madam Speaker, we are very proud of the team members, their manager and coaches and congratulate them on earning this title. They are a credit to their families, and their communities, and they are a testament to discipline, dedication and perseverance. We wish them the best as they continue to pursue their goals and in their future endeavors.

URGING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to alert my colleagues to some growing concerns in Kazakhstan.

As an ex-Soviet republic, Kazakhstan has made great strides in the past several decades. In fact, it was just 1991 when Kazakhstan became the last of the Soviet republics to declare its independence. Today, Kazakhstan serves as the Chair of the 56 member-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

While I commend Kazakhstan for the progress it has made over the past several decades toward becoming a more democratic nation, I am increasingly concerned about ongoing allegations of corruption, human rights abuses, human trafficking, religious persecution, election tampering and suppression of free speech within the nation. In recent years, I have seen reports indicating that Kazakhstan's governmental system lacks the basic rights of democracy—elections are often fraught with fraud; political opposition is suppressed; few independent media outlets exist; and respect for human rights, religious freedom, and freedom of speech is questionable.

The United States has sought a mutually beneficial relationship with Kazakhstan and provides aid to Kazakhstan to enhance economic growth, democracy, security and humanitarian needs. We understand, because of Kazakhstan's centralized location between Europe and Asia, that it is in a unique position to help bridge East and West. However, I am concerned that the current U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship could be compromised and I think it is time we critically evaluate these very serious allegations.

I applaud the work of the Helsinki Commission under the current leadership of Senator BEN CARDIN, and previously, Congressman ALCEE HASTINGS for their ongoing commitment to bringing these matters to light and I would urge my colleagues to take the time to look into this issue.

HONORING GEORGIE O'CONNOR

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Georgie O'Connor from San Luis Obispo County.

Georgie is retiring from the Lucia Mar Unified School District, after having served since its formation in 1965. Her almost 50 years of service on the school board is a California State record for the longest-serving school board member, as confirmed by the California School Boards Association.

Georgie is a local treasure who has dedicated her career to ensuring high standards and a quality education for the young people in San Luis Obispo County.

Over her tenure, Georgie has watched multiple generations of students make their way through and graduate from Lucia Mar, including many current teachers and administrators. Through it all, she has never lost sight of the invaluable importance of a rigorous education for our nation's young people.

She is a true public servant, and it gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Lucia Mar Unified School District Community to thank her for her dedicated service today. I wish her much rest and relaxation in her well-deserved retirement!

Thank you and I yield back.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM H. MOBLEY IV

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of an outstanding individual, William H. Mobley IV, who passed away on May 23, 2010.

For 35 years, Mr. Mobley worked as a Principal Evaluations Officer and curator at the Library of Congress. While his position was a source of enjoyment and intellectual fulfillment to him personally, it also served as an outlet for him to provide a love of history and books to others.

Throughout his time with the Library of Congress, Mr. Mobley encouraged the donation of thousands of books to local communities and libraries, and he had a special interest in providing resources to his home city of Valdosta, Georgia. Appointed by Valdosta State University to select and send books through the Library of Congress, Mr. Mobley spent years of his life shipping reading materials to Georgia, evidence of his willingness to make enormous personal sacrifices for the benefit of others. Valdosta State University recently found that the total cost of the books donated by Mr. Mobley to the VSU library added up to more than \$750,000 over the years. To show their immense appreciation, VSU established The Bill Mobley Memorial Library Fund in Valdosta, Georgia.

On a personal level, Mr. Mobley was constantly seeking ways to make knowledge more accessible. He promoted a love of reading among his friends and family, concentrating on