

Party and the military use their positions for self-enrichment, average Cubans face a status quo of limited economic opportunities. As the gap between the “haves” and the “have nots” grows in Cuba, it appears that the Castros’ Orwellian dystopia is a system in which all Cubans are equal, but some Cubans are more equal than others.

Finally, looking outward, at the Summit of the Americas last week, where leaders of the Western Hemisphere grappled with an unprecedented migration and humanitarian crisis, Raul Castro may have been absent, but the legacy of ruin in Venezuela was front and center. In a July 2017 Senate hearing, Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro described Cuba’s presence in Venezuela as an “occupation army.” While Nicolas Maduro clings to his failed ideological, military, and economic alliance with the Castro regime, Venezuelans are suffering from food shortages, a collapsed healthcare system, and rampant crime.

This brutal reality is the Castros’ legacy for the Cuban people and the hemisphere. In his role as First Vice President since 2013, Mr. Diaz Canel has been Raul Castro’s first accomplice. So while Cubans will never stop dreaming for a future in which they are guaranteed human rights and are truly free to pursue economic prosperity, they know that Mr. Diaz Canel represents little more than a continuation of the Castro regime.

Turning to U.S. foreign policy, to those who would argue Cuba is ready to be a member of the community of nations, let me point to the attacks against American diplomats in Havana. U.S. personnel have faced an unprecedented ordeal. More than 50 unexplained attacks have affected more than two dozen American citizens, with some cases involving lasting, physical brain damage. Let anyone who harbors doubts about these incidents refer to the Trudeau government’s announcement this week regarding incidents affecting Canadian officials and changes to Canada’s diplomatic presence in Cuba. These attacks are real. People are suffering.

Cuban officials attempting to dismiss these egregious attacks is yet another sign of the disingenuous nature of the dictatorship. Whether the attacks were perpetrated by Cuban intelligence services or involve the participation of another country’s intelligence services, it is unfathomable that a government that prides itself on running a police state would even try to feign ignorance about these incidents. I refuse to accept the premise that members of the Castro regime are not in some way complicit or have no information about who is responsible. The State Department must continue its investigation of these attacks.

The Trump administration must also move beyond Presidential promises towards a substantive strategy that pressures the regime to undertake serious

reforms to advance democratic values and human rights and end its support of failed leadership in Venezuela.

First, the United States must remain steadfast in supporting democratic activists in Cuba. While President Trump claims to support those fearlessly advocating for their rights, his budget proposals tell a different story. Alarmingly, his fiscal year 2018 request to Congress proposed zero dollars for democracy programs in Cuba, while his fiscal year 2019 budget only requested \$10 million. In contrast to his statements, this amounts to rejecting support for the Cuban people and our interests.

Additionally, as the U.S. Government hones new tools to advance accountability for human rights violations, we should utilize targeted global Magnitsky sanctions to put a spotlight on the Cuban officials responsible for these abuses.

Second, although senior administration officials have been critical of business deals with the Cuban military that enrich the Castro regime in the process, the regulations the administration introduced in November 2017 fail to address key elements of commerce that benefit Cuba’s dictatorship. In the coming weeks, I will launch a congressional review of Treasury and Commerce regulations in order to end unnecessary loopholes that benefit the regime.

Finally, as leaders from the Americas and Europe come together to address the multifaceted crisis in Venezuela, they must seriously confront Cuba’s role in Venezuela’s collapse. To date, efforts to coordinate increased international pressure on the Venezuelan Government have given the Castro regime a free pass. There was widespread support in the hemisphere for Peru’s decision to not invite Nicolas Maduro to the Summit of the Americas due to the authoritarian nature of his government; yet no one, including the Trump administration, held Cuba’s dictatorship to the same standard. It is time for the administration to reverse this trend and call for a coordinated diplomatic response to Cuba’s longstanding role in Venezuela’s emergence as a failed state.

