

Countless experts have documented the atrocities that occurred between 1915 and 1923, when more than 1.5 million Armenians were marched to their deaths in the deserts of the Middle East, murdered in concentration camps, drowned at sea, and forced to endure unimaginable acts of brutality at the hands of the Ottoman Empire—now modern-day Turkey.

Yet successive U.S. administrations continue only to refer to the genocide by such terms as “annihilation,” “massacre,” and “murder.”

This is not only an affront to the memory of the victims and to their descendants, but it does a disservice to the United States as it seeks to stand up to those who are perpetrating violence today.

In a recent speech President Obama eloquently said:

Some nations may be able to turn a blind eye to atrocities in other countries. The United States of America is different.

The United States is not a nation that turns a blind eye to atrocities, and that is why it is so important that we finally acknowledge the Armenian genocide for what it was—genocide.

As I have said, genocide is only possible when people avert their eyes. Any effort to deal with genocide—in the past, present, or future, must begin with the truth.

So this April 24, as we pause to remember the victims and to honor the countless contributions Armenian Americans have made to our great country, I hope that the U.S. finally stands on the right side of history and calls the tragedy of 1915–1923 by its rightful name.

CITIZENSHIP NOW!

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for the past 8 years, Citizenship Now!, a project of the City University of New York and the New York Daily News, has conducted a citizenship and immigration call-in, which I have visited every time it has been held at the News headquarters in Manhattan, NY. On Monday, April 25, the ninth call-in begins, and it is anticipated that the volunteers who answer the telephone will handle the 100,000th call by Friday April 29. That means 100,000 families received information to help them get on the path to U.S. citizenship. Among the sponsors have been the NYS Bureau of Refugee and Immigrant Assistance, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, CUNY Law School, Univision, and Radio WADO, with support from Verizon and Gristedes.

At the weeklong call-in, community paralegals, CUNY counselors, students, and other volunteers, supervised by experienced citizenship and immigration attorneys and Board of Immigration Appeals-accredited individuals, answer callers' questions. CUNY trains the volunteers at an all-day training conference that precedes the call-in, and all volunteers receive a comprehensive training manual. Whenever I visit the

volunteers, I bring with me an expert staff person from my office who handles constituent inquiries from immigrants and their families. We fully appreciate the special and unique outreach effort this free public service provides.

The call-in provides an important safeguard weapon against scammers engaging in the unlawful practice of law. Callers who qualify for naturalization or another immigration benefit are referred to reputable non-for-profits. Many are referred to one of CUNY Citizenship Now!'s nine citizenship and immigration law service centers where they can get free application assistance and advice. The News features the photographs and biographies of the volunteers in print and on its Web site and runs stories about the people who are being served. When a caller wishes to contact a private attorney, she or he is referred to the New York City Bar Association referral panel and the American Immigration Lawyers Association referral service.

The CUNY/Daily News Citizenship Now! Project is by far the largest university-based immigration service program in the country assisting many thousands of individuals with citizenship and immigration law services each year, all at no cost to the applicants. This public service partnership deserves our recognition and appreciation for the superb efforts underway to help people in need. Thank you, CUNY, and thank you, New York Daily News.

NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the contributions made each day by our Nation's 3,068 county governments and the men and women who serve in county government. They are tireless public servants whose daily efforts to ensure that local government works for all Americans are honored during National County Government Month, which takes place each April.

As a former county executive for New Castle County, DE, I know that county governments are responsible for providing essential services important to our communities. New Castle County provides critical services in public safety, land use, parks and libraries, sewers, and economic development. Many other counties provide a broad range of services, such as maintaining roads, bridges, and water systems, and operating airports and other transit, and delivering critical health care services. Counties provide law enforcement, courtroom, and jail services, schools, and numerous social services for children, seniors and families, and often serve as the first lines of defense for emergency response and preparedness.

Since 1991, the National Association of Counties, or NACo, has encouraged counties across America to highlight their programs and services in order to raise awareness of the important role county governments play in our na-

tional life. National County Government Month is a great opportunity to recognize this.

