

this legislation—or at least an amended version of this legislation.

I thank these 12 or 13 colleagues for their patience, their eloquence, their determination, and their conviction. As I get ready to leave this Chamber in the coming months, I will leave with a high degree of confidence that this Chamber will be in good hands. After listening tonight to your words, advice, counsel, and determination, it is with a sense of optimism that we will get this bill done. I am confident of that as I stand before you this evening.

With that, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join the Illinois chapter of the American Association of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, AAIDD, in recognizing the recipients of the Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2010. These individuals are being honored for their outstanding efforts to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities in Illinois.

These recipients have displayed a strong sense of humanity and professionalism in their work with persons with disabilities. Their efforts have inspired the lives of those for whom they care, and they are an inspiration to me as well. They have set a fine example of community service for all Americans to follow.

These honorees spend more than 50 percent of their time at work in direct, personal involvement with their clients. They are not primarily managers or supervisors. They are direct service workers at the forefront of America's effort to care for people with special needs. They do their work every day with little public recognition, providing valued care and assistance that is unknown except to those with whom they work.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize the Illinois recipients of AAIDD's Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2010: Gloria Corral, Stacy Howard, Renee Kaye, Mufutau Afolabi, Mary Halloran, Renae Donohoo, Pauline Curran, Denise Smith, Zeola Alston, and Jesse Kelinschmidt.

I know my fellow Senators will join me in congratulating the winners of the Illinois Direct Support Professional Award 2010. I applaud their dedication and thank them for their service.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIAL AGENT JAMES HAROLD SIZEMORE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to thank Special Agent James Harold Sizemore for his many years of service to the people of Kentucky. For nearly three decades, he has worked in the dangerous field of law enforcement, risking his own well-being on behalf of his neighbors, and for that an entire State is grateful.

Harold was born and raised in Clay County, where his father was the sheriff. Harold followed in his father's footsteps and was elected sheriff of Clay County in 1982. He took a hard stand against illegal marijuana cultivation, a problem in that area, and conducted several successful eradication missions.

I first met Harold in 1989 when he was still serving as sheriff, and he described to me the devastating effect marijuana cultivation was having in Clay County. After that and right up to today I have given my full support to the Governor's Marijuana Strike Force, which coordinates local, State, and Federal law enforcement to combat the drug problem in Kentucky. This task force has been recognized by the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy for 5 consecutive years.

In 1990, Harold became a Federal law-enforcement officer with the U.S. Forest Service, a job he held for 20 years. In that capacity, he has conducted over 700 flight hours of surveillance and detection for marijuana eradication missions in Kentucky in support of State, local, and Federal task forces. His dedication and tireless efforts resulted in the eradication of over 100,000 marijuana plants, with a street value estimated at \$600 million, many in small plots located in remote terrain to avoid detection.

In addition to these flight hours, Harold also participated in several missions in support of high-risk felony search and arrest warrants executed by State and Federal agencies. His professionalism and expertise, coupled with intimate knowledge of the local area, played a significant role in these missions being accomplished safely.

Harold provided key information in over 20 felony investigations, resulting in several Federal indictments and arrests. His personal knowledge of the Clay County area of the Daniel Boone National Forest played a decisive role in the identification of several suspects caught on surveillance, which was initiated as a result of Harold's aerial reconnaissance.

Throughout his career as a Federal law-enforcement officer, Harold's primary responsibility has been that of marijuana eradication officer for the Daniel Boone National Forest—and from that responsibility he has never wavered. In 2008, he was recognized by the U.S. Forest Service for a career of exceptionally meritorious service.

The U.S. Forest Service sometimes works with the Kentucky National Guard in their drug-control efforts, and

Harold's dedication was clear to the soldiers he worked alongside. "Harold is one of the driving forces behind the success of the Kentucky National Guard's efforts in support of these missions," says LTC Karlas Owens.

"When observing marijuana in a helicopter, Harold possessed the patience of Job while maneuvering his ground element over difficult terrain . . . he guided officers cross-country as they walked to distant marijuana plots in the Daniel Boone National Forest and ensured they made a safe return. . . . Harold not only gives 110 percent to the [U.S.] Forest Service, but always supports the Kentucky National Guard and ensures we are successful as well."

Lieutenant Colonel Owens also has these words for Harold, after working alongside him for 20 years on these dangerous but vital missions: "For your teachings and friendship, I thank you, Sir."

A countless number of Kentuckians owe their thanks to Harold as well. Upon his retirement, I know my colleagues in the U.S. Senate join me in thanking Special Agent James Harold Sizemore for his decades of service. The work he has done for so many years has bequeathed to all of us a safer, stronger Kentucky.

ARMENIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, at this time every year, we observe Armenian Remembrance Day, when we commemorate the horrific and tragic events that constitute the Armenian Genocide. We also honor those who suffered persecution and lost their lives, and recognize those who survived this dark period in human history.

On April 24, 1915, Turkish Ottoman authorities began rounding up and murdering more than 5,000 Armenians, including civic leaders, intellectuals, writers, priests, scientists, and doctors. This systematic campaign of deportation, expropriation, starvation, and other atrocities continued until 1923, resulting in the deaths of nearly 1.5 million Armenians. As U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, said at the time, "When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact. . . . I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this."

The Armenian Day of Remembrance serves to remind us all of how important it is that we look unflinchingly at the atrocities that mankind is capable of, sustained by the ability of our human spirit to overcome such tragedy. The horrific events we remember today constituted the first genocide of the 20th century. But it was soon followed by the Holocaust, where Hitler said he could pursue it and inflict it on humanity since "Who, after all, speaks

today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Recent history in Rwanda, Congo, Darfur and elsewhere reminds us that genocides and mass atrocities remain with us to this day. And as President Obama has said, "bearing witness is not the end of our obligation—it's just the beginning." He has called for our committing ourselves "to resisting injustice and intolerance and indifference in whatever forms they may take."

