

IN RECOGNITION OF THE POTTSVILLE ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rotary Club of Pottsville, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary this Friday, April 17, 2015. The club was chartered on May 1, 1915 as Club 157 in District 35, a district that included all of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia. The founding 64 members were led by President O. L. Underwood, Treasurer J. E. Gregory, and Secretary J. H. Zerbey, Jr. The Reading Rotary Club, which was established the prior year, was the sponsor of Pottsville's club.

In the early days of the club, the meeting places "Rotated" around Pottsville. The venues the club frequented included the Allan Hotel, the Necho Allen, the Penn Hall, and other spots in downtown Pottsville. Meetings also took place in communities outside of Pottsville including Long Run (now Schuylkill Haven), Tamaqua, Pine Grove, Normal Square, Hamburg, Shartlesville, and other towns.

The Rotary Club of Pottsville has supported the Rotary Foundation through the years and is proud to list 68 Paul Harris Fellows, each recognized for contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Since its founding, the Pottsville Rotary Club has supported Rotary International efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. In addition to helping fight Polio globally, the Pottsville Rotary Club has a history of helping locally. It was Pottsville Rotarians who organized the Schuylkill County Crippled Children Association in Pottsville. They promoted and sponsored the Schuylkill Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. They organized and sponsored the Rotary Little League, the Zerbey Rotary little league field, the Pottsville girls softball field in Forest Hills, and improvements at the Gordon Nagle little league and softball fields. The club also helped found the annual Charity Bowl all-star basketball games, which features boys and girls high school all-star teams.

It is an honor to recognize the Rotary Club of Pottsville on its 100th Anniversary. I am certain that the organization will continue to work for the improvement of our community and will be a big part of Pottsville and Schuylkill County's future.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER, ARMENIAN GENOCIDE DENIERS PERSIST

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, genocide is the most terrible crime a people can undergo, or another people can commit. It must never be forgotten—to forget it would be to dull our consciences and diminish our own humanity. It must never be denied, but fully acknowledged—otherwise any meaningful attempt at reconciliation will be thwarted.

Last weekend I was present as Brookdale College, the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights, and Genocide Education presented two exhibits and launched a book on the Armenian genocide. The exhibit *A Journey to Life: Armenia teaches the history of the Armenian Genocide* through the lives of local Armenian Genocide Survivors who settled in Monmouth County, while *Illuminating Images: A Hundred Year Remembrance* is an art exhibit created by middle school, high school and college students from across the county and beyond. The book released last weekend was *Hundred-Year Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide: Celebrating the Lives of Armenian Genocide Survivors in Our Community*, which features the personal histories of 54 Survivors who lived in Monmouth County. Everyone who contributed to these exhibits and this book has performed a great service to New Jersey—not only to Armenian-Americans, but to everyone, including those who deny the genocide. They opened paths to the truth, and therefore to a better future.

In September 2000 I chaired a hearing on the Armenian Genocide and co-sponsored legislation to finally put the United States on record officially acknowledging it. It was a four-hour hearing, the first hearing the House of Representatives ever held on the Armenian Genocide. The testimony I heard that day, and accounts of the atrocities I have read in the articles and books over the years have shocked me deeply. The resolution H. Res. 398—vigorously opposed by the Clinton Administration—never got a vote.

But just as shocking then is what we still see today: a completely political and callous campaign to deny the Armenian genocide.

In 1915, there were about 2 million Armenians living in what was then the Ottoman Empire. They were living in a region that they inhabited for 2,500 years. By 1923, well over 90 percent of these Armenians had disappeared. Most of them, as many as 1.5 million, were dead. The remainder had been forced into exile.

There is no lack of historical record. In fact, we only have to listen to the words of the US Ambassador to Turkey at the time, Henry Morgenthau, who called it a "campaign of race extermination."

We only have to listen to the British, French, and Russian governments who said the Young Turks committed a "crime against humanity," the first time in history that charge was ever made by one state against another.

And we only have to listen to the government of Turkey itself, which tried and convicted a number of high-ranking Young Turk officials for their role in what the Turkish government's indictment called, "the massacre and destruction of the Armenians."