The National County Government Month theme for 2011 is “Serving Our Veterans, Armed Forces, and Their Families.” NACo president Glen Whitley, county judge for Tarrant County, TX, is urging all counties to honor and to thank their residents who have served or are currently serving our Nation in the military. In addition, Judge Whitley is urging counties to showcase their many important services to America's veterans, military service-members, and their families, such as those relating to physical and mental health, housing, employment, and the justice system.

In New Castle County, as in many counties across the country, we felt the impact of the call to duty on service-members and their families, as county employees many in our public safety community deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan with units of the Reserve and National Guard. I am pleased to join Judge Whitley and county officials across the country in honoring service-members and veterans and highlighting the important services county governments provide.

National County Government Month also provides the Senate with an opportunity to acknowledge that county governments with the help of the National Association of Counties are working together to restore the partnership among all levels of government to serve communities across America better. We in the Senate share our constituents with county government officials and face common challenges. It is incumbent upon us to recognize the men and women who work tirelessly within local governments and provide essential services directly to our constituents. They deserve our sincerest gratitude.

I encourage all of my colleagues and all Americans to celebrate April as National County Government Month with their home counties and to recognize the important role county governments play in their communities and the critical services they provide.

REMEMBERING SENATOR JOHN HEINZ

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, twenty years ago this month we lost Senator John Heinz in an airplane crash. A family lost a husband and a father. A Commonwealth lost a tireless advocate for older citizens and our workers. I am honored to serve in the Senate seat he held from 1977 to 1991.

Senator Heinz understood that health care has a human face that cannot be ignored. He appreciated that employers cannot shoulder the burden of costs alone and understood changes needed to be made. He worked hard to obtain results for individuals through his position on the Finance Committee and his chairmanship of the Special Committee on Aging.

Senator Heinz was a fighter for those without power, a voice for the voiceless. He enjoyed the work that goes along with being a Senator. He delved into policy issues and strived to figure out how government worked and how it could work better. He promoted innovation, looked to the future, and sought to find real solutions to the real problems people faced. He worked with his colleagues on both sides of the aisle to obtain results. As he once said, "Our greatest strengths have been our diversity and energy, our willingness to tackle problems and solve them, our confidence in the future, and our refusal to be bound by the present."

This month we remember Senator Heinz and his legacy of public service on behalf of all the people of Pennsylvania, especially those who needed a Senator fighting for them every day.

TRIBUTE TO MATT MINER

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to say goodbye to one of the most trusted members of my staff, my chief counsel on the Judiciary Committee, Matt Miner. Matt is leaving to join the prestigious law firm of White and Case, where he will be a partner in the Global White Collar Practice Group. Matt has been with me since 2008, and I have always been able to rely on his steady, informed judgment, his discretion, and his indispensable expertise that came from years of practicing law both as an assistant U.S. attorney in Montgomery, AL, and in private practice.

Before joining my staff, Matt served as counsel to chairman Norm Coleman on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and as chief counsel for crime, terrorism and oversight for former chairman and ranking member Arlen Specter on the Judiciary Committee. Matt has ably served on my staff for the last 3 years, but his time as Republican staff director of the full Judiciary Committee during the end of the 111th Congress was especially noteworthy. Matt led the committee during that difficult time, when many last-ditch efforts were made to move flawed legislation to the finish line.

As a former assistant U.S. attorney, Matt is widely known and respected by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle for his expertise and judgment in the areas of criminal law and sentencing. Matt was the principal Senate Republican staffer for the Adam Walsh Act of 2006, landmark legislation that laid the groundwork for a national, interstate sex offender registry and which imposed tough new penalties and expanded offenses that cracked down on sex trafficking of minors, child pornography, and various sexual assault offenses. Matt also was the key staffer for the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010, which appropriately modified penalties for crack cocaine offenses. His knowledge and judgment were key to negotiating a bill that moderated these penalties while ensuring sufficient deterrence for dealers and traffickers.