In closing, I urge my colleagues join me in speaking out against the undemocratic political spectacle in Cuba this week. We must join together to pursue a comprehensive policy towards Cuba that pressures regime officials to loosen their stranglehold on Cuba’s economy and political system and that advances the true democratic and justice reforms the Cuban people so desperately desire.

103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this week we solemnly observe the 103rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Over a century ago, one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century began

when the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire executed more than 200 prominent Armenians. What followed was an 8-year systematic campaign of oppression and massacre. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and over a half a million survivors were exiled.

These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and, indeed, across the globe. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during this dark time, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., unsuccessfully pleaded with President Wilson to take action and later remembered the events of the genocide, saying, “I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.” Clearly, the suffering of the Armenian people must never be forgotten.

The survivors of the Armenian genocide, however, persevered due to their unbreakable spirit and steadfast resolve and went on to greatly contribute to the lands in which they found new homes and communities, including the United States. That is why we not only commemorate this grave tragedy each year, but we also take this moment to celebrate the traditions, the contributions, as well as the bright future of the Armenian people. Indeed, my home State of Rhode Island continues to be enriched by our strong and vibrant Armenian-American community.

This genocide has been denied for far too long. To honor the memory of this tragedy, I have joined with several of my colleagues on resolutions over the years to encourage the U.S. to officially recognize the Armenian genocide.

As we remember the past, we remain committed to forging a brighter future. We must continue to guard against hatred and oppression so that we can prevent such crimes against humanity.

As ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee, I remain committed to supporting assistance to Armenia to strengthen security, promote economic growth, and foster democratic reforms and development.

We must find a way to come together to recognize the truth of what happened and to provide unwavering support and assistance to those facing persecution today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH CABINET PARTICIPANTS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize 32 Arkansans who have taken an interest in playing a positive, productive role in their communities, the State of Arkansas, and our country.

In September, this group of high school students convened as part of my

inaugural Congressional Youth Cabinet, a nonpartisan initiative that has allowed these young people firsthand experience engaging in the democratic process. Students from each of Arkansas' four congressional districts participated in the program, which provided them with exposure to the legislative process and opportunities to seek out advocacy and civic engagement.

The goal of the Congressional Youth Cabinet is to foster a lifetime commitment to civic engagement and public service. I have been impressed with these young Arkansans as they have grown in their knowledge of how our government works and the role that public policy plays in their everyday lives.

One project in particular that demonstrates this process involved having the participants, grouped together by their congressional districts, develop a legislative proposal of their choice between three issues: driverless cars, an internet sales tax, or rural broadband. The students worked together to craft their proposals on these topics, drawing on their own research and background knowledge.

I was able to help them refine their ideas and offer my advice as to how they could make adjustments to their product so as to have the best chance of garnering bipartisan support. We also discussed why similar legislation had not successfully attracted enough backing to pass Congress and become law.

This program has given these students the chance to think critically and carefully about how public policy can have an impact on them, their families, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens. I am proud of these Arkansans for taking a proactive step to learn more about how they can make a difference and be a force for good. Their participation in the Congressional Youth Cabinet is something we all can take great pride in.

I congratulate them on their hard work and efforts and offer my best wishes for the future. I know these students will continue to be leaders and doers who give back to their communities. I hope their participation in the Congressional Youth Cabinet is something they can point to as having made a distinct and significant contribution to their development as students and informed, engaged citizens.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY KAY FORSYTH

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th birthday of Mary Kay Forsyth, originally of Bozeman, MT. She was born in the middle of Main Street under a firetruck on April 24, 1918, and she has been setting off alarms ever since.

Mary Kay spent her formative years in Missoula where her father, Clyde P. Fickes, was the head the U.S. Forest Service Region 1 office. Soon after graduating from the University of

Montana in 1941 with a double major in journalism and pre-medicine, Mary Kay married professional hockey player, Albert J.C. Forsyth of Wainwright, Alberta. They soon moved to Seattle to help the war effort. At the conclusion of the war, Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth and their growing family settled in Coronado, CA.