When the term genocide was invented in 1944 to describe the systematic destruction of an entire people, its author Raphael Lemkin explained the term by saying it was "the sort of thing Hitler did to the Jews and the Turks did to the Armenians."

The campaign to deny this genocide—often driven by the Turkish government—is repulsive. It is a slap in the face to Armenians everywhere. It is this denial that keeps the Armenian genocide a burning issue and prevents much needed healing of old wounds. Armenians are unfortunately not alone in suffering the hurt and pain that stems from the denial of truth. The international community failed the

victims of the Holocaust, China, the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Bosnia, DRC, Darfur, Syria to name a few.

That means that we here in the United States, and that means not only the Congress but also the President, have the responsibility to speak truthfully and to speak boldly about the past in order to secure our future. We must write and speak the truth so that generations to come will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Only 20 nations around the world have recognized the Armenian Genocide. That includes Canada as well as eleven EU countries including France, Germany Italy, Sweden, Belgium, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Greece and Cypress. Conspicuously absent from the list of nations that have officially recognized the Armenian Genocide is the United States of America.

When political leaders fail to lead or denounce violence, the void is not only demoralizing to the victims but silence actually enables the wrongdoing. Silence by elected officials in particular conveys approval—or at least acquiescence—and can contribute to a climate of fear and a sense of vulnerability.

History has taught us that silence is not an option. We must do more.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2015 DALE CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY AWARDS

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the recipients of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards.

The Dale City Civic Association was founded in 1967 to promote community initiatives. Today, the organization's purpose is to represent the interests of the residents of Dale City in a manner that benefits the entire community. Members do this through revitalization and beautification projects, land use advocacy, and volunteer responses to community needs.

The Association hosts an annual awards banquet to honor individuals and organizations that have shown exceptional devotion to the community and public service. It is my honor to submit the names of the recipients of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards:

Business of the Year Award: The Dental Spa, Dr. Marvette Thomas

Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year: Angela H. McConnell

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Cadet of the Year: Austin Prinbanic

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Nikia Griffiths

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Firefighter of the Year: Christopher Berry

Dale City Volunteer Fire Department, Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Christopher Gardner Jr.

Dale City Youth Environmental and Conservation Award: Khrissa Chun

Ernestine S. Jenkins Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award: Mary Louise Mawn

John D. Jenkins Youth Citizen of the Year: John Thomas Fitzgerald

Kathleen K. Seefeldt Community Service Award: Clarice J. Torian  
Kathy Feeney Nurse of the Year: Bridget Rasmussen Trotman

Outstanding Youth Mentor and Advocate of Higher Education Award: Miranda "Randi" Manderson

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Emergency Medical Service Provider of the Year: Technician II Robert Seitz

Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue, Career Firefighter of the Year: Captain Kim Stewart

Prince William County Police Department, Police Officer of the Year: Officer Robert White Jr.

Prince William County Public Schools, Elementary School Teacher of the Year: Katie Rivers

Prince William County Public Schools, High School Teacher of the Year: Thomas P. Tutwiler

Prince William County Public Schools, Middle School Teacher of the Year: Dawn Cajigas

Prince William County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Sheriff of the Year: Deputy Sheila B. Johnson

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the winners of the 2015 Dale City Civic Association Community Awards for their dedication to building and maintaining a healthy community. Each recipient has made a tangible imprint on Dale City, and, with these awards, we illustrate that their contributions have not gone unnoticed.

HONORING JUDGE JOHN WILCHIE

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judge John Wilchie from Tallahatchie County, MS.

Judge Wilchie was born in Glendora, Mississippi. Glendora is a small rural town in the Second Congressional District. The town is most notable for the Emmett Till Murder in 1955. Black history month is a month of recognition of African Americans who have made some type of historical contribution, big or small, in this country.

