

125th anniversary of the expulsion of Chinese residents from the State of Washington.

Thousands of Chinese immigrants were forced to leave their homes and businesses in the greater Seattle area during the fall of 1885 and winter of 1886.

The expulsion of Chinese workers in Washington State stemmed from the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, a measure passed in Congress at the request of labor unions because of competition from Chinese laborers. A few years after the expulsion, Chinese immigrants were welcomed back, and they helped rebuild the city after the Great Seattle Fire of 1889.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project reminds us of the critical role immigrants have played in the development of our community, city, state and country. A deeper understanding of our past gives us a strong context for understanding immigration issues as we move forward.

The Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project also helps us to better understand the vital role that Chinese immigrants, as well as immigrants from other countries, play in Washington State. This results in our communities being more educated and less inclined to allow fear and intolerance to go unquestioned.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the organizers of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project for their time, talent and contributions. Thanks to the vision and leadership of Bettie Sing Luke, Ron Chew, Maxine Chan, Edward Echtle, Tim Greyhavens, Theresa Pan Hosley, Kathy Hsieh, Brian Lock, Debbie Louie, Chieko Phillips, Cynthia Kan Rekdal and Connie So, the awareness and appreciation of Chinese American history has greatly risen in our community.

As Seattle commemorates the 125th anniversary of the Chinese expulsion, it is important for us to remember that our country's diverse population has been, and will continue to be, a key factor in growing our economy and creating jobs. The efforts of the Chinese Expulsion Remembrance Project have touched so many of us, and they have shown that education is an invaluable asset to the Seattle community.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES

HON. NAN A.S. HAYWORTH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Ms. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, our country lost its last American Doughboy on Sunday. Frank Buckles was our last living connection to an era in which a 16-year-old could lie about his age in order to join his nation's army to fight the "Great War." It would probably be impossible for a 16-year-old to enlist today without being discovered, but there are many young Americans that share Mr. Buckles' spirit of patriotism.

Although we have lost this last Doughboy, we have not lost the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice in the name of country that Frank Buckles and so many of his comrades embodied. That spirit is present all across Amer-

ica, including in my district, the 19th district of New York, where we are the home of 4,400 cadets at the United States Military Academy. These young men and women have also dedicated service to our country before turning 18. Their devotion to duty, honor and country continues a great tradition of military service and embody the life Frank Buckles and the millions of service men and women they follow.

I hope that Mr. Buckles' legacy continues to serve as an inspiration for future generations of Americans, who continue to fight for our protection and freedom. May God bless America and our men and women in uniform.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SHARON SCOTT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Sharon Scott, who passed away on February 24, 2011. Sharon was a tremendous public servant and valued member of our community, and I am honored to recognize her life of dedication and service.

Mrs. Scott has been a long-time member of our Northwest Florida family. As a former council member for the town of Century, Florida, she served with both honor and distinction. Century, a small town in Escambia County with a population of less than 2,000, is well-known for its active politics and citizens. The town is full of local pride, exemplified by Sharon, who always let others know she was from Century and not from its bigger-city neighbor, Pensacola. Sharon was the consummate small-city council member, responding to those she represented as if they were an extension of her own family with a sense of humility required of those who serve their community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize the life of Sharon Scott of Century, Florida. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers for her entire family. She will be truly missed by all of us.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the legislation before us, which will extend funding for our federal transportation programs through the end of this fiscal year in September.

This will be the seventh short-term extension we have passed—hopefully this will be the last. I commend Chairmen MICA and DUNCAN, and Ranking Members RAHALL and DEFAZIO, for their work on crafting this measure, and look forward to working with each of them as the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee continues its work on a long-term surface transportation bill.

Madam Speaker, this so-called "clean extension" of our nation's transportation programs is vitally important for the travelling public. Not only does it continue federal construction projects that we know create jobs—it also extends programs that keep our families safe on the road.

This extension gives our states and communities certainty, at least until the end of this fiscal year, with regard to critical infrastructure projects. It will also provide a level of stability for those working to improve our roads and bridges and build new transit and commercial systems—and the families that are dependent on their income.

