

MARKING TWENTY YEARS SINCE
THE START OF THE BOSNIAN
CONFLICT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this month marks 20 years since the start of the tragic conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In remembrance, 11,541 red chairs lined the main street of Sarajevo during the first week of April, one for every man, woman and child killed in the beautiful Bosnian capital of Sarajevo when it was a city under siege by militant Serb forces in the surrounding suburbs and hillsides.

Like the memorial in Srebrenica commemorating the genocide three years later in which 8,000 people, mostly men and boys, were slaughtered by forces under the same overall command, the chairs were a sober reminder of how horrific and senseless the violence in Bosnia truly was. They are also a reminder of the international community's complicity in these crimes by its own inaction, when it had the means to intervene and save lives.

The result of the delayed response to aggression against Bosnia plagues the people of that country today. The realities of the conflict, including the ethnic cleansing, were accommodated by compromises in the Dayton Agreement needed to restore peace. While necessary then, today these compromises have allowed political leaders like Milorad Dodik in the entity of Republika Srpska to block at will progress on reforms needed for the country's stability, prosperity and integration. While I welcome positive developments which have taken place in Bosnia in recent months, above all the formation of a new government, it remains disappointing that movement forward is so painfully slow. The people of Bosnia, regardless of their ethnicity, certainly deserve better.

Today those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide continue to be prosecuted at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague, or in the war crimes courts of the countries concerned. This effort is important and warrants international support until the last crime is prosecuted.

Justice alone, however, cannot bring closure to Bosnia's war victims. That is why I introduced a few weeks ago H.R. 4344, which among other actions supports the work of the International Commission for Missing Persons in locating and identifying persons missing as a result of conflicts and supporting the investigation of genocide and mass atrocities. It is also why I now repeat my call made last year for a permanent memorial to be established at the site of the Omarska concentration camp in northeastern Bosnia, so that the survivors of the crimes associated with the ethnic cleansing of that region of the country may also have a place to remember those lost. Such memorials also serve as bulwarks against forces which try to excuse, minimize and even deny the crimes that took place.

As Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission for most of the 20 years since the Bosnian conflict erupted, I have chaired dozens of hearings and introduced numerous pieces of legislation which have

helped to document the atrocities, shape policy responses, and assist in post-conflict recovery. I have also visited the country on numerous occasions. I can assure the people of Bosnia that I and my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission will continue to work for their human rights and the democratic, prosperous future they deserve.

**CROSS WALK COMMUNITY
OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY**

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible effort in Maine, the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry in Naples.

In a time of such need the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry has been tireless in its efforts to help its neighbors in Western Cumberland County. Twice a month they gather to help residents in the towns of Naples, Sebago, Casco, Bridgton and Harrison with free meals and food boxes. They do this not with a large budget, but with a very dedicated set of volunteers.

Maine is a state that has struggled with food insecurity and the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry is making a small step in eradicating hunger in Maine. Neighborhood efforts like this demonstrate Maine's unbreakable community bond in our fight against hunger in Maine today.

**CONGRATULATING JEAN RONNING
OF ASHLAND, WISCONSIN, ON
BEING NAMED THE 2012 PERSON
OF THE YEAR BY THE ASHLAND
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community accomplishments of Jean Ronning of Ashland, Wisconsin, who has been named the 2012 Person of the Year, by the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce. Jean and her husband, Eugene, have owned and operated the Neighborly Bar for over 28 years.

Mrs. Jean Ronning is well known throughout Ashland as an active member in the community and served in many different roles including: President of the Ashland Softball League, and the Ashland Volleyball League; coordinator for events in Ashland such as the King of the Bay Snowmobile Drag Races, the Green Bay Packer Parade, the Ice Fishing Contest; and hostess for benefits at the New Day Shelter, the BRICK Food Shelf, the Ashland Snowmobile Club, and the Relay For Life Cancer Fundraiser. Additionally, Jean is the recipient of the 2010 New Day Shelter's Passageways to Peace Award.

