

effort to recognize Veterans Day as a new federal holiday. He was named Georgia Chairman of the National Veterans Day Committee and partnered with then-Governor of Georgia, Herman Talmadge, to arrange a formal ceremony for the signing of the proclamation declaring the new holiday in Georgia. This ceremony became a tradition in the state that is still honored today. Due to a decline in health, 2014 marked the first year that Commissioner Wheeler was unable to attend but he certainly was there in spirit.

In 1966, in response to the needs of the first veterans returning from the Vietnam War, as well as those of their families and survivors, Commissioner Wheeler created the Supermarket of Veterans Benefits, a one-day informational event aiming to gather local, state, and federal agencies that provide services to veterans. The event was so successful that it became an annual signature event of the GDVS and has been replicated throughout the country.

In 1994, Commissioner Wheeler was appointed Chairman of the National World War II Memorial Advisory Board by President Bill Clinton, serving until the memorial's dedication by President George W. Bush in 2004. He served as a past president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs and was a life member of the American Legion, DAV, and AMVETS.

The Georgia General Assembly issued a resolution in 1998 renaming the state's war veterans memorial complex in Atlanta, Georgia as the "Pete Wheeler Georgia War Veterans Memorial Complex." The complex includes memorials to Georgia veterans from the Spanish-American War through Desert Storm/Desert Shield. Earlier this year, Commissioner Wheeler approved the design for the next addition, a memorial honoring those killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, which will be dedicated on May 20, 2015.

On a personal note, Commissioner Pete Wheeler was a close friend of mine. I have truly been blessed by his friendship, counsel and inspiration throughout the years.

Commissioner Wheeler has accomplished much in his life but none of this would have been possible without the love and support of his family. His wife of 59 years, Geraldine, and one daughter, Jane, preceded him in death. Mourning his memory and rejoicing his life are his daughter, Francis and son-in-law, Mark; son, Peter and daughter-in-law, Debbie; son-in-law, John; and six grandchildren, Matthew, Joshua, Joanna, Alex, Charles, and Jonathan.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 residents of the Second Congressional District and veterans all across Georgia, salute Commissioner Pete Wheeler for his outstanding public service and his everlasting commitment to improving the quality of life for our veterans. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Commissioner Wheeler's family and friends during this difficult time. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

HONORING HAROLD W. MCGRAW III

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harold W. McGraw III on his upcoming retirement from the board of directors of McGraw Hill Financial, the company that his great-grandfather founded in 1888.

Known to his friends as Terry, he joined the company in 1980, holding a number of leadership positions before being named chief executive officer in 1998—the third McGraw to hold that position.

During his tenure as CEO, Terry led the company's transformation from education and publishing into a credit ratings, benchmarks and portfolio-based company, with best-in-class brands that include Standard & Poor's, Platts and J.D. Power.

Though he retired as CEO in 2013, Terry remains active in the global business community and is a well-known voice in various key economic fields. In addition to chairing the International Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Trade Representatives' Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, and the U.S. Council for International Business and the Emergency Committee for American Trade, Terry also is a former Chairman of the Business Roundtable and the U.S.-India Business Council. He serves as a member of the board of directors of United Technologies and of Phillips 66, chairman of the Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), and a member of the Business Council.

The company has always been a fixture in the New York City philanthropic community and, under Terry's leadership, employees have donated countless volunteer hours for causes and programs around the city. This has included everything from park clean-ups with the New York Restoration Project to reading to underserved elementary school children as part of the Read Ahead partnership. The company has provided scores of grants to arts and cultural venues as well.

Terry has devoted himself personally to several programs with which he has particularly deep relationships. He greatly increased corporate support—and personal contributions—to the New York Public Library, where he also serves as a Trustee. He continued the long tradition of McGraw family and company support for Hartley House, a nonprofit community center serving the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of New York City. Terry also initiated the company's partnership with the South Bronx-based Morris High School Educational Campus, taking an active personal interest in the school by meeting and mentoring its students, speaking at events and launching an annual scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, Terry McGraw has distinguished himself throughout his career as a skilled and savvy businessman, as well as a generous and civic-minded philanthropist. I ask my colleagues to support me in congratulating him on his countless achievements during a remarkable career.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

This year marks one hundred years since the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide. A systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. What began with the killing of 300 Armenian leaders resulted in the deaths of one and a half million people and the forced exile of another 500,000.

