

REFLECTS ON THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIANGLE FIRE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, from Wisconsin to Washington, we are at a crossroads right now about the kind of America we want to be. At this important moment, it would do us well to reflect on our shared past, when our nation reached a similar crossroads—after the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, one of the worst industrial accidents in American history, which occurred a century ago last month.

I say “accident,” but really there was more at work here. If you do not know the story, the Triangle Fire resulted in the death of 146 garment workers—17 men and 129 women—most of them young immigrant women under the age of 25. In the months before the fire—until they successfully struck for shorter hours and better pay—they had been working 13-hour days, and getting paid 13 cents an hour.

The fire happened in a garment factory that took up the eighth, ninth, and tenth floors of a New York City building, one with poor ventilation and no real safety measures in place. When the fire started, likely due to a cigarette or match, the owners of the Triangle Company were notified by phone and escaped.

But nobody told the workers. And so, when the fire began to rage, these women could not get out. Fire blocked many of the exits, and one of the main stairways had been locked shut by the Triangle Company—the foreman with the key had also left. And so many women tried to escape by jumping to their deaths. Those who did not leap burned.

The Triangle Fire was a nightmare that unfolded before the entire nation. Because of this tragedy, church leaders called for a renewed commitment to the principles of social justice, known as the Social Gospel. And a generation of progressives was moved to reform. Within three years, 36 new state laws passed to regulate fire safety and workplace safety, and New York became a model for the nation.

Because of the Triangle Fire, all of America saw firsthand what happens when women and workers are left without basic protections. And we as a people realized that government has an important role to play in ensuring the life, health, and dignity of workers.

That is why I am concerned about the many attempts by the majority to cut basic protections, or to see the assaults on employees’ rights taking place in states like Wisconsin and Ohio. We know where all of this leads—Our nation has lived it, a century ago.

Before us are two different visions of America. I know which I want to live in, and which I want to strive for.

HONORING THE LIFE OF VIRGINIA BRAUN

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. Dreier. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to Virginia Bradley Braun—

a philanthropist, a civic leader, a proud Californian, and a patriot. She was very active in politics and a long-time friend and supporter of Governor and President Ronald Reagan. It was a privilege to call her a friend as well.

GINIE, as she was known to all, contributed enormously to her adopted home in the greater Los Angeles area. Like me, Ginie grew up a Midwesterner, then came to California at a young age, and quickly called it home.

She and her husband Henry gave generously to the community, supporting a vast array of worthy causes, from education to the arts to children’s health. But Ginie was most generous with her time. She spent a lifetime volunteering for civic organizations, political causes, and charities that helped to improve the lives of those who shared her community.

One of her most dedicated endeavors was her support for Pepperdine University, a tremendous institution that has served Southern California since 1937. Ginie joined the Pepperdine University Board in 1983 and was named to the University’s Board of Regents in 1995. Her legacy lives on in the Henry A. and Virginia B. Braun Center for Public Policy, which was dedicated in 2003. The Braun Center will continue to advance the academic excellence to which Ginie was so devoted.

But Ginie’s greatest generosity to the university was reserved for institutions and programs that did not bear her name. From athletics to arts, Ginie was a very proud supporter of Pepperdine, its facilities, its faculty and its students.

As University President Andrew Benton said, “Ginie radiated life.” Her energy and charisma were irrepressible. She brought them to every one of her life’s endeavors, and inspired those around her with her love of life and generosity of spirit. I know that I am joined by countless others in celebrating the tremendous life of Ginie Braun.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. AND MRS. JOHN AND TINA DOWD

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. Barletta. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. John and Tina Dowd, recipients of the 2011 Volunteers of America Pennsylvania’s Spirit of Youth award.

The Spirit of Youth award is given to those who instill hope and belief in the advancement of all. Their support of the community and of Volunteers of America ranges from helping children to helping those who are young at heart. John and Tina Dowd exemplify these traits, and have used their own lives to help others.

John Dowd grew up in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. He attended Shikellamy High School before studying engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. John is the president of Sundance Vacations, which he grew from one small office in Pocono Lake, Pennsylvania, into a national company that was named one of the Inc 500 fastest-growing companies two years in a row. As he grew his business, he also dedicated himself to giving back to his community. In addition to his work with Volunteers of America, John donates to the Luzerne

Foundation and the Wyoming Valley Children’s Association. His company sponsors local Little League and booster club sports teams, and he participates in many other local and national charitable causes.

Tina Dowd co-founded Sundance Vacations with her husband, John. Tina is a graduate of Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. She has been an integral part of growing the business. In November 2010, Tina accepted the Employer of the Year Award at the seventh annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. In addition to managing and training employees, Tina oversees all of the firm’s communications. John and Tina spend a lot of time with their three daughters, but like her husband, Tina volunteers for many organizations. Tina serves as vice president of an organization serving homeless children and their families in Carbon County—an organization she helped found. She is a member of the Lehigh Area School District Board of Directors, the Community Action Council of Palmerton Area Churches, and the Luzerne Foundation Millennium Circle. She is a past board member of the Northeast Pennsylvania Better Business Bureau.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Dowd have not only grown a business that employs more than 700 people, but they have used their talents to give back to the community they love so much. Their philanthropic efforts and volunteerism have helped so many of our neighbors. John and Tina are extraordinary both as a couple and as individuals. Mr. Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John and Tina Dowd, recipients of this year’s Volunteers of America Pennsylvania’s Spirit of Youth award.

RETIREMENT OF LAUSD SUPERINTENDENT RAMON CORTINES

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. Waxman. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished 55-year career of Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Superintendent Ramon Cortines.

