

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.

TWITCHELL'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize the 90th anniversary of Twitchell Technical Products—a thriving business in Southeast Alabama.

Mr. E.W. Twitchell founded E.W. Twitchell, Inc. nine decades ago. First established in Unionville, Connecticut, the company later relocated in 1930 to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1945, the company settled in Dothan, Alabama, where its headquarters remain today. To date, Twitchell provides jobs that support nearly 300 families around Dothan. In our area, this company is a staple in the local economy and a cornerstone of the local community.

Mr. Speaker, without question, the number one issue that affects our nation and my home state of Alabama is the health of our economy and the ability to create new American jobs. I am especially aware of this fact from the many discussions I have had with small business owners and employers throughout the district. I was privileged to recently have such a discussion with representatives from Twitchell last month.

During a time when too many employers have been forced to shrink their workforce or even close their doors, I was encouraged to hear about Twitchell's achievements. Through innovation, Twitchell achieved success by changing and adapting to the needs of the market. Mr. Speaker, that is what the free market is all about. Free from government interference or unnecessary regulation, private companies adjust to the demands of the market and remain competitive. When that happens, both employees and consumers benefit.

For example, four decades ago the company acquired a local yarn extrusion venture that specialized in PVC coated yarns. The yarn weaves into a fabric used for everyday products, such as screens, athletic goods, and outdoor furniture. The fabric continues to be Twitchell's best selling product, keeping the company in high-demand as it is one of only two manufacturers of PVC coated yarn and woven products in the U.S.

Here in Congress, we regularly discuss the many barriers that prevent job creation, such as costly federal regulations that stand in the way of private sector growth. We are working to repeal these burdensome federal rules. We want to encourage small business owners who work hard to invest in their employees and their products, not discourage them. The House of Representatives has passed nearly 30 pro-growth jobs-bills to reduce the mountain of federal regulations that limit an employer's ability to create jobs. We should never forget: government does not create jobs; the private sector does.

An economy built to succeed is an economy that is built on a foundation of small business entrepreneurship. Operating on the principles of persistence, innovation, and hard work, Twitchell is a model of American enterprise. It is a privilege for me to stand here today to honor the legacy of Twitchell and to recognize the many dedicated employees who have made the company a success through the years. I congratulate them for reaching this

milestone, and I look forward to the centennial celebration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Twitchell on its 90th anniversary and in wishing the company many more decades of success.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS FOR OBTAINING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SANDY ADAMS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mrs. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Kyle Holysz for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kyle led the construction and installation of reusable garden boxes for local nursing homes. Throughout the history of the Boy Scouts of America, the rank of Eagle Scout has only been attained through dedication to concepts such as honor, duty, country and charity. By applying these concepts to daily life, Kyle has proven his true and complete understanding of their meanings, and thereby deserves this honor.

I offer my congratulations on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS' SOUTH BAY AREA GAMES

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting event that took place in the 37th Congressional District this past weekend: The Southern California Special Olympics' South Bay Area Games. The games took place on Saturday, April 21 at the Veterans Park and Sport Complex in Carson, California.

As a once aspiring Olympic athlete myself, I have always supported the Special Olympics and their goals. The Special Olympics of Southern California provides year-round sports training and competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, all at no cost to the athletes or their families.

The Special Olympics, however, serves a deeper purpose than simply recreation and competition. Special Olympic athletes gain the opportunity to develop physical fitness and athletic skills, create relationships with other athletes and community members, and demonstrate the courage to achieve their dreams. Within the Southern California chapter alone, there are nearly 11,600 athletes and 15,000 coaches and volunteers. These numbers illustrate the popularity and far-reaching impact of the games.

The Special Olympics were first started in 1963 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver as a camp to provide people with intellectual disabilities with physical fitness and sports. Five years later, she organized the first International Special Olympics games, and athletes around the world have competed ever since. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of the Eunice Kennedy

Shriver Act, which will authorize funding for sports, health, education and employment programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the hard work of the athletes and volunteers of the Southern California Special Olympics. I know the people of California will continue to support the games and be inspired by the dedication of those involved.

REGARDING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

It was 97 years ago today that over 1.5 million men, women, and children, almost 75 percent of the pre-war Armenian population, were brutally exterminated by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman authorities arrested and later murdered over 250 Armenian political, intellectual, and religious leaders in Istanbul, beginning a horrific and systematic campaign to wipe a 3,000 year-old community from the face of the earth.

Armenian members of the Turkish armed forces were separated from their units and placed into labor battalions, where they were either worked to death or murdered. In Armenian villages throughout Turkey, adult males were singled out for execution, while the remaining women, children, and elderly inhabitants were then forced to march without food or water to the Syrian Desert. En route they were set upon by the Ottoman Security Service's "Special Organization," which consisted of released convicts and was created specifically for the purpose of carrying out ethnic cleansing. In the end, of the 2.1 million Armenians residing in Turkey at the start of World War I, only 100,000 would survive to see the end of hostilities.

And yet, despite clear evidence that genocide occurred, many officials today refuse to even to use the word genocide when referring to this incident. By equivocating, they not only dishonor the victims of this atrocity and their descendants, they increase the chance that other crimes against humanity are met with similar equivocation.

Indeed, before sending the "Death's Head" SS units into Poland with orders to "kill without pity or mercy all men, women and children," Adolph Hitler is reported to have commented to his generals, "who still talks nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?"

When we fail to fully acknowledge that genocide was perpetrated against the Armenian people in 1915, it becomes a little easier to do the same today when we see similar atrocities unfold in Bosnia, or Rwanda or Iraq or Sudan.

Last week the world commemorated International Holocaust Remembrance Day as people everywhere gathered to renew our collective pledge to "Never Forget." Today we gather for a similar purpose as we remember the first genocide of the 20th century. We recall the suffering of the Armenian people 97 years