While members of both sides of the aisle have spoken of the importance of infrastructure, to date, we have not been able to come up with a forward-looking transportation bill. We all should share a sense of urgency about getting this done. Meanwhile, without continuing the authority for the programs under this bill, more than \$800 million in highway reimbursements and transit grants to states and urban areas would not be dispersed. This inaction would endanger more than 28,000 jobs nationwide.

And so, for the second time this week, we have averted catastrophe—which begs the question, is this how we will continue on for the next two years?

This is a legitimate question, one which was raised at the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' annual meeting earlier today. These are the people who have to figure out how to complete long-term projects—and plan new ones—while we lurch forward in short increments. They live in a world where they have to think in months and years, not weeks or news cycles.

In response to a question about getting a long-term bill done, all Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood could say was: "If we don't get something significant done this year I think it will be very difficult." I'd say that is an understatement.

Certainly, the irresponsible, indiscriminate, and short-sighted 24 percent cut to transportation funding contained in H.R. 1 did not inspire a great confidence. We need to do better.

Every community has transportation needs for which federal help is vital. For example, in Hawaii, we are using federal funds to expand the capacity of our ports, and to build new rail transit for our citizens. These are projects that are putting people to work now, and will pay significant dividends for our economy for years to come. These projects will help to connect people with businesses, and businesses with workers. They will help to get cars off our streets, and expand the amount of commerce that can move in and out of our islands.

Again, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will now come together on a long-term transportation bill. This is our opportunity to show that we can do something that will be a game-changer for our economy in the 21st century. Over the few months that this bill gives us, we can spend our time wisely debating how best to direct federal dollars to help our states and cities. I hope that this is a bipartisan effort, and look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee to make this happen.

CONGRATULATING THE DILLARD
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKET-
BALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the girls' basketball team of Dillard High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Led by Coach Marcia Pinder, whose 776–171 career record is top among all Florida basketball coaches, male or female, the Panthers crowned a 22–7 season by winning the Florida state championship for the second consecutive year. Under Coach Pinder's tutelage, the Dillard girls have consistently been recognized for being among the best at their sport, having won six titles overall.

In this year's title game, the Panthers led most of the way and, with their key rebounds and clutch free throws, the game, which went to overtime, and the title ultimately belonged to Dillard.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the Lady Panthers and Coach Pinder, who have once again reached the pinnacle of success in their sport, and I am glad that they represent my district. They are all fine sportswomen and people of whom we can all be very proud. It is my distinguished honor to recognize their achievements.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAS-
SACRE OF ARMENIAN CIVILIANS
IN AZERBAIJAN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I speak today in solemn remembrance of a dark chapter in modern history. This past weekend marked the 23rd anniversary of the massacre of Armenian civilians in Azerbaijan. On the evening of February 27, 1988, a three-day rampage against Armenian civilians living in Sumgait, in Soviet Azerbaijan, began.

Armenian civilians were maimed, raped, beaten, and burned alive at the hands of rioters. International media outlets reported that Armenians were "hunted" down and killed in their homes.

The calls for help for those innocent Armenians were ignored by the local police, and the victims' fate was left to those who ruthlessly and senselessly ended their lives.

The official figure from Soviet authorities, who had prohibited journalists from entering the area, was just over 30 people dead and over 200 injured. However, many believe that in fact hundreds were murdered.

Sadly, Sumgait was not the end to the tragedies. Anti-Armenian pogroms followed in Kirovabad on November 21, 1988 and in Baku on January 13, 1990. During the Nagorno-Karabakh War of 1988 to 1994, Armenian civilian population centers were indiscriminately attacked.

If we hope to stop future massacres, and conflicts, we need to acknowledge those hor-

rific acts of the past, make sure they do not happen again, and make sure that we do not have renewed war between Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh. That is why I would like to commemorate the victims of the Sumgait massacre.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, February 18, 2011, had I voted, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 93.

Additionally, on February 16, 2011, it was my intention to vote "yes" on rollcall No. 57.

WE HAVE LOST A FRIEND

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because of a tragic event—the March 2 assassination of Pakistan's Federal Minister for Minority Affairs Shahbaz Bhatti, a heroic man of faith whose courageous and outspoken leadership against his nation's draconian blasphemy law made him a prime target of extremist Islamist elements in his country.

Bhatti was the only Christian member of the Pakistani cabinet.