Superintendent Cortines began his career as an educator in 1956, teaching a class of 44 sixth graders, in Aptos, California. He taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels before becoming a school administrator and ultimately serving as Superintendent of Schools in Pasadena, San Jose, San Francisco, New York City and Los Angeles.

Superintendent Cortines is one of our nation’s most experienced educators. He has advised every President or his Education Secretary since the Carter Administration, and in 1992 he chaired the Department of Education transition team for President Clinton. Cortines served as Superintendent of LAUSD briefly in 2000 and returned to the position in 2008, during which time he steered the district through unprecedented fiscal challenges while improving pupil attendance, school safety and student achievement.

Upon his retirement today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of this dedicated public servant.

HONORING STUDENT VETERAN
AND COMMUNITY LEADER MATT
RANDLE

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize former United States Army Combat Medic and current University of Arizona student Matt Randle.

Over the course of his career in the Army, Matt received two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals and two Good Conduct Medals for his service.

Following his distinguished service to our country Matt returned to his hometown of Tucson, Arizona and enrolled at the University of Arizona. Once on the UA campus, Matt began working with UA President Robert Shelton and his staff to develop and implement a program to support returning veterans attending the University. I am proud to say that today the University of Arizona, located in my Congressional district, has one of the most progressive and impressive veteran education and service models in the country including a student run veteran's office.

Matt's leadership has also played an integral role in the prosperity of the UA Veterans club. This club received numerous awards on the University of Arizona's campus including the Club of the Year and Philanthropic Group of the Year for the 2009–2010 academic school year. The Student Veterans of America also recognized the club nationally, awarding it the "Club of the Year Award."

This year Matt will receive the UA's 2011 Robie Award. The award is issued to students who show personal integrity, initiative, cooperativeness, enthusiasm, humility, patriotism, well-rounded interests, active participation in student affairs and a commitment to service. Matt Randle is a model candidate for this award.

Matt Randle's ambition and leadership both at the UA and nationally will certainly be of great benefit to our returning veterans. Every day more veterans return home from the Middle East conflicts. The programs that Matt built on the University of Arizona campus support these men and women as they transition back to civilian life.

Upon graduation Matt will be attending the University Of Arizona Rogers College of Law in the fall of 2011.

I am pleased to acknowledge my constituent and friend, Matt Randle. I thank him for his leadership, service and outstanding contributions to the University and our community.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this Continuing Resolution. We must pass this bill today to begin to get this Nation on a path of fiscal stability. I want to make a

few brief remarks about the State-Foreign Operations title of the bill. State-Foreign Operations is reduced by 8.4 billion dollars from the fiscal year 2011 request. While some of my colleagues might say these funding levels mean that diplomacy and development take a large reduction, we need to keep in mind that the State-Foreign Operations bill grew by more than 33% from FY08 to FY10. We simply cannot allow these programs to continue to grow at this rate. The reductions taken in this bill are targeted, so that we can remain focused on our highest national security priorities. The bill provides critical funds for the frontline States of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. It supports security assistance to some of our strongest allies—like Israel, Jordan, Mexico, and Colombia. It also addresses unexpected humanitarian crises around the world. I want to thank my colleague, Ranking Member Lowey, for working with me to address these high priority needs. I know we will continue to work together to address problems of bipartisan concern.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF ASHTON GENZMAN ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Ashton Genzman of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Ashton brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. She has served in several leadership roles: student government, Junior Induction Committee, Culinary Club and in a variety of other groups and extracurricular activities. While attending Notre Dame Academy in Toledo, Ohio, Ashton consistently achieved high honors, with an exceptional grade point average.

Throughout high school, Ashton participated in a number of athletic activities, including tennis, in which she received a varsity letter. She has also been involved in crew and track and field. I am confident that Ashton will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to the United States Naval Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ashton Genzman on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Ashton will excel during her career at the United States Naval Academy, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "VETERANS HOME LOAN IMPROVEMENT ACT"

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the bipartisan "Veterans Home Loan Improvement Act of 2011" along with Reps. TAMMY BALDWIN, BRIAN BILBRAY, SUSAN DAVIS, PETER DEFAZIO, BOB FILNER, JOHN GARAMENDI, AL GREEN, SHEILA JACKSON LEE, KURT SCHRADER, GREG WALDEN, DAVID WU, and DON YOUNG. Together we represent each of the states that would benefit from an expansion of the Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bond program.

This program was originally created after World War II to promote homeownership among our returning troops. Together, our states offer veterans mortgage loans at more favorable interest rates as a reward for their service to our Nation. As part of a comprehensive review of veterans' services in the state of Oregon, the Oregon Governor's Veterans Task Force recommended a further expansion of this highly effective program.

This Act is based on one particularly timely recommendation to expand eligibility for our state programs and bring affordable mortgages to an additional 264,000 veterans. I look forward to continuing to work on behalf of Oregon and the nation's veterans to ensure that we provide the best possible quality of care and service, and so that we can make this a true lifetime benefit for all qualified veterans.

96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the record these remarks I gave at a Capitol Hill ceremony commemorating the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Tonight we commemorate a truly unjust and tragic chapter in human history—and just as importantly, we acknowledge that chapter as an historic fact. From 1915 to 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign of massacres and forced deportations of Armenians from their historic homeland. In the end, this genocide cost the lives of one and a half million murdered men, women, and children. Another half million lost their homes.

In a July 24, 1915 cable, American Consul Leslie Davis said of the genocide, "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man."

We commemorate the 20th century's first genocide not only to honor the lives of the dead, but because its effects are still very much with us. The Armenian Genocide has been a terrifying inspiration for mass murderers from Cambodia to Rwanda to the