Overall, Jean is well known for her honorable service to aid those in need by genuinely providing emotional and financial support within the Ashland Community. Her savvy business skills, outgoing personality, and sense for

leadership have allowed her to develop a volunteer support network that helps spearhead community initiatives.

Thanks to the community contributions of outstanding citizens like Jean Ronning, Ashland is rightfully known by many as "Lake Superior's hometown". I ask that my colleagues join me today to express our appreciation for Jean's community leadership and congratulations for receiving Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Person of the Year award.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AMELITO
ENRIQUEZ**

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez who has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. Enriquez, a Professor of Engineering and Mathematics at Cañada College in Redwood City, California, is one of nine individuals to receive this prestigious award and he will serve as a resource for federal efforts to develop the national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and research sector.

During his 17 years at Cañada College, Dr. Enriquez—or Dr. E as his students like to call him—has demonstrated his commitment to increased participation and success of minorities and women in science, mathematics and engineering.

He has secured over \$10 million in federal and state grants to develop programs such as COMETS, Creating Opportunities for Minorities in Engineering, Technology and Science. COMETS allows students from two-year colleges in San Mateo County to intern at the NASA Ames Research Center for a year and prepares them to be competitive once they transfer to a four-year college.

The Summer Engineering Institute is a two-week program at San Francisco State University for high school students interested in engineering and for community college students already studying engineering who hope to transfer to a four-year college to finish their degrees. The Bridge to Engineering for Veterans program helps veterans to transition from military to engineering careers.

The students of Dr. Enriquez adore him because he is making a difference in their lives. They wrote the letters of support that led to his nomination for the presidential honor. Dr. E understands the importance of encouragement and mentorship. He grew up in the Philippines with what he calls a "me-too complex." As the youngest son, he wanted to be whatever his older siblings or cousins wanted to be, but they told him he couldn't. He recalls thinking that the more people were saying that he couldn't do something, the more he wanted to do it.

Dr. Enriquez wanted to be a priest, a basketball player, but eventually found his calling when he studied Engineering at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. He earned his B.S. in Geodetic Engineering in 1984. After a six-month stint with a large company, he started his own business with friends, taught at his alma mater and then

moved to the United States. He received his M.S. in Geodetic Science from Ohio State University, Columbus in 1989 and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 1994.

While looking for teaching positions, Dr. Enriquez discovered the community college system which, he says, appealed to him because the larger universities wanted professors to focus on research while he wanted to focus on teaching. He started teaching at Cañada College in 1994 and almost immediately started securing grants. In his view, bringing in money is just another way to help students succeed.

Dr. Enriquez is the chair elect of the American Society of Engineering Education, Pacific Southwest Section; the vice chair of the American Society of Engineering Education, Two-Year College Division; and a member of both the California Engineering Liaison Council and the California Mathematics Council Community Colleges.

He has received numerous best paper awards from the American Society of Engineering Education, the Hewlett-Packard Excellence in Technology for Teaching Award and the League of California Community Colleges Out-Of-The-Box Thinkers Award, among others.

When Dr. E is not mentoring students and inventing programs, he enjoys music, weight lifting, hiking, and reading.

He and his spouse David Childers live in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez, an exceptional teacher, mentor, and engineer who has opened the hearts and minds of thousands of students to the world of science, math, and engineering.

HONORING IRENE COFIE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Irene Cofie is a senior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A JUST OVERSEER

Every man needs a leader: a mentor who will regulate that person's decisions while also serving as an overseer by making sure every decision formulated by the individual is civil and doesn't hold the potential to cause mayhem. In this sense, we as men, have the government as our leader to verify

that the decisions we take are astute and will not result in culpable consequences for the majority. Thus, a government's ideal role can best be described as an equitable overseer of men.

