

that built the World War II Memorial. That piece of marble, just like the memorial that it built, reminds me of the sacrifices of a generation that, when our country was threatened, rose to defend not just our Nation but the freedoms, democracy, and values that are the foundation of our great country. They did so as one people and one Nation. Their bravery and resilience still inspire us today.

The sheer magnitude of what they accomplished, not just in war but in the peace that followed has stood as an inspiration to every generation since. The Greatest Generation did not seek to be tested both abroad by a war that fundamentally challenged our way of life and at home by the Great Depression and the rebuilding of our economy that followed. But, when called upon to do so, they defended and then rebuilt our Nation. Their patriotism, service, and great sacrifice not only defined their generation—they stand as a testament to the fortitude of our Nation.

I am tremendously proud to welcome Eastern Iowa's veterans to our Nation's capital today. On behalf of every Iowan I represent, I thank them for their service to our country.

HONORING MARIN COUNTY FIRE
CHIEF KEN MASSUCCO

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of a passionate and dedicated public servant. Marin County Fire Chief Ken Massucco retired at the end of March 2012 after a career of nearly four decades protecting our communities.

After a year volunteering with the Kentfield Fire Protection District, Chief Massucco joined Marin County Fire Department in 1974. He rose through the ranks as Fire Lieutenant, Senior Captain, and Battalion Chief before being appointed Fire Chief in December 2001 by the Marin County Board of Supervisors.

Throughout his tenure, Chief Massucco maintained a special connection with the residents he served in unincorporated Marin County, and with the firefighters and office staff responsible for keeping our communities safe. In a Department that includes more than 80 full-time and 60 seasonal workers covering a broad and geographically diverse region, it was the care and leadership of Chief Massucco that ensured strong partnerships with the public.

I was especially impressed to see Chief Massucco's work as a lead member of the team that battled the Angel Island fire in October 2008. Marin County firefighters spearheaded a difficult effort to save invaluable cultural and historical treasures, including the Angel Island Immigration Station, which is recognized as a National Historic Landmark and a part of the California State Parks. All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to Chief Massucco and the Marin County Fire Department for their efforts to ensure the survival of this unique site.

Chief Massucco also brought his leadership to other public safety initiatives, and his work was recognized beyond our County. He assisted firefighters in emergencies across California as an Operations Section Chief within

the Incident Command System, and in 2009 he was recognized by the California Fire Chiefs Association as Fire Chief of the Year. Chief Massucco also led our County Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, which offers emergency services not only in Marin County, but also to partners across the country in need of additional responders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Chief Massucco for his contributions to Marin County. He has set an admirable standard for compassionate and responsive public service, and we wish him the best in his retirement.

HONORING PASTOR JOHNNIE ROLAND, SR., WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of World War II Veteran and Civil Rights Activist, Pastor Johnnie Roland Sr., as he celebrates his 90th birthday. Born the son of sharecroppers, Pastor Roland was drafted into the United States Army on November 28, 1942.

Johnnie Roland Sr. was born and remains a lifelong resident of Coffeeville, Mississippi. He married the late Leida Rounsaville Roland and from this union, 14 children were born. His oldest and only son, Johnnie Roland Jr., served in the Vietnam War.

Johnnie Roland served in World War II from 1943 to 1945. Roland and three others from Yalobusha County, Mississippi, Tommy Dudley, Walter Lee Martin, and Ulysses Kee were inducted into the Army at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

After about eleven months of ammunition training at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, he and the 619th Ordnance Ammunition Company, shipped out of New York City and arrived in Liverpool, England. On June 6, 1944, Roland boarded a landing craft late in the day and remained anchored in the English Channel surrounded by danger on all sides. There he waited to land on the Normandy Beach, about 3 days after D-Day.

For the next several months he advanced through France, Belgium, and Germany loading and unloading ammunition on and near the front lines of battle. On November 29, 1945, he was honorably discharged from Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Roland was awarded the Nameo Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal for his superior performance and dedication in the United States Army.

