

Upon moving to Cleveland, Ida met and married Army Master Sergeant James Cook. Together, the couple has two daughters, Patricia and Paula. Because of James' career, the family often traveled to places such as Germany, France, Japan and Korea. Twelve years after the tragic passing of Mr. Cook, Ida remarried the Reverend Dr. Roland Crowder of Cleveland's Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

Ida was a skilled seamstress who attended the Clark School of Dressmaking and Cuyahoga Community College, from which she earned an associate degree in decorating. She was well known throughout the Greater Cleveland area for her ability to design draperies. She ran her business under the name of "Ida's Draperies."

I offer my condolences to her family and friends at the Second Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Ida's spirit and kindness will be missed by all those who had the pleasure of meeting her.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Mrs. Ida Cook-Crowder.

BRIAN SOUKUP

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Brian Soukup for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Brian Soukup is a 12th grader at Arvada Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Brian Soukup is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Brian Soukup for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 64TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, sixty-four years ago the state of Israel declared its independence. As Israelis celebrate their Independence Day on Thursday of this week, I offer my wholehearted congratulations to our most cherished ally.

For millennia, the state of Israel was merely a dream to the Jewish people. In 1948, under the leadership of Holocaust survivors who had resolved to overcome mid-Twentieth Century Europe's atrocities, the state of Israel declared independence in its ancient Holy Land and that dream became a reality.

The United States promptly recognized Israel, but she was met with open hostility from her Arab neighbors.

Sixty-four years later, in many respects it seems as though very little has changed. However, we know that Israel prevailed against overwhelming odds in 1948, in 1967 and in 1973 and countless other times. Undoubtedly, Israel is an overwhelming success in a region plagued by conflict.

In a neighborhood of sworn enemies, Israel is a beacon of hope. It boasts a vibrant economy and a well-educated populace whose values and interests are much the same as ours. Israel is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, and I join my colleagues who, on a bipartisan basis, have time and again stood by her in times of trial.

Freedom-loving nations have a duty to stand with Israel much like Congress has over the years. With a growing threat from an increasingly hostile Iranian regime, a regime that has threatened on more than one occasion to 'wipe Israel off the map,' let us recommit ourselves to the defense of the state of Israel. As we celebrate the 64th anniversary of her founding, the United States must renew its commitment to preserve and protect Israel and stand firm as Israel's closest friend.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FLORENCE JODZIES TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ACROSS VIRGINIA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the ongoing work of the Vale Club and the Oakton Women's Club to promote education and engagement on civic, cultural and social welfare issues in our community. I also join them in celebrating the contributions of Florence Jodzies, a leading voice in the effort to provide public library services across the Commonwealth of Virginia during the early 20th century, with the dedication of a highway marker in her honor near the Vale community. It is fitting to reflect on that legacy today, April 24, 2012, on the 212th anniversary of the founding of the Library of Congress and as we near the end of National School Library Month.

Mrs. Jodzies moved in 1934 to the Vale community of Fairfax County, where she promptly joined the local Home Demonstration Club, which was then an outreach program under the cooperative extension. Through her involvement with the club, she soon launched an impassioned campaign to stimulate interest in reading, to provide reading material and to help communities establish libraries. In a 1938 article in "The Southern Planter," Mrs. Jodzies wrote that reading of high class literature was necessary to humanity's progress and happiness. "Free libraries are essential instruments of education, information, research, culture and recreation—all necessary factors in any democracy which expects to remain a democracy," she wrote.

The fact that more than half of Virginia's residents at the time had no access to a library was a motivating factor. Within two years, every county in the Commonwealth with

a Demonstration Club boasted an active library program. In addition, it was thanks to her efforts that Virginia's governor provided funding for construction of the first state library building with the assistance of a federal grant. In recognition of her efforts, Mrs. Jodzies was appointed by two successive governors to represent the Commonwealth at the Annual Conference of the American Library Association in 1937 and 1938. In addition to her work to promote community libraries, Mrs. Jodzies was active with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, the Business and Professional Women's Club, Community Chest, and the County Advisory Council. She and her husband relocated to Winter Haven, Florida, before she died in 1969 at the age of 82.

