

he was an inspiration to those fortunate enough to be near him. Through years of training and perhaps more importantly years of experience, he understood the law inside and out, both arguing cases in the courts and writing laws as a state legislator. When he served in the North Carolina House of Representatives from 1966–1974 he helped overhaul mental health laws, removed racial references in law, and championed the rights of the handicapped. He truly was a voice for those without a voice themselves.

As an expert trial lawyer, Howard started his own law firm headquartered in his hometown of Raleigh in 1960. He was a force to be reckoned with in the courtroom and colleagues will attest that he was a formidable foe. He pursued justice for its own sake and was a guardian of our nation's sacred individual liberties. His knowledge of the law was vast, and his courtroom success eventually led him to become the President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America from 1996–1997.

In addition to serving the people as a state legislator and attorney, he was also extremely dedicated to his alma mater, Wake Forest. During his lifetime Howard served as the President of the Wake Forest University Law Alumni Association and chairperson of the law school's Board of Visitors. As in all of his endeavors, Howard's impact on Wake Forest was substantial, and he was recognized in 2002 with the Wake Forest University Distinguished Alumni Award.

Friends and family will remember a man who brightened the outlook of everyone around him and had an enormous passion for life. I will remember him as an excellent listener and encouraging friend. Howard was the kind of man you could count on to listen when no one else would. His zeal for life, compassion for others, and dedication to service made him a role model to all of us and I am proud to have counted him as a friend.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring the life and work of Howard Twiggs who is survived by his former wife, Betty, and four daughters: Elizabeth Johnson, Mary Catherine Twiggs-Valverde, Jennifer Twiggs-Bilich, and Ashley Twiggs.

AMERICA SAVES WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1082, "Supporting the goals and ideals of the fourth annual America Saves Week" and for other purposes, introduced by my distinguished colleague from Texas, Representative JOHNSON.

"America Saves Week" was established 9 years ago as an annual nationwide campaign that encourages consumers, especially those in lower-income households, to increase their financial literacy, enroll as American Savers, and establish a personal savings goal in an effort to build personal wealth and enhance financial security.

During the 9 years "America Saves Week" has been in existence, over 2,000 local, state, and national organizations, including government agencies, financial institutions, and non-

profits, have motivated more than 245,000 people to enroll as American Savers through events such as financial literacy classes, financial fairs, free tax preparation assistance programs, and deposit campaigns. Encouraging automatic and habitual savings was a primary focus for the 2010 America Saves Week that began on February 21, 2010 and concluded on February 28, 2010.

The primary focus of "America Saves Week" is reflected in the work of Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, America Saves, and the American Savings Education Council's Choose to Save Campaign. Financial security is one of the most important issues for most Americans, whether it involves saving for a college education, an unforeseen emergency, a house, a new vehicle, or even retirement. Personal savings as a percentage of disposable income has risen from 1.2 percent in the first quarter of 2008 to 4.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The Employment Benefit Research Institute stated that the percentage of workers very confident about having enough money for a comfortable retirement fell to 13 percent in 2009, down from 18 percent in 2008, and more workers expect to work longer to supplement their income in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, encouraging Americans to save has become even more important. Older Americans are more likely to live within 200 percent of poverty than any other age group, and more than 60 percent of the elderly population relies on Social Security for over three-fourths of their annual income, according to the 2009 Employee Benefit Research Institute's Databook and the 2009 Social Security Administration Report. The 2007 Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances findings show that the average savings of retirees remains at \$50,000 and recent financial instability has diminished those funds. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Consumer Federation of America for managing the program, and to every local, state, and national organization, including government agencies, financial institutions, and non-profits, that have promoted and supported the goals and ideals of the "America Saves Week," and for taking the time to educate Americans about the importance and impact of financial literacy.

Last year, I sponsored a bill during the 111th Congress (H. Res. 1325 that was referred to the Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning, and Competitiveness) that would have required colleges and universities to provide at least 4 hours of financial counseling to students. Student loan borrowers would have received lessons on how to invest, budget, and manage debt, including credit cards and student loans. I personally felt this was important because many lack sufficient knowledge about financial markets, and I believe that we have a responsibility to equip our young people with the necessary tools.