After his honorable discharge from the United States Army, Roland returned to Mississippi. Pastor Roland answered his call to ministry in 1960, and served as pastor of the Pine Grove Baptist Church from 1962 until August 2009. Pastor Roland was very active in the Civil Rights Movement working with other local advocates to integrate the local segregated school systems, marching front line in sometimes very hostile situations.

During the boycott of the local school system, Pastor Roland was one of a very few

who stood strong by keeping his children out of school for one whole year. Eventually, the school systems were integrated and he was able to see his children receive a quality education within an integrated public school system. Pastor Roland's most recent accomplishment is his eight year service on the Coffeeville Board of Alderman.

According to Pastor Roland, though he has accomplished many things within his lifetime, his greatest has been the honor to vote for and see America's first African American President, Barack Obama elected into office.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Johnnie Roland Sr., a decorated World War II Veteran and Civil Rights Activist for his dedication and service to this country and the state of Mississippi.

HONORING KOMAL LUTHRA

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.

Komal Luthra is a sophomore at Clear Springs High School in Galveston County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVEMENT

The government plays a major role in our lives. It governs us and tries to keep the country running in a smooth manner even though there may be conflicts taking place with other countries. The government is there to serve the people. For example, currently, our country is facing some financial challenges, still the government is making efforts to help those without jobs and find ways to cut spending. Not only does the government play a major role in our lives, but we also have the opportunity to be involved. We must realize that we do not have to be politicians or government officials to be involved.

There are so many ways one can get involved in the political process. One can vote, voice his or her opinions, and inform others about issues that our country is facing. It is important to stay updated with the issues we are facing as a country and how we can slowly deliver the message and work together to make a difference. It is like a chain reaction. For example, in recycling programs, an individual cannot enforce recycling because it is a group effort to spread the word in the society to save our environment. We can also get involved by contacting an elected official or candidate via phone or email, visiting or attending political meetings. We can take part in demonstrations, protests, boycotts, or marches to have our voice heard. This presents the fact that as citizens we have a lot of freedom and many opportunities. The issues being faced in the economy, education systems, technology, and environment cannot be solved unless we get involved.

When we vote, we take our country's figure in our own hands by voting for the best candidate. It is important that we elect the person who represents our country with good moral, values and care for the common people of this country. Every vote counts when it comes to choosing the best candidate to be our president because he or she will be deciding and leading our country's future for the next four years or more.

We have a democracy which gives us the right to speak our mind in political words. This right is given to us in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution. For example, if an individual faces a challenge where his or her rights are being violated, he or she should come forward and bring the issue up to a government official. Elected official should help one find a way to solve it through creation of new laws, establishment of new programs or explore other options to preserve the individual's rights. A democracy includes all the people and it is incomplete if only a fraction of the people is representing the whole population. Men, women, elderly and even young adults should actively participate. Even though children may not be able to vote they should still be aware of government so as they grow up, they are prepared to represent the country.

In conclusion, by being politically active, we learn to become motivated, hopeful, and optimistic. It is our right as citizens to practice "freedom of speech" and stand up and speak for our country. It shows confidence, determination, and passion.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOM HUENING

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Tom Huening for his three decades of service to San Mateo County. As controller, county supervisor and community college district trustee, Tom has advocated for taxpayers throughout his career in public service.

Tom has had successful careers in the military, the airline industry, real estate and public service. The common threads running through all of them are hard work and his hunger to learn.

Tom was born in Chicago and grew up in Mount Prospect, Illinois as the son of an oil-burner servicemen and one of 12 children. He learned early on that the best way to overcome weakness is to confront it directly. Tom admits to having a fear of public speaking, yet he earned his Bachelor of Arts in speech from De Paul University in 1965. Right after he graduated, he joined the Navy for five years and was trained as a jet fighter pilot. His service in Vietnam made him experience the harsh realities of war, but he also credits that time for developing leadership skills, self confidence and skills as a team player.

After his military service, Tom became a pilot for TWA and moved his family to San Jose which is when he first involved himself in politics. The city of San Jose and Caltrans were planning on turning a part of the Guadalupe River into a concrete channel to make room for the Almaden Expressway crossing. Tom and his neighbors formed a neighborhood association—with Tom as president—fought the idea and won. Caltrans and the city shored up the sides of the river and even built a bike path underneath the expressway. Re-

flecting on the success, Tom told a reporter from San Jose Magazine that it was his first taste of politics and what it can do for the common good.