Judge Wilchie made black history in 1979 in Tallahatchie County when he was appointed as judge to finish the term of Judge JB Ray. The following year in 1980, however, he was elected as the first African-American Justice Court Judge in the county. He retired from the bench in 1984. Judge Wilchie received his education from Mississippi Valley State University as well as the University of Mississippi Judicial College in 2004. He helped to start the Sharkey-Hampton Lake Volunteer Fire Department where he served as Fire Captain and Chief. Currently, Judge Wilchie serves as the Co-chairman of the Tallahatchie County Emmett Till Memorial Commission, a member of the West Tallahatchie County P-16 Educational Board and the Chairman of the Tallahatchie County Branch of the NAACP.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the historical contribution of Judge John Wilchie for being elected as the first African-American Justice Court Judge in

Tallahatchie County, MS in the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION ACT

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce the Western Hemisphere Drug Policy Commission Act, a bill that will create an independent commission to evaluate U.S. policies aimed at reducing drug production and trafficking in the Western Hemisphere. A similar bill passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously last year and passed the House of Representatives unanimously on December 8, 2009.

I thank my good friend and colleague Congressman MATT SALMON, the Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, for being the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation.

With \$15.7 billion spent on counternarcotics programs in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1980 and 2012, it is important to take stock of what has worked, what has not worked and what future U.S. drug policy should look like. This independent commission will be required to submit recommendations on future U.S. drug policy to Congress, the Secretary of State and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy 12 months after its first meeting.

The time to examine U.S. drug policy is long overdue. While billions of U.S. taxpayer dollars have been spent over the years to fight the drug trade, illegal drug use in the United States remains high. In 2013, there were an estimated 24,573,000 illicit drug users in the United States. In particular, I am concerned by the dramatic increase in heroin use in our country. Attorney General Eric Holder has noted that heroin overdose deaths in the United States increased by an alarming 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

On the supply side, nearly all cocaine consumed in the United States originates in South America while most of the heroin consumed here is from Colombia and Mexico. In addition, Central America and the Caribbean are key transit regions for drugs entering the United States.

To tackle our nation's horrific drug problem once and for all, we must have a better sense of what works and what does not work. Our partners in the Americas, who have worked closely with us in fighting drug trafficking for years, and the citizens of our great country, who deal every day with illegal drugs on their streets, deserve no less.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF 114TH CONGRESS

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, unleashing the full potential of America means fully investing in the American people.

Unfortunately, the Republican plan for our country is to slash investments in education, transportation and manufacturing.

Rather than help the middle class, the Republican budget hurts ordinary Americans by giving a top 1% tax cut to the ultra-rich, which means the typical American family will end up paying more.

In contrast, the Democratic plan for our country invests in the quintessential American propositions of a good education, better infrastructure, and bigger paychecks.

For 100 Days, the majority party has engaged in special interest giveaways and shut-down brinksmanship.

Over the next 100 days, and every day after that, I will continue to stand—along with my fellow Democrats—for something else entirely:

A nation defined—a nation driven—by full investment in the imagination and industry of each and every American family.

I want to see Made in America, again.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE HUNTER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 15, 2015*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and commend Pauline Hunter of Woodbridge, Virginia, on the occasion of her retirement following 28 years of exemplary federal service.

Ms. Hunter served the entirety of her career with the Department of Army as a civilian employee. During her career, Ms. Hunter has served in various positions, including Community Relations Chief, Transition Services Manager, Family Services Coordinator, Exceptional Family Member Program Coordinator, Mental Health Counselor and Education Counselor. In every position, she has excelled and used her expertise and professionalism to further the mission of the Department of Defense and our nation.

Assignments as both a military wife and civilian federal employee have taken Ms. Hunter around the world with tours in Heidelberg, Berlin, Fort Drum, Fort Myer, Fort Belvoir, the Pentagon, and most recently, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, where she has served as Event Manager for the past two years. Ms. Hunter has been a great ally to my office during our frequent visits to Fort Belvoir as well as in providing assistance to my constituents who live or work at the garrison, and I thank her for her responsiveness and service.

Ms. Hunter's deep-rooted commitment to the Department of Defense and the assistance provided to service members and their families began in the classroom. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Tuskegee (Institute) University and went on to pursue a Master's of Science in Education from Fort Valley (State College) University.

Her passion for improving the lives of others is not restricted to efforts in the workplace. From serving as a volunteer tutor and board member with the Prince William Literacy Program to her devoted membership at First Mount Zion Baptist Church in Dumfries, Virginia, Ms. Hunter's tireless efforts have benefited her community. A native of Greenville,