It is often said that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it, which is why each year I call on the President to officially acknowledge this terrible chapter of history by using the word "genocide." In a recent Detroit News article, a local resident said this, "The fact that 100 years later you still have to explain and prove that what happened to your ancestors was a premeditated crime on a massive scale really incurs a lot of pain for all Armenians."

In my home state of Michigan, 11,000 people of Armenian descent reside and may leading organizations have organized commemorative events leading up to April 24th. I have had the honor to attend many events at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield where there stands a memorial which contains the remains of a genocide victim. We are also proud that the only Armenian research center attached to an American university is at the University of Michigan-Dearborn where the Center documents the Armenian genocide and current Armenian issues.

I am always pleased to co-sponsor Congressional resolutions that shed light on the true nature of this ethnic extermination, and honor its victims and survivors. On the 100th Anniversary, I recall with deep sorrow the stories passed down through families of death marches, labor camps, entire families wiped out, years of slavery, massacre, and starvation.

I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

In 1915, the Ottoman Empire orchestrated a murderous campaign that resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, and forced hundreds of thousands into exile. Growing up in the land of William S. Royan, I learned the stories of this tragic time from the sons and daughters of survivors time and time again. Refusal to accurately recognize this crime against humanity as genocide

hurts both the Armenian people and the American people.

In the Central Valley, Fresno State University has designated April 24 as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The unveiling of the Armenian Genocide Monument, the first of its kind on a U.S. college campus, will take place later today at my alma mater and I know that this memorial will serve as a somber reminder of the devastating violence committed against the Armenian people for generations to come.

Achieving peace today requires recognizing the dark parts of our history and moving forward to find a place of understanding and co-operation. It is my hope that Turkey grasps what President Obama has referred to as the burden of unresolved history and takes this important first step in recognizing what is widely referred to as the first genocide of the twentieth century.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Acknowledging this atrocity would finally allow a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity. It is time for Congress to end the silence and stand up for the Armenian people.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Minas Keoleyan, Herand Arabian, Azniv & Onnig Filipelian, Kapriel Mozigian, Lapajian father & son, Sinem Shamamian and son Bedros, Minas Fendeklian, H. Oozoonian, Mihran Looftian, H. Yazejian, S. Hisian, M. Khanjian, Aram Kamboorian, G. Ebeyian, K. Andonian, S. Mechigian, Puzand Morookian, Karnig Pachajian, Garabed Pachajian, Sarim Kulujian, Eduar Beyazian, H. Looftian, Armenag Looftian, Tevonian, Sukias Dulgerian, Herand Asdvadzadourian, Hagop Garakian, Melkon Hovsepian, Zareh Kochian, Dr. Maksood Apigian, Dr. Azadian, Dr. Sarkis Azoyan, Dr. Nushan Ajemian, Dr. Surdash Arslanian, Dr. Levon Arslanian, Dr. Levon Torkom Partoghian, Dr. Vahan Kavajian, Dr. Mike Karageozian, Dr. Minas Yarmaian, Dr. Elmasian, Dr. Eminian, Dr. Hagop Tajirian, Dr. Minas Tulbendjian, Dr. H. Terzian, Dr. Vosgan Topalian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Ipranosian, Dr. Esgü Denek Madentsi, Dr. Krikor Gulbenkian, Dr. Dikran Halajian, Dr. Levon Loofti Halebian, Dr. Haroutiun Halvajian, Dr. A. Hayranian, Dr. Boghos Hisarlian, Dr. Vahan Ghazarian, Dr. Ghazaros Kharpertzi, Dr. Jeljelian, Dr. Manuelian, Dr. Melkisetegian, Dr. Sarkis Momjian, Dr. Hagop, Dr. Toros Nazlian, Dr. Nushan Nahigian, Dr. H. Nazlian, Dr. Souren Nushanian, Dr. Nerses Shahbazlian, Dr. Anigdos Chobanian, Dr. Misak Baghdasarian, Dr. B. Baghdasarian, Dr. Toros Babigian, Dr. Nushan Bakalian, Dr.