Mary Kay spent her life dedicated to the improvement of her community. Her public service and spirit is an example to others and is admired by all who know her.

Mary Kay has a loving family of four children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. I, along with her family and friends, wish Mary Kay a very happy 100th birthday.●

REMEMBERING DORIS WARD

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, Californians and San Franciscans have lost a fearless advocate for racial and economic equality who became the first African-American president of San Francisco's board of supervisors. Ms. Doris Ward was elected to the board of supervisors and was sworn in on January 8, 1980. In 1991, Ms. Ward became the first Black woman to serve as board president.

Ms. Ward was a trailblazer from her earliest days. She attended an integrated school from kindergarten through 12th grade. She went on to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees in education at Indiana University. Later she earned a master's degree in counseling from San Francisco State University and a doctorate in education from U.C. Berkeley. Ms. Ward was active in the civil rights movement and participated in sit-ins at bars and other public areas in Indiana. Ms. Ward began her career as a teacher in Gary, IN, her hometown, before joining the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP, in Indianapolis.

During her time at the NAACP in the late 1960s, Ms. Ward cemented her role as a leader for civil rights and social justice by opposing the Ku Klux Klan and other forms of racism and discrimination before moving to California.

Ms. Ward started her political career in 1972, after moving to San Francisco, when she became a trustee for the city's community college district prior to joining the board of supervisors.

Ms. Ward was a friend, mentor, and we will miss her vibrant spirit. The thoughts of San Franciscans and Californians are with Ms. Ward's sister, Debra Floyd, of Washington, DC, her family, city leaders, and the people of San Francisco during this time.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN RUHS

● Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize and thank Mr. John Ruhs, the director of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, BLM, in Nevada, for his work on behalf of our State as he departs his role to assume

the top position at the National Inter-agency Fire Center in Boise, ID.

Mr. Ruhs first moved to Nevada as a wild horse and burro specialist and later served as Ely's BLM district manager and Winnemucca's district fire management officer. When talking about the time he has spent in Nevada, Mr. Ruhs said, "I truly love the resources, the people, and the wide variety of activities and issues that we face."

He was appointed by Neil Kornze, the national director of the BLM during the Obama administration, to serve as Nevada's director in 2015, a role he was well-suited for, given his previous public service in Nevada. For more than 3 years, he was in charge of managing 48 million acres of Federal land in our State. It is a tough job, but he excelled in the role, and I have appreciated the opportunity to work with him. He is a hard-working, honest broker who has a record of successfully and expeditiously resolving longstanding issues. John is a leader and a problem solver and was willing to get personally involved in even the most difficult disputes.

Prior to his work in Nevada, Mr. Ruhs worked for the BLM in Colorado, Idaho, and Oregon, as well as in Washington, DC, as the senior special assistant. He also worked in Wyoming as district manager of the High Desert District. Mr. Ruhs is also a veteran. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps, and I am truly grateful for his service to our Nation.

Mr. Ruhs grew up in Iowa and graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor of science degree in animal science. He and his wife, Amy, are the proud parents of seven daughters. Together, they embrace the outdoors and enjoy spending time riding horses and camping.

As the senior Senator from the State of Nevada, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ruhs for his many years of public service to the BLM and to my home State. While his departure is Nevada's loss, I know that the National Interagency Fire Center will benefit from his expertise. I wish Mr. Ruhs continued success in his future endeavors and many fulfilling years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO DIMITRI PHILEMONOF

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I would like to recognize an Alaska Native leader who has dedicated much of his life and career to humanitarian service in Alaska. Dimitri Philemonof is the president of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, which is a Tribal nonprofit organization that serves the regional tribes in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands of Alaska. Under Dimitri's leadership, APIA has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of the Aleut people by providing them with a broad spectrum of services. These services include health, education, social, employment