She was an early pioneer for the Fairfax County Public Library system, which now boasts eight regional branches and 14 community libraries. It is one of the largest and busiest library systems in the nation with more than half a million library card holders, more than 13 million items loaned out each year, and more than 4.5 million visits to its online resources. The Fairfax system also hosts more than 8,000 events annually, attracting 150,000 attendees, and countless volunteers donated more than 155,000 hours of work to their community branches last year.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Jodzies once wrote that she and other Demonstration Club members would "march on . . . until every man, woman and child in Virginia has public access to books." Thanks to her tireless efforts, we have realized that vision, and thanks to the ongoing work of the Vale Club and the Oakton Women's Club, future generations will continue to benefit from the legacy of Mrs. Jodzies and other community leaders who followed in her footsteps. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the tremendous service of these outstanding community volunteers and organizations.

COMMEMORATING THE 97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I stand to commemorate the Armenian Genocide on the 97th anniversary of its occurrence. It is unfortunate, however, that once again I do so without an official recognition on behalf of the American government.

As I have said in years past, the undeniable genocidal actions by the Ottoman Empire against its Armenian citizens deserve official recognition from the American government. 1.5 million Armenians were killed, the first genocide of the 20th century. As a member of the House Armenian Issues Caucus, I have cosponsored legislation to affirm the U.S. position on Armenian Genocide and will continue to urge my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to support this position.

As we mourn the lives of those lost, it is important to recognize the resilience and incredible strides the Armenian people have made in recovering from that unspeakable past. I stand in solidarity with the Armenian people and renew my commitment to pursuing a future of reconciliation and peace.

As a nation we must lead by honoring the memory of those that perished so the Armenian people and the international community can move forward toward a brighter tomorrow. The U.S. has officially recognized other such tragic events and 21 other countries have recognized the Armenian Genocide. I call on my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to join me in recognizing the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and urge enactment of H. Res. 304.

HONORING GERALD MICHAEL
PACE, SR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I submit these remarks in honor of Gerald Michael Pace, Sr., a devoted public servant to the people of Salem and the Greater Roanoke Valley, who passed away suddenly on Wednesday, April 18, 2012.

Born and raised in Pulaski, Jerry attended Pulaski High School, and graduated from Hampden-Sydney College. A committed student himself, Jerry was truly passionate about education. He was instrumental in helping to establish the Community College Access Program—a partnership between the Virginia Western Community College (VWCC), Salem Public Schools, and Roanoke City Public Schools, which allows high school graduates to attend VWCC without paying tuition. He was a scholar of the writings of the Apostle Paul and the Dead Sea Scrolls. And, he taught Sunday school classes on these topics at First United Methodist Church in Salem, and to civic and other community groups.

Jerry served on the Salem School Board for 15 years and one term on the Salem City Council. He was a very proud, active member of the Board of Trustees of Virginia Intermont College in Bristol and of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Western Community College Foundation. A true go-getter, Jerry even spent time working as an adjunct professor at Virginia Western Community College, where he taught sales and marketing, industrial safety, algebra, and manufacturing processes.

I am honored to pay tribute to his many contributions to the community. A husband, father, grandfather, businessman, community servant, educator, cancer survivor, friend to me and so many others, and storyteller to all, Jerry will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to Jerry's family and friends. His legacy and influence will be long remembered across the Roanoke Valley and throughout Southwest Virginia.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF REV. EVERETT KELLEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a personal friend of mine, Reverend Everett Kelley, upon his retirement

from the Anniston Army Depot and the Federal Government.

Mr. Kelley was born on February 24, 1957, in Goodwater, Alabama. In 1971, his family moved to Sylacauga, Alabama, where he graduated from Sylacauga High School in 1975. Later he enlisted in the United States Army and served three years at Fort Campbell in Kentucky.