Matt is also highly regarded for his expertise on national security issues and was an invaluable resource not only to me but to other Members and their staffs during critical debates on the PATRIOT Act, media shield, and state secrets. And during my time as ranking member, Matt helped to manage two Supreme Court confirmations and numerous high-level Justice Department confirmations.

Importantly, Matt has always taken the time to be a mentor to several junior lawyers and staff on the Judiciary Committee, talking with them about opportunities and careers and teaching them how to be effective lawyers. I know the junior lawyers on the committee very much appreciate that guidance.

A Senator is blessed indeed if he has top staff people of outstanding ability and dedication, but it is a special blessing if the staff person can be depended on to properly reflect and advance the Senator's highest and best values. Matt has my trust and confidence. When he summarizes a complex issue, I know he has intelligently considered it and has fairly reported the pros and cons. Such an ability is rare, and it has been exceedingly valuable to me. Matt has served his country well, advanced the rule of law, and been a tremendous asset to me as I seek to fulfill my duty to the people of this country.

I am happy for him in this new position and wish him Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR JOHN "JACK" GILLIGAN

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, today I wish to honor John "Jack" Gilligan, a model of public service, of decency and intellect, who turned 90-years-old last month and now celebrates the 40th anniversary of his administration as the 62nd Governor of Ohio.

Today there is a great debate on the future of country, as there was when Jack served as Governor of Ohio from 1971-1974. Our economic competitiveness was threatened by expanding debt, declining manufacturing, rising gas prices, and waning dominance in technology and innovation. Today, we face those challenges coupled with competition from emerging powers in Asia and productivity increasing but wages stagnating in America. Whether 40 years ago or today, what the middle class looks like in America what we want the future of our country to look like depends on our leaders making smart, tough, and sometimes politically unpopular decisions.

That is the role Jack Gilligan played, with poise and skill, and with honesty and candor. When Ohio's public workers needed a voice at that table, he expanded their collective bargaining rights. Understanding that education and infrastructure are keys to our economic competitiveness, he bolstered investments in each, while under- standing tax burdens also mean better

schools, safer roads, and stronger vital public services like police and fire protection. He also expanded the right to vote by lowering the voting age to 18 years old and expanded programs for mental health services and environmental protection.

It was during his time as Governor, when I first met Jack Gilligan. It was 1972, when I ran in my first election, for State Representative for the Ohio House representing my hometown of Mansfield. Jack visited me one day and offered simple advice, "Be yourself, know who you're fighting for and what you stand for." It is advice that I have followed ever since, wisdom that applies to anyone seeking to uphold the sacred public trust.

And by listening to Jack, you learn about the great State of Ohio of its geographic and demographic diversity. Jack will say we are a different State every 20 miles. We have the same farmers but who grow different crops. We have small towns, but we also have different rural communities. We have the same immigrants but from different countries; the same union family but from different unions. Jack understands that the diversity of our State not only makes it the heartland of America but also its heartbeat.

Born March 22, 1922, in Cincinnati, John Gilligan graduated from St. Xavier High School in 1939 and the University of Notre Dame in 1943. He then enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Mediterranean during World War II. He was awarded a Silver Star for his service in Okinawa.

Upon returning to his hometown after the war, he completed a master's degree and doctorate course work in English literature at the University of Cincinnati. He then began his teaching career at Xavier University.

In 1953, he began his decades long service to the people of Ohio. From 1953 to 1963, Jack served on the Cincinnati City Council during the civil rights era. His progressivism took him to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 as the Congressman from Ohio's 1st District, where he helped pass groundbreaking progressive pieces of legislation, like the creation of Medicare and Medicaid. Undaunted by his defeat for reelection—after his district was gerrymandered—and for the Senate in 1968, Jack continued his public service beyond the halls of government.

By 1970, he ran for Governor, driving an old, used van he bought from a dry cleaner and sleeping on a cot in the back. When a voter asked if he or she could help, he asked them to fill the van with gas. He won. And he fought each day thereafter to represent the interests of Ohio's middle class.

After leaving the Governor's office in 1974, Jack was asked by President Carter to serve as Director of the United States Agency for International Development, USAID, leading efforts to reorganize our Nation's foreign assistance management programs. By the