As an overseer, a government should remain open-minded to its citizens' desires and rights. Many governments follow a precept, in hopes of maintaining consistency in laws and regulations within their nation. This precept also limits a government's susceptibility to popular demands that are irrational. For example, in America, our government acts on the precept of securing freedom and civil liberties to its citizens, as established by the United States Constitution. Yet, even though the government of America vigilantly manages citizens' affairs through laws, the American government doesn't aggrandize its power over Americans through cruel tactics. However, in many communist countries, the government enjoins its citizens to do exactly as they command and as a result, many citizens of such nations lack the natural rights they deserve. Therefore, even though the role of a government is to serve as an overseer to its people through laws and rules, it is highly important for a government to not be straitlaced in its governing style. A government should instead regulate the masses to make sure that chaos doesn't erupt, while still granting citizens their natural liberties.

Governments' main concern should be providing a safe environment for citizens while assuring that citizens' freedoms are protected and mandated appropriately; thus, freedoms given to one will not counter the civil rights of another. Even though it is up to government to oversee the protection of the masses, citizens primarily have a higher influence in governing their own actions. As a result, citizens should act to control their behavior in society, instead of receiving condemnation by government in order to enable them to live virtuously. In other words, citizens do not need a "big brother" government to certify that they do not abuse drugs or alcohol. Rather, the axiomatic truth stands that citizens of any government are entitled to behave maturely and govern themselves as individuals.

It is common for citizens to complain that the role of government is too big and extensive. Ultimately though, the fault of this conflict belongs to citizens because it is the responsibility of all citizens to take care of themselves through moral reasoning and laudable ethics; we as citizens, should be caretakers of our own distinct lives. In turn, the government can maintain an efficacious nationhood, through enforcement of logical precepts as an overseer of the masses, not necessarily the individual. In conclusion, the government serves as a protectorate of everyone within its country, making sure that peace and order are maintained through laws and regulations, in benefit of the majority.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In 2010, my colleague, Congressman HONDA, introduced H. Res. 1316 to designate this month as a time to recognize the contributions of Asian Ameri-

cans and Pacific Islanders to the United States. As an original co-sponsor, I reaffirm my commitment to address the concerns and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The 37th Congressional District of California, which I am honored to represent, is home to one of the largest Asian constituencies in the nation, including large communities of Filipinos, Samoans and Cambodians. In fact, my district is home to the largest Cambodian population in the United States and the second largest Cambodian population in the world outside Cambodia. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and represent my constituents' interests. The month of May was chosen to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage for two significant reasons. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1860, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. The transcontinental railroad transformed our nation and could not have been completed without the inclusion of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the challenges and adversity that Asian Pacific Americans have experienced, many have forged ahead and made significant contributions to this great nation. History was made with the election of President Obama, the first president to have such significant personal ties to the Asian Pacific community. President Obama spent his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia. Also, one of President Obama's first guests to the Oval Office was the prime minister of Japan, Taro Aso.

This year, the U.S. Census Bureau has released data revealing that the Asian population now represents 6 percent of the total American population. This community has grown faster than any other racial group in the United States at four times the national average. Asian Americans are making significant contributions to the economy and own over 1.5 million businesses, employing 3 million people. The buying power of Asian American communities has also grown dramatically, increasing by 89 percent between 2000 and 2009 from \$269 billion to \$509 billion.

This month, however, also causes us to reflect on some challenges that remain for Asian Pacific Americans. For instance, immigration and language policies continue to disproportionately affect Asian Americans since they are more likely than any other racial group to be foreign-born. Harsh immigration policies and language barriers, therefore, limit many individuals' ability to integrate into American society and access important services. Along similar lines, Asian Americans are twice as likely as non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans to have not seen a doctor in the past five years, and Asian Americans are also more likely to be uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to recognize the achievements of this incredibly diverse community while also addressing their policy concerns. Nevertheless, I have much hope for the future because Americans are working together, hand-in-hand, to ensure the equality and advancement not only of their community, but of all communities.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans this year and for years to come.