Sarkis Sertelian, Dr. Armenag Seraydarian, Dr. Baghdasar Vartanian, Dr. Haroutiun Vezneian, Dr. Khachig Der Manuelian, Dr. Nushan Der Vahramian, Dr. H. Donigian, Dr. Boghos Palabuyukian, Dr. Misak Panossian, Dr. H. Keshishian, Dr. Mihran Altunian, Dr. M. Albertian, Dr. H. Achbahian, Dr. Peniamin, Dr. Haigazoon Tabibian, Dr. Levon Yeghavian, Dr. Nushan Ghonchegulian, Dr. Manoog, Dr. Nushan Mughigian, Dr. Sumpad, Dr. Paroonag Ajemian, Dr. Armenag, Dr. Proodian, Dr. H. Kooyoomjian, Dr. Kratljan, Dr. Simon Koyoonian, Dr. Yetvart Tashjian, Dr. Khachadour Torkomian, Dr. Haroutiun Looftian, Dr. Norayr Khachadourian, Dr. Karekin Gurjian, Dr. Kevork Gurjian, Dr. Yeghiazar Mesiaian, Dr. Vahan Shidanian, Dr. Khachig Saraydarian, Dr. Dikran Saraydarian, Dr. Sarkis, Dr. Hagop Sarigian, Dr. Sebooh, Dr. Kasbar Srabian, Dr. Vahan Vartanian, Dr. Puzand Derbabian, Dr. M. Der Sdepanian, Dr. Levon Panossian, Dr. Yeghishe Papanian, Dr. Khachig Pasdermajian, Dr. Hagop Kenderian, Dr. Khosrov Keshishian, Maldjian Family, Aintablian Family, Zarouhi Magarian, Rahel Demirjian, Raffael Der-Tovmasyan, Levon Aharonian, Aharon Aharonian, Altoon Aharonian, Haygaz Simonian, Hagop Beloian, Hagop Beloian, Yetvart Jamgochian, Vergeen Tashjian, Verone Bedrosian, Smbat Byurat DerGhazarian, Zumgroot DerGhazarian, Zartar Arakelian, Maryam Kazarian, Hovanness Yeretzian, Marian Shekerdeman, Vartan Yeretzian, Kevork Vichabian, Simon Simonyan, Zmrookht Simonyan, Mariam Simonyan, Haroutyun Papazian, Zakaria Minassian, Garabed Jingoizian, Zakaria Minassian, Krikor Papazian, Baghdassar Karibian, Mary Meuguerditchian-Apelian, Zakar Ovoian, Hambardzum Khulyan, Suren Hakobyan, Azatuhi Hakobyan, Vostan Baghallian, Simon Hovhannesi Achikgozian, Hripsime Aghvinian, Hovhanes Aghvinian, Ester Maghakian, Boghos Maghakian, Maghak Maghakian, Mkhoyan Asatur, Hripsime Maghakian, Srpuhi Mkrtchyan, Assadour Assadourian, Yeva Hovhannessian, Ghazaros Medzoian, Sargsian Tigran, Loosatsin Medzoian, Araxi Fundukian, Zaven Fundukian, Mariam Aroushian, Sarkis Aroushian, Gadarine Fundukian, Anahid Fundukian, Elmast Medzigian, Khachig Fundukian, Hagop Fundukian, Khassig Fundukian, Eva Fundukian, Melkon Medzigian, Ludwig Medzigian, Verjin Medzigian, Ara Medzigian, Hovannes Altibarmakian, Horop Anoushian, Zakaryan Nerses, Grigor Zohrap, Movses Deirmendjian, Hovaness Toutikian, Maritsa Kyulehyan, Tadevos Karapetyan, Khatchador Boyajian, Shimavon Donoyan, Anna Donoyan, Avedis Chaparian, Sirak Keshishian, Mardiros Toutikian, Abraham Toutikian, Hovannes Knajian, Armenouhi Toutikian, Harout Knajian, Lucy Knajian, Christeen Ter Stepanian, Avak Mouradian, Papken Toumaian, Hagop Kalbakian, Aram Jermakyan, Garabed Kaloustian, Sarkis Dadoyan, Elisabeth Partamian, Nazareth Partamian, Ovsanna Kayayan, Marna Banerian, Onnig Khachigian, Elmonig Khachigian, Onnig Khachaturian, Stepan Khachigian, Elize Avakian, Zabel Avakian, Arousiag Avakian, Setrag Avakian, Mgrditch Tashjian, Boghos Mkhitarian, Iskouhi Gabrielian, Aregnaz Markarian, Missak Moizian, Haroutyun Sarkissian, Santoukht Moizian Ansoorian, Mikael Ansoorian, Yeghia Sarkissian, Khazaros Charchian, Mihran Berberian, Haganoush Tarpinian, Megerdich