H. RES. 252, AFFIRMATION OF THE UNITED STATES RECORD ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Mr. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a topic of deep personal significance. Today the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H. Res. 252, the Affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide Resolution. The next step is for the full House of Representatives to consider this resolution and finally place our country on the right side of history.

To all Americans and Armenian-Americans such as myself, this matter is not a historical exercise. It is about truth and justice. It is about acknowledging that a genocide which has long been documented and discussed took place . . . the first genocide of the 20th Century.

The time for avoiding the truth of the Armenian Genocide has passed. More than 90 years after the fact, no one can seriously question whether the systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians was genocide. It's a fact.

To those who say that this is an inopportune time, an inconvenient time to acknowledge it, I quote my dear friend, the late Senator Edward Kennedy, "facts are stubborn things." They don't yield to convenience nor wait for opportunity.

The United States was a leader in the relief effort for the Genocide's victims in the 1920s, extending help to people like my mother who fled the massacres. Those of us who have lived with this tragedy in our families and our communities see today the disturbing similarities taking place around the world in the bleak landscapes of Darfur and the Nineveh Plains region of Iraq. If we're serious when we say "never again," we must be honest about history.

Genocide is the most barbaric and criminal act mankind can commit. Our condemnation today must be full-throated and unambiguous. Thank you Chairman BERMAN and Representative SCHIFF for having the courage to introduce this measure and pass it out of committee. Please join me in voting "yes" on this resolution when it reaches the House Floor.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 812—to honor and recognize the significant contributions of the Military Working Dog, MWD, Program to the United States Armed Services in support of national security.

Throughout the histories of warfare, from the days of the Egyptians, the Greeks and the Persians and the conquests of the Roman Empire to the United Nation's Police Action in

Korea, the war in Vietnam, the Gulf Wars, and more recently during the Overseas Contingency Operations, dogs have undergone active service at the sides of their masters, they have played the role of hero, by showing bravery under fire, saving lives (often by sacrificing their own), and bringing comfort to the injured and infirmed.

The call of modern warfare, as the Gulf Wars and later conflicts have demonstrated, exemplifies our use of the most sophisticated, technologically advanced equipment that the United States could procure to bring swift and decisive victory for a just cause. To this end, the U.S. had in the past expended every available resource to meet the ultimate goal while protecting the lives and resources of those fighting for it. Although the face of war has changed, some fundamental tools and weapons used in combat have not.

Canines or War Dogs were used in warfare throughout history supporting combat operations. Long before the invention of gunpowder, dogs were gathered in columns; many of them clad in armor and spiked collars by the military forces of the Roman Empire. One of the first uses of canines in the United States Armed Services was during the bleakest time in this country's history, the Civil War, where dogs were used as messengers, guards and as mascots.

Noting the overall contribution to the military forces' effectiveness the United States Armed Service made the canine force a formal part of the its military structure with the inception of the first War Dog Reception and Training Center established at Front Royal, Virginia in August of 1942. The completion of this center allowed for the training of 200 men and 500 dogs. But the enormous influx of dogs pushed these numbers up to 400 men and 900 dogs by June of 1943.

Within a year the Armed Forces had procured up 11,000 War Dogs to serve in a variety of capacities—Sentry Dogs, trained to assist in guard duty at arsenals, ammunition dumps, ration depots, and water works; Attack Dogs, early in the canine program these dogs were limited in production but were invaluable in beach patrols or in any situation where trespassers might be at a distance from the sentry; Tactical Dogs, used in combat situations; and Silent Scout Dogs, trained as tactical dogs to give silent warning to their handlers of the presence of enemy troops.

Additionally, there were also Messenger Dogs, trained to deliver messages on the battlefield as they were swift, sure of foot and could find their way in any type of weather. Casualty Dogs were trained to aid the medical corps in finding wounded soldiers on the battlefield and finding injured individuals in debris caused by bombings. The Sledge Dogs were particularly skilled in finding downed Airmen, Soldiers and marines in snowbound regions inaccessible by normal means. Then there were the Pack Dogs, trained to transport loads of up to 40 pounds. They would be able to work with field units in carrying small machine guns, ammunition and food.

