

lengthy, history of religious and cultural controls, human rights violations and oppression of the Tibetan people.

Reports from Tibet indicate that the Chinese government is further restricting access to foreign journalists and tightening security throughout the region. Chinese police and other officials in Tibet are forcing some nuns and monks to publicly denounce the Dalai Lama. Schools in some provinces have been forced by the government to switch their official language of instruction from Tibetan to Mandarin Chinese. These policies, among others, have incited Tibetans to protest and fight for the survival of their cultural identity and basic freedoms.

In recent weeks, a state-run Chinese website and news agency accused the Dalai Lama of encouraging Tibetans to set themselves on fire and of advocating "Nazi" racial policies. Mr. President, many of us in the Senate have had the privilege of meeting the Dalai Lama and I am proud to consider him a friend. It is baseless, offensive, and deplorable to slander the Dalai Lama in this way or to suggest that he is inciting violence. He is a man whose entire life has been devoted to peace.

For decades, the Dalai Lama has sought to work with the Chinese government to reach a peaceful resolution over Tibet's political status. The Dalai Lama has, time and time again, extended a hand of friendship to Beijing, which has consistently responded by drastically misrepresenting his views and accusing him of inciting violence, perhaps to draw attention away from their own brutal actions. The Chinese government must know that violent crackdowns and cultural genocide will never be condoned.

We share many interests with China and the future can bring our two countries closer. China's tremendous economic transformation in the past few decades has brought great benefits to the Chinese people and has spurred economic development in other countries. That said, the economic emergence of China and its increased presence on the world stage must be accompanied by respect for human rights. China cannot be a global leader while crushing peaceful dissent in its own backyard, destroying the culture of the Tibetan people, and imprisoning Tibetan leaders.

I want to mention one of these imprisoned leaders, Tenzin Delek Rinpoche. Tenzin Delek was recognized by the Dalai Lama as a reincarnate lama in the 1980s. He was detained in April 2002 on charges of exploding bombs and spreading politically charged leaflets and, following a closed trial, sentenced to death on December 2, 2002. After appeal, Tenzin Delek's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. No evidence of his involvement in any illegal activity has ever been made public. In fact, before being detained, Tenzin Delek was well-known for educating children in rural areas and helping to build monasteries.

Tenzin Delek's imprisonment is just one of the many examples of persecution of Tibetan leaders that appear to be motivated by a desire to curb Tibetan religious and cultural expression.

Many Tibetan protestors, both imprisoned and free, are not seeking independence from China. Tibetan leaders, including the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Prime Minister, Lobsang Sangay, who I was pleased to meet earlier this year, have explicitly stated that they support the Middle-Way policy, which seeks autonomy for Tibet within the People's Republic of China. Tibetans are not fighting for separation from China; they are fighting for the freedom of religious belief guaranteed to them by the Chinese Constitution. They are fighting for the security of their monks and monasteries. They are fighting for freedom of expression, association, and assembly, for personal liberty, for unrestricted media access, and for the fundamental principles of democracy that we in the United States take for granted.

We cannot and will not abandon the Tibetan people, who have long been our unwavering friends. We will stand by them to protect the principles of democracy in the face of China's repressive policies. Together, the Tibetans and the Chinese can peacefully reach a solution that meets the needs and aspirations of both peoples. It is imperative that we support peaceful dialogue and discourage violent confrontation whenever it occurs, whether supported by the Chinese authorities or Tibetan protestors.

I am a cosponsor of Senator FEINSTEIN's resolution, S. Res. 356, A Resolution Expressing Support for the People of Tibet, and I urge other Senators to do so. We can foster closer, cooperative relations with China, but until China works with Tibetan leaders to pursue a new way forward, their reputation in the community of nations, and their ability to act as a global power, will remain tarnished. I hope that, in the years to come, the young Tibetans who sacrificed their lives in the past year will be remembered as the catalysts for a political dialogue that cemented a peaceful future for both Tibet and China.

97TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to solemnly recognize the 97th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

In 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations passed the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide based in part on the horrific crimes perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenian people between 1915–1923. Yet, in the 63 years that have passed since the Convention was adopted, successive U.S. administrations have refused to call the deliberate massacre of the Armenians by what it was—a genocide.

For many years, I have urged these administrations to right this terrible

wrong, and I do so again today, calling on President Obama to acknowledge unequivocally—as he did as a Senator—that the Armenian genocide is a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.

The Armenian genocide—along with the Holocaust—is one the most studied cases of genocide in history. A number of sovereign nations, ranging from Argentina to France, as well as 43 U.S. States have recognized what happened as genocide. Yet, successive U.S. administrations continue only to refer to the Armenian genocide as annihilation, massacre or murder.

Every day that goes by without full acknowledgment by the United States of these undeniable facts prolongs the pain felt by descendants of the victims and the entire Armenian community.

There is no room for discretion when dealing with unspeakable crimes against humanity; genocide must be called genocide, murder must be called murder. And every day that goes by without the U.S. acknowledgment of what happened to the Armenian people in the early 20th century undermines the United States' role as a beacon for human rights around the world.

The United States' credibility is particularly important as we seek to compel international condemnation of and active response to those who are perpetrating extreme violence today—whether it be in individual cases of human rights abuses or in cases of government-driven attacks against citizens protesting for greater freedom and opportunity.