Some have sought to deny that the atrocities committed against the Armenian people occurred. But as the Genocide Prevention Task Force, chaired by former Secretary of State Albright and former Secretary of Defense William Cohen, stated, it is "fundamental to address the legacy of past abuses." This is necessary, the task force emphasizes, for the sake of justice, to remove the cause of retribution, and to end the discounting of the costs of violence. Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel has said that the denial of genocide constitutes a "double killing," for it seeks to rewrite history by absolving the perpetrators of violence while ignoring the suffering of the victims.

We need to be clear that marking this Armenian Day of Remembrance is not an indictment of the Republic of Turkey. It occurred before the Republic of Turkey came into existence. With the signing of accords last October, Turkey and Armenia have taken a major step forward in the process of normalizing relations, opening their common border which has been closed for more than a decade and a half, and removing barriers to trade. Ratification of those accords will be important for continuing this process of reconciliation and hopefully will be completed promptly. All friends of Armenia and Turkey should hope that these two nations and peoples can jointly face their shared history and move forward together as fellow members of the community of nations.

In speaking to a joint session of Congress last November, German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke eloquently about the importance of tearing down walls, not only between neighbors but also the "wall in people's minds that make it difficult time and again to understand one another in this world of ours. This is why the ability to show tolerance is so important." She added, "Tolerance means showing respect for other people's history, traditions, religion and cultural identity."

So I say to my colleagues that one way we can honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenian victims of the tragic events of 1915-1923 is by recognizing that we have an obligation to do all we can to stop mass atrocities from occurring, to aid the survivors of such tragedies, and to promote justice, tolerance, and understanding.

RECOGNIZING THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, on its 75th anniversary.

Even though we are an urban nation, we are still an agricultural land. Nearly 70 percent of the United States, exclusive of Alaska, is held in private ownership by millions of individuals. Fifty percent of the United States—907 million acres—is cropland, pastureland, and rangeland owned and managed by farmers and ranchers and their families.

In the early 1900s, President Roosevelt and other conservationists like John Muir and Gifford Pinchot had the foresight to set aside America's special places as national parks and forests, seashores, and wilderness areas. America's public land became a showcase for some of the most dramatic and beautiful landscapes on the North American continent.

But others also recognized the importance of America's private land to the health of the Nation. It took the seriousness of the Dust Bowl for this message to be accepted. Rooted in our national experience with devastating soil erosion of that time, the conservation movement began with the purpose of keeping productive topsoil—and a productive agriculture—in place.

To lead conservation efforts at the Federal level, Congress created the Soil Conservation Service, SCS, within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA, in 1935. SCS was renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, in 1994. This was the beginning of the Nation's historic commitment to a conservation partnership with farmers and ranchers.

At the same time, the Nation also adopted a remarkable Federal, State, and local partnership for delivering conservation assistance to farmers and ranchers. The concept was that NRCS would deliver technical and financial assistance for conservation, while State governments and local conservation districts would connect with individual landowners and set local priorities.

From the beginning, this was a cooperative approach, drawing on many sources for technical knowledge, financial assistance, and broad-based educational programs for natural resources conservation and management. This partnership remains the pre-eminent model for intergovernmental cooperation today and is admired around the world.

In the 1980s, NRCS's programs began to change as Congress began to increase incentives for farmers and ranchers to practice good conservation. During the 1990s, Congress accelerated the investment in conservation by creating additional programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP, to share the cost of enhancing natural resources on farms, ranches and private forestland.

Congress increased this investment in the 2002 and 2008 farm bills and is expected to continue to support conservation well into the future. However, there are challenges in conservation today. One challenge is how to sustain the ability of NRCS to provide technical, scientifically sound advice and assistance in a time of tight budgets and increased demands. Another challenge is how to maintain the highly successful conservation partnership that works with farmers and ranchers as individuals to address their specific conservation concerns.

W.C. Lowdermilk, the Assistant Chief of the Soil Conservation Service in the 1930s said, "In a very real sense the land does not lie; it bears a record of what men write on it. In a larger sense, a Nation writes its record on the land. This record is easy to read by those who understand the simple language of the land." Conservation leads to prosperous, healthy societies and stable, self-sufficient countries. It sustains the agricultural productivity that allows for division of labor and the growth and longevity of a society.

Careful land stewardship through terracing, crop rotation and other soil conservation measures enables societies to flourish. However, neglect of the land, manifested as soil erosion, deforestation, and overgrazing, helps to topple empires and destroy entire civilizations.

These lessons of history, including our own with the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, are ones we should not forget. America's future is tied to how we treat our land. Today, the Nation's farmers and ranchers deliver safe, reliable, high quality food, feed, and fiber to the Nation and to the world, but also much more. Through their careful stewardship, farmers, ranchers, and private forest landowners also deliver clean water, productive wildlife habitat, and healthy landscapes.

Today, we thank all who have made this happen through their service to our country as part of the NRCS. Congratulations on your 75th anniversary.

MIDDLEBURY INTERACTIVE LANGUAGES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the New York Times article, "Middlebury to Develop Online Language Venture," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 13, 2010]
MIDDLEBURY TO DEVELOP ONLINE LANGUAGE VENTURE
(By Tamar Lewin)

Middlebury College, a small Vermont college known for its rigorous foreign-language programs, is forming a venture with a commercial entity to develop online language programs for pre-college students. The college plans to invest \$4 million for a 40 percent stake in what will become Middlebury Interactive Languages.