We have lost a friend and an ally and our prayers are with Bhatti's family and those in Pakistan who mourn his loss and who stood with him in his fight against injustice and intolerance. Bhatti devoted his life to defending the most vulnerable—he is literally a modern day martyr.

Among those whose causes he championed were Asia Bibi, a young Christian mother of five, who was sentenced to death under Pakistan's blasphemy law. Only after international intervention was her execution delayed. Her fate, however, remains unclear.

Pakistan's blasphemy laws are often used to victimize both religious minorities and Muslims. In fact, Punjab's influential governor, Salman Taseer was shot and killed by his own bodyguard who reportedly told police, "that he killed Mr. Taseer because of the governor's opposition to Pakistan's blasphemy law."

With Bhatti's life tragically cut short, a critical moderating voice in Pakistan has been lost. And I fear others will be silenced if justice is not brought to bear in Pakistan. Bhatti spoke of the importance of these voices during a recent Washington Post editorial board meeting. I submit for the RECORD a piece by Post editorial page editor, Fred Hiatt, who recalled Bhatti's message, "that millions of Pakistanis remain committed to a vision of a Muslim country living in peace with its neighbors and with non-Muslims within its borders." Hiatt continued, "As it became increasingly dangerous for such people to speak up, they were becoming decreasingly visible. But they are still there, Bhatti told us, and he urged Americans not to forsake or forget them."

This must be our clarion call in the days to come.

I urge the Government of Pakistan to seek justice in this case and to give Bhatti a state funeral, reflective of the import of his life and legacy. Similarly, I urge our own government to send a high-ranking delegation to attend the funeral and to carry Bhatti's torch in continuing to press for the repeal of the blasphemy laws in Pakistan.

I also submit an Associated Press story which references the fact that Bhatti was "aware of the danger he faced, saying in a videotaped message that he had received death threats from al-Qaida and the Taliban." The video was recorded several months before his ultimate assassination and can be viewed at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/mar/02/pakistan-minister-shot-dead-islamabad>.

Bhatti pointedly says he will continue to speak out for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities. In a chilling allusion to future events, he says, "I will die to defend their rights."

Indeed Bhatti's convictions cost him his life. He must not have died in vain.

ANOTHER MODERATE IN PAKISTAN IS
ASSASSINATED
(By Fred Hiatt)

Shahbaz Bhatti, who was assassinated outside his home in Pakistan today, came to visit a few of us at The Post one month ago. He was soft-spoken and matter-of-fact about the dangers he faced—and about his refusal, almost his inability, to trim his sails to lessen those dangers. The risks he faced, as a voice for tolerance in an increasingly intolerant country, were risks that Pakistan faced—and if he and like-minded figures stopped speaking up, what future would the country have?

Bhatti was a Christian in an overwhelmingly Muslim country, a minister in the government in charge of minority affairs, and most of all an unimaginably courageous voice of moderation. He opposed the nation's anti-blasphemy law, which increasingly is being used to silence and oppress. When another moderate leader, Punjab governor Salman Taseer, was killed two months ago, his assassin frighteningly became a hero for many in Pakistan. Bhatti was one of the few public figures willing to forthrightly condemn the murder.

Now Bhatti, too, is gone. There will be investigations, I suppose, into why his police guard was absent when gunmen surrounded his Toyota sedan this morning, despite calls from many (including Americans like Virginia Republican Rep. Frank Wolf) for increased security. There will be tributes and mourning, but they will be muted. Hopefully there will be deep thinking inside the U.S. government about what it can do to better support the forces of moderation.

On that subject, I remember two essential messages from Bhatti's visit. He said Americans maintained too little contact with the part of Pakistani civil society that believes in interfaith tolerance, that sees Islam as a peaceful religion willing to live alongside others. Bhatti himself had organized a network of such people, he told us, but U.S. officials were too busy dealing with the government, army and intelligence agencies to show support or even establish much contact.

His second message was that millions of Pakistanis remain committed to a vision of a Muslim country living in peace with its neighbors and with non-Muslims within its borders. As it became increasingly dangerous for such people to speak up, they were becoming decreasingly visible. But they are still there, Bhatti told us, and he urged Americans not to forsake or forget them.