Sarafian, George Chelabian, Hakop Ter-Saakyan, Tatos Moloian, Mikael Khachetoorian, Hamparsoum Borzakian, Mesrob Der Mesrobian, Marta Avakian, Karnig Tomassian, Gayane Kazarian, Dikran Kazarian, Ararat Kazarian, Shoushanig Donegian, Haroutune Oknayan, Hagop Parsaghian, Niko Zakarian, Mariam Kouyoumjian, Kevork Mardirossian, Hripsime Mardirossian, Kevork Mardirossian, Makrouhie Oknayan, Khachik Oknayan, Hagop Oknayan, Mihran Oknayan, Manuk Oknayan, Asvadzadour Oknayan, Marie Oknayan, Mousheg Khodjhumyan, Jovannes Kabbendjian, Krakow Ouzounian, Edward Bozajian, Manouk Gasparian, Gazaros Tombulyan, Sarkis Gasparian, Ibrahim Louseian, Ann Gasparian, Ibrahim Lousean, Davit Gezalian, Yegisabet Gezalian, Hrand Mikoyan, Minas Chatalian, Mariam Chatalian, Yestare Bedrossian, Rosa Jeboghlian, Marie Balian, Mikael Tarkanian, Alton Derderian, Eksa. Derderian, Mihran Tarkanian, Vartan Dakessian, Levon Guevoghlian, Boghos Grikorian, Hovanes Minasyan, Gevorg Minasyan, Matevos Matilyan, Simon Kelian, Hovannes Terterian, Haji Teyrekian, Ahavni Birickyan, Avetis Martirosyan, Ocean Movsesian, Krikor Gureghian, Paul DerBoghossian, Sahag DerBoghossian, Tigran Trchunyan, Tirhouhi Kara-Sarkissian, Gevorg Kara-Sarkissian, Armen Kara-Sarkissian, Aram Kara-Sarkissian, Alexan Tavitian, Armine Pagoumian, Vartan Balikian, Margaret Madoian, Miriam Madoian, Hatchig Madoian, Pusant Madoian, Maghta Gevorgian, Barsegh Karapetyan, Osanna Madoian, Atoyan Maria-Magdalena, Stepan Arvanyan, Haroutune Bozghourian, Ghazaros Baldjian, Sanasar Hovhannissyan, Eriya Amiran, Armenag Zeytounsian, Toros Agha Chaghllassian, Hovsep Najarian, Stephen Minasian, Haykandukht Mheryan, Hagop Melkonian, Christaphor Mheryan, Nerses Mheryan, Serop Manjikian, Sarkis Kurkdjian Senior, Tigran Zarookian, Zarouhi Alachanian, Mardiros Djambazian, Anahid Der Parseghian, Zaruhi Caroglanian, Asadour Daldabanian, Krikor Daldabanian, Arshagul Artinian, Krikor Artinian, Vaxho Simonyan, Haroutyun Tatikian, Kurken Parseghian, Mihran Sabonjian, Vahan Kazezian, Mariam Kazezian, Yebrakseh Kazezian, Krikor Sabonjian, Nazar Guyujyan, Razmik Palandjian, Mari Guyujyan, Krikor Gokpanossian, Panos Trashian, Goar Akopova, Anoush Kulafian, Vartouhy Kulafian, Ohannes Hagopian, Hagop Hagopian, Jirair Demirjian, Suqias Nuroyan, Matevos Sachyan, Hnazard Sachyan, Samson Khachatryan, Mariam Khachatryan.

IN HONOR OF ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the State of Israel in celebration of the 67th anniversary of the declaration of its independence. Israel was founded and declared an independent state on April 14, 1948, moments before the British Mandate was due to end. From that point on in history, Israel has