The United States cannot and does not turn a blind eye to atrocities around the globe. In fact, the United States is often the first to speak out in the face of violence and unspeakable suffering. But sadly, our Nation is on the wrong side of history when it comes to the Armenian genocide. It is long past time to do the right thing.

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. will finally and firmly stand on the right side of history and officially condemn the crimes of 1915–1923 by their appropriate name—genocide.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING GEORGE COWAN

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to speak about the life of George Cowan who died last Friday in Los Alamos at the age of 92.

From 1949 through 1988, he distinguished himself at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where he was a scientist—a nuclear chemist—and a senior administrator.

In 1984, he was instrumental in founding The Santa Fe Institute which has achieved great recognition for its work in complexity and self-organizing systems.

A Founding Director of the Los Alamos National Bank, he was one of the several leaders in that community who labored to bring banking to a town that was considered “temporary” and not deserving of its own bank. In 1963, LANB was chartered and has grown to be one of the leading financial institutions in New Mexico. At his death, George was still serving on the Board of Directors.

George’s interests and contributions are too numerous to detail in these brief comments, but I will mention his passion to understand the keys to the early development of children. He believed there were great benefits society could reap by giving more attention to successful models of early childhood education.

George’s life and work were invaluable to our Nation and to my home State of New Mexico. I was proud to count him as a friend, and prouder still that he considered me one. I join the many others who will miss him.●

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS FROM YARDLEY, PENNSYLVANIA

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today, I would like to acknowledge the great work of volunteers in Yardley, PA, especially the students at Pennsbury High School who have been selected as the 2012 Make a Difference Day winners. Make a Difference Day is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors, and this annual day of service mobilizes more than 3 million volunteers to effect change in their communities.

This group of outstanding volunteers from Yardley, PA is led by Neha Gupta. Neha founded Empower Orphans, a non-profit organization that has leveraged \$325,000 in donations and grants to clothe and feed Indian children, create a sewing center and set up libraries at four schools. Near to her home in Bucks County, PA, Neha, now 15, identified children in need. In the months leading up to Make a Difference Day, Neha and a group of volunteers gathered 3,000 books and bought colorful furnishings for the neighboring Feltonville Intermediate School library. On Make a Difference Day, the team cleaned up, decorated and stocked the shelves of the library. Since October’s project, Neha has also started an Empower Orphans club at her high school and plans to hold a Make a Difference Day Project every year.

I wish to congratulate Neha and her team and thank them for their service.●

TRIBUTE TO RICK MOSSMAN

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and honor the public service of Rick Lee Mossman, who is retiring from the National Park Service after 35 years of dedicated service to protecting our nation’s treasures and the people who visit them.

Rick was born on April 30, 1955, to Dick and Carolyn Mossman in Topeka, KS. By the time he was 7 years old, Rick knew he wanted to become a park ranger. His life’s work began in May of 1975, when he started his first job with the National Park Service as a seasonal GS-3 general ranger at Buffalo National River in Arkansas. In a career spanning more than 3 decades, Rick Mossman served at nine National Park Service units from Washington, DC to Alaska. During this time, he was an interpreter, front country and back-country patrol ranger, a district ranger, and finally a Chief Ranger at his current location of Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota.

For the last 12 years, he has served on an All-Risk Incident Management Team tasked with responding to disasters such as Hurricanes Isabel and Rita or to managing the search effort for lost hikers. He has been the team’s incident commander since September of 2009.

Rick earned a degree in Wildlife Biology at Kansas State University. He and his wife Julie of 21 years have two sons, Thomas 18 and Jackson 16.

Rick has passionately protected many of the special places that help define the United States of America. He has done this with a strong sense of dedication to duty and commitment to excellence. His work on the Intermountain Incident Management Team speaks to this. When a disaster befalls a National Park Service unit in the Intermountain Region or elsewhere in the Nation, the first call from the Regional Office is to Rick and his team to respond and help park service employees in peril. It is this dedication to helping others at a moment’s notice that defines Rick’s work ethic.

The focus of Rick’s life work has been the protection of public lands and the resources contained therein. He has accomplished this duty with an intense love for the places he worked. It is because of the service of people like Rick Mossman that visitors, past and present and future, enjoy the scenic beauty and heritage that make up the National Park Service.

I am proud to recognize and honor Rick’s service to the National Park Service and am delighted to join with his family and friends in congratulating him on his retirement. I wish Rick and Julie all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was ordered read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2338. A bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and ordered placed on the calendar.

S. 2343. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend the reduced in-

terest rate for Federal Direct Stafford Loans, and for other purposes.

S. 2344. A bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program until December 31, 2012.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5788. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Federal Airways; Alaska” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0110)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5789. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revocation of Multiple Domestic, Alaskan, and Hawaiian Compulsory Reporting Points” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2012-0129)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5790. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modification of Area Navigation Route T-288; WY” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1193)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5791. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Colorado Springs, CO” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1191)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5792. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Jacksonville, NC” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0556)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5793. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Springfield, TN” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-0591)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5794. A communication from the Senior Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Amendment of Class E Airspace; Bellefonte, PA” ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2011-1337)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2012; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5795. A communication from the Administrator, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, proposed legislation to