While he was still a TWA pilot, Tom started the transition into his next career, real estate. He worked for Coldwell Banker and then in 1977 started his own business, Huening Investment Company, where he fixed up dilapidated commercial buildings. Along the way, he returned to school and earned an MBA from Pepperdine University and a bachelor of law degree from La Salle University. He is an inactive member of the California Bar Association and served as an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association.

In the late 70's, Tom transitioned from the private sector to public service. He was a Trustee on the San Mateo County Community College District from 1981 until 1986 and a member of the San Mateo Board of Supervisors from 1987 until 1998. Tom authored the original San Mateo Countywide Transportation Expenditure Plan which provided the county with 20 years of dedicated transportation funding for infrastructure and public transit improvements. He also is part of a leadership team who was responsible for bringing BART to Millbrae and SFO.

Tom has led many initiatives to improve the well being and quality of life of residents, for example the county's smoke-free workplace ordinance, the requirement to label alcoholic beverages with warnings about fetal alcohol syndrome, the extension of popular trails, and the launching of charter schools to improve the performance of academically struggling schools.

In 1998, Tom was elected San Mateo County Controller and re-elected for four consecutive terms. As a fiscal conservative, he believes that his office "should be lean and responsive and add value to the County at the lowest taxpayer cost."

In addition to the contributions to San Mateo County, Tom served as President of the Bay Area Auditor-Controllers Association and on the Executive Committee of the State Auditor-Controllers Association. He has served the national Government Finance Officers Association on their Committee for Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting, their Economic Development and Capital Planning Committee and the Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy.

Tom is a member of the San Mateo Rotary, the Commonwealth Club and the Bay Trail Steering Committee.

He is the proud father of four daughters and grandfather of nine grandchildren. In his well deserved retirement Tom will enjoy spending more time with them and his friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor my friend Tom Huening for his tireless dedication to our community on this day of his retirement as the San Mateo County Controller. He is an extraordinary person who possesses the qualities of a businessman, a humanist and a visionary. San Mateo County is a more efficient and better place because of his outstanding work.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate a solemn occasion of deep personal significance. Today marks 97 years since the infamous episode in which the Ottoman Empire began rounding up and murdering Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. By 1923, some 1.5 million Armenian women, children and men were dead from a systematic campaign we now know as the Armenian Genocide, or Great Crime. Their lives ended in the most brutal ways imaginable, subjected to death marches, burnings, rape and forced starvation. Some 500,000 Armenians who did survive—my own grandparents among them—were forced into exile.

Like others whose families experienced this tragedy first-hand, I did not first learn of the Armenian Genocide in history books. I learned about it from my own Grandmother as she recounted the murders of priests and her flight from the only home she knew.

We must be clear: There is no doubt to the fact that the Armenian Genocide took place. There is no credible historian who can dispute it, and there is no evidence that detracts from its horror and magnitude. What's missing is a moral clarity as penetrating as the facts themselves, and a willingness in this House and in our government to acknowledge the Genocide.

The consequences of surrendering the moral high ground on Genocide denial are manifest and tragic. Since 1915, we have witnessed the same tragedy again and again. In 1939, Adolf Hitler is said to have asked, in justifying his awful crimes, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" In the Holodomor in Ukraine, the killing fields of Cambodia, the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, the red clay hills of Rwanda, and now, today in Darfur—genocidal crimes continue. We must acknowledge the Armenian genocide for our collective future, for those who suffer around the world today, and to honor the memories of those who died.

Each time this question arises, there are those who demand we once again sweep history under the rug for political convenience, calling what began 97 years ago anything but Genocide. My response is simple. The systematic extermination of an ethnic group is Genocide, and we insult ourselves and degrade our values when we claim otherwise.

I hope we use this solemn occasion to redouble our support for a more honest appraisal of the facts. So much of who I am is informed by my Armenian heritage, including the moral grounding to demand the truth. As we pray today for those who died, let us also work toward an open and just acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide, the truth, and a strengthened commitment to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again.