In 1981, Everett began working at the Anniston Army Depot and on March 2, 2012, retired from Federal services with 34 years of service. While employed with the Anniston Army Depot, Everett was Program Specialist for the High School Co-Op Program and President of the AFGE Local 1945 for nine years. During his career he also held positions of Shop Steward, Chief Steward and Vice President of AFGE Local 1945.

During his career, Everett has served as Senior Pastor at St. Mary Missionary Baptist Church for the past 25 years.

Upon his retirement, Rev. Kelley will continue assisting Federal employees as National Vice President of AFGE District 5.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my congratulations to Reverend Everett Kelley and thank him for his outstanding service to our community and our nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SUSTAINABLE
AND GREEN INITIATIVES OF
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, on its recent commendation by the 2012 version of The Princeton Review Guide to 322 Green Colleges and to congratulate GMU on its strong and exemplary commitment to sustainability.

Over the past several years, George Mason has taken a multilateral approach to creating a climate neutral campus. The university has compiled annual greenhouse gas inventories since 2006, designing its first Climate Action Plan in January 2010. In an effort to transition to environmentally sound construction, Mason has committed all new buildings to seek a LEED Silver designation, with six registered projects currently seeking certification. Additionally, all equipment on campus much be Energy Star-rated.

A central component of the university's strategy to reduce campus-based greenhouse gas emissions has been the development of the scope, appeal, and accessibility of public and alternative transportation to accommodate the ever-increasing student population.

Mason students also have played an important role in developing the sustainability and environmental responsibility of the University. Student organizations like the Environmental Awareness Group, the Patriot Green Fund, and the student-run organic vegetable garden facilitate opportunities for discussions, student research, and exposure of University initiatives to the local community. Students also can focus their academic careers through the Environmental Science, Environmental and Sustainability Studies majors, the Sustainability and Renewable Energy minors, or one of the

first Energy and Sustainability Master's degree concentrations in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all members of the George Mason University community for their success in creating a responsible and sustainable academic community. By infusing sustainability principles into every aspect of higher education, George Mason University is training the next generation of leaders to put green ideas into practice today.

BALUCHISTAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Baluchistan is one of four provinces in Pakistan. It is the largest of the four provinces in terms of area (44 percent of the country's land area), but the smallest in terms of population (5 percent of the country's total). Within Baluchistan is the Baluch people group. They have their own language, culture, and history.

This distinct group of people, who once held autonomous status, was deprived of their freedom without consideration when the British Empire invaded the area. When the British took control over the area they divided the Baluchistan land into three separate parts, giving part of the land to Persia in 1896 while retaining the largest portion for India. The third and final division of the land by the British occurred in 1894 that gave part of Baluchistan to Afghanistan.

Once the British relinquished control and India and Pakistan separated, the majority of Baluchistan was forcefully annexed to Pakistan in 1948. The Baluch people never had any say—they were never asked if they wanted to be part of Pakistan.

Since then, the government of Pakistan has neglected them. Look at almost any indicator and the Baluch people are worse off than other Pakistanis. Life expectancy, school enrollment, and adult literacy are all particularly low amongst the Baluch people. This is ironic when you look at all the large reserves of gas, oil, gold, copper, silver, platinum, aluminum, and uranium it has. The Baluch people have the resources to take care of themselves, but the government of Pakistan takes the resources and either puts tight constraints on the profit that goes back to the Baluchs or gives the profit away to its friends. For example, the government has historically required Baluchistan to sell gas at a lower rate than the other provinces. Baluchistan receives a mere \$0.29 per thousand cubic feet for its gas, while nearby Sindh gets \$1.65 and Punjab receives \$2.35. Pakistan gave the exploration rights to the Saindak copper mine to the Chinese, so the Chinese will get most of the profit and the Pakistan profit the rest.

It is not just neglect of the Baluch people but also outright persecution. Since 2005, Pakistani human rights organizations have recorded numerous serious human rights violations by security forces, including extrajudicial executions, torture, enforced disappearances, forced displacement, and excessive use of force. According to the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Center, violence in 2005 around Dera Bugti district alone displaced around 6,000 people and killed scores.