

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.

The partnership, with the technology-based education company K12 Inc., will allow Middlebury to achieve two goals, said Ronald D. Liebowitz, the president of the college: It will help more American students learn foreign languages, an area in which they lag far behind Europeans; and it will give Middlebury another source of revenue.

"We wanted to do something about the fact that not enough American students are learning other languages, and it's harder for students if they don't learn language until college," Mr. Liebowitz said. "It is also my belief, and I think our board's belief, that finding potential new sources of revenue is not a bad thing. By doing what we're doing with this venture, we hope to take some stress off our three traditional sources of revenue—fees, endowment and donations."

Middlebury, a 2,400-student liberal-arts college with an endowment of more than \$800 million, has offered summer immersion language classes for almost a century, and now teaches 10 languages in those programs at its campus and, as of last year, some at Mills College in Oakland, Calif.

Partnerships between universities and commercial entities have become increasingly common in recent years, but the Middlebury venture is unusual in that it ties the college's academic reputation in foreign languages to a third-party vendor. Moving into such an uncharted area carries risks, education experts said.

"These partnerships are starting as ways for colleges, which may feel themselves cash-strapped, to make some bucks," said Philip G. Altbach, the Monan professor of higher education at Boston College. "I have problems with the whole thing, particularly for a place like Middlebury, which has a reputation as one of the best liberal-arts colleges in the country, and for doing a very good job with languages. They should protect that brand. They are not known for online programs, and to jump in to the deep end of the swimming pool, with a for-profit, is in my view dangerous."

Mr. Liebowitz said that although the move carried risks, so, too, does inaction. "The way I see it, to retain our leadership in the teaching of foreign language, we have to evolve with the times," he said. "And where things are going, in terms of access and education, is online."

In 2008, Middlebury joined with the Monterey Institute of International Studies, a California graduate school, to start the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy, an intensive language-immersion summer program for students in grades 8 through 12. That program, which will expand to new sites in the new venture, offers four-week residential sessions at Green Mountain College in Vermont, Oberlin College in Ohio, Pomona College in California, and Bard College at Simon's Rock in Massachusetts.

Middlebury has also expanded its academic-year study-abroad sites, the C. V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad, to 35 cities across 14 countries. Almost half the students at those sites now come from other colleges.

A hallmark of Middlebury's language schools has been a formal pledge to speak only the language of study during the session.

Of course, online programs cannot replicate the immersion experience.

The online expertise for the venture will come from K12, a publicly traded company based in Herndon, Va. In partnership with charter schools and school districts, K12 operates online public-school programs in 25 states and Washington. K12 also operates the K12 International Academy, an accredited, diploma-granting online private school serving students in more than 40 countries.

"We plan to make the courses available to individual kids, home-school kids, charter virtual schools, and teachers who might want them as supplements," Mr. Liebowitz said. "I think the price point will be somewhere in the vicinity of \$100."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DENNISON

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize an outstanding leader from my home State of Montana as he embarks on a new adventure in his life. Since 1990 George Dennison has served as the president of the University of Montana; he is now the longest serving president in the history of the institution. This summer on August 15, 20 years to the day after he began his duties at UM, President Dennison is retiring. I would like to speak today about some of George's achievements and all he has done to better higher education in Montana.

A historian by training, George earned a bachelor's degree with highest honors from the University of Montana in 1962, as well as his master's degree in 1963. After earning his Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington, George went on to serve as a professor and administrator for universities in Arkansas, Washington, and 18 years at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. George eventually returned to Missoula from Kalamazoo, MI, where he served as provost and vice president for academic affairs for Western Michigan University, to become president of the University of Montana in 1990.

I have enjoyed working with George during his tenure as president of the university. We share a strong desire to ensure that Montana's students have access to a high-quality, world class education that prepares them for the careers of the future and to be active members in their communities.

The University of Montana has seen tremendous growth under President Dennison's leadership. Over the past two decades, student enrollment has jumped from 10,000 to over 15,000. In the 20 years that George has served as president, more students have graduated from UM than did in the entire previous century. The number of doctorates awarded has increased from 15 to 75 annually. External research funding has expanded from \$7 million in 1990 to over \$170 million in 2010. The athletic programs at UM have competed well on a national level and have created a great sense of school and community spirit as the Griz have a faithful following throughout Big Sky country.

Like President Dennison, I strongly believe that an understanding of the world in which we live is essential to a well-rounded education. Under George's leadership, the university has developed strong international and exchange programs. Building on the work done by our dear friend Mike Mans-

field, the former Senate majority leader and Ambassador to Japan, UM has relationships with universities across Asia. These partnerships help strengthen our educational, diplomatic, and economic ties with our friends across the Pacific and carry on the legacy and good work of Mike and Maureen Mansfield.

One initiative on which I have been particularly proud to work with President Dennison is the educational and cultural exchange program that the university recently started with Vietnam. I invited the Vietnamese Ambassador to the U.S. to visit Missoula in 2008 to meet with President Dennison about the exchange. President Dennison then traveled to Vietnam last year to meet with several universities and subsequently signed memoranda of understanding with Can Tho University and Vietnamese National University to establish student and faculty exchanges. It is important that we provide our students, the leaders of tomorrow, with the knowledge they will need to thrive in our increasingly global society—this exchange program does just that.

George has received numerous awards and recognition during his time at UM including the Governor's Humanities Award in 2009, the Montana Excellence in Leadership Award in 2007, and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education Region VIII Leadership Award in 1999. President Dennison has received honorary doctorates from universities in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. During his career, George has had a number of historical works published. His 1976 book, "The Dorr War: Republicanism on Trial, 1831-1861," was runner-up in the Frederick Jackson Turner Award Competition. Upon retiring as president, George plans to spend the first years of his retirement writing a history of the University of Montana.

I would like to once again thank President Dennison for all his hard work and commend him for his leadership over the years. I wish him and Jane all the best as they start a new chapter in their life.●

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR E. KATZ

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I wish to commend the life's work of a good man and a great American, Arthur E. Katz.

On Friday, April 23, Arthur was inducted into the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's Wall of Gallantry for his service to our Nation.

In 1963, Arthur graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, where soon afterward, he headed to Vietnam.

He served as commanding officer of USCGC *Point Cypress* from December 1965 to September 1966.

For his leadership and bravery during this tour of duty, Arthur was awarded a Bronze Star Medal for Valor.

Following his service in the Coast Guard, he went on to establish a successful business in Dunwoody, GA.