During the Gulf War, at least 150 highly trained German Shepherds were used by the United States Armed Services to guard and protect their troops, supplies and aircraft.

Military Working Dog, MWD, teams—dogs and handlers—perform a function vital for force protection. An estimated 2,300 working dogs were serving within the U.S. Department

of Defense as late as 2004. These teams, from every military service, are deployed worldwide to support the war on terror, helping to safeguard military bases and activities and to detect bombs and other explosives before they inflict harm.

The MWD teams are an integral part of the U.S. mission in Iraq and Afghanistan, devoting many hours to carrying out all the traditional roles of military dogs. Guard duty is a basic MWD function, but their additional responsibilities include base security, individual and crowd control, tracking, and explosive and narcotic detection. Most dogs are dual-purpose trained: police dogs first, then with a specialty skill such as bomb detection.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, several hundred Military Working Dogs perform their duties in the same hazardous environment as their handlers and other soldiers. They take on small arms fire, are bombed, suffer through the heat and sandstorms and a list of other dangers. However, they serve next to their handlers and soldiers without wavering.

These warrior canines are truly an American treasure and after their patriotic service has expired and they are eventually retired we should all support their immediate adoption into a caring home.

Again, I am an avid supporter of our military in all capacities including the Military Working Dog Program. These highly trained canines and their handlers are on the front lines of our national security and should be commended for years of dedicated and courageous service.

PERMITTING USE OF CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR VICTIMS OF HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 236, to permit the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

It has been over 60 years since the Holocaust. For many of the survivors, the Holocaust remains an everyday reality. Year-round the Jewish people persistently teach and inform others about the horrors of the Holocaust. The Days of Remembrance is one day in the year when special effort is made to remember those that endured, struggled and died. Six million Jews were murdered and many families were completely devastated.

There are many ways in which this day is observed. Generally the Day of Remembrance, or Yom Hashoah, has been observed with candle lighting, speakers, poems, prayers, and singing. Six candles are lighted to represent the six million individuals who lost their lives and Holocaust survivors speak about their experiences or share in the readings.

This Congress established the Days of Remembrance as our nation's annual commemoration of the Holocaust. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is a lasting living memorial to the victims and Congress has au-

thorized that the museum will take the lead in commemorating the Days of Remembrance and also to encourage and sponsor suitable ceremonies throughout the United States.

This concurrent resolution is an affirmation of our continued support as we stand together with our Jewish brothers and sisters. Also, it allows for the Holocaust Memorial Museum to continue the annual commencement of the Days of Remembrance by initiating the week, which starts April 11, this year, with a memorial service in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda. The Holocaust Memorial Museum has been organizing and leading the national Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Rotunda since 1982; and it is my desire to maintain this tradition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 5, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I was not present during rollcall vote No. 90 on March 4, 2010 because I had to return to California for important business. Had I been present, I would have voted: on rollcall vote No. 90, I would have voted "yes."

NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today in support of H. Res. 1097, "Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week."

Let me begin by thanking my colleague Rep. DANIEL LIPINSKI for introducing this resolution, as it is important that we acknowledge and recognize the great influence and importance engineers have had over the last century in the development of our nation.

It is also important that we recognize that Engineers and those involved in emerging research and science hold the keys to the future development of our great nation. That is why it is necessary that we continue to invest not only in the education of our children in the areas of math and science but also in engineering programs at the high school, university and graduate school levels. By increasing our collective body of knowledge in these areas we will help ensure that the United States will continue to grow, develop and create new opportunities and ideas for future generations and maintain our competitive edge globally.

Engineers have played a major role in my district in Houston, Texas. Had it not been for the many fine Texas engineers, scientists and construction workers, many of the large projects that directly benefit Houston and its citizens would not exist today.

One of the largest of such projects is the Port of Houston, which sees over 212 million tons of cargo pass through its gates every year. The Port of Houston and the economic activity generated by the port are also attributable to nearly 785,000 jobs in the State of