

Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kasich
Kelly
Kim
King
Kingston
Klecza
Klink
Klug
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Largent
Latham
LaTourette
Laughlin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lightfoot
Lincoln
Linder
Livingston
LoBiondo
Longley
Lucas
Luther
Manton
Manzullo
Martinez
Mascara
McCollum
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McHugh
McInnis
McIntosh
McKeon
Metcalf
Mica
Miller (FL)
Minge
Molinari
Mollohan
Montgomery
Moorhead
Murtha
Myers
Myrick

Nethercutt
Neumann
Ney
Norwood
Oberstar
Obey
Ortiz
Orton
Oxley
Packard
Paxon
Payne (VA)
Peterson (FL)
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickett
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Poshard
Pryce
Quillen
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Riggs
Roberts
Roemer
Rogers
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roth
Roukema
Royce
Salmon
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaefer
Schiff
Seastrand
Sensenbrenner
Shadegg
Shaw

NAYS—138

Abercrombie
Andrews
Baldacci
Barrett (WI)
Becerra
Beilenson
Bentsen
Berman
Bonior
Borski
Brown (CA)
Brown (OH)
Bryant (TX)
Campbell
Cardin
Clay
Clayton
Clyburn
Coleman
Collins (IL)
Collins (MI)
Conyers
Coyne
Davis
DeFazio
DeLauro
Dellums
Deutsch
Dicks
Dixon
Doggett
Dooley
Durbin
Engel
Eshoo
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Fazio
Fields (LA)
Filner
Forbes
Ford
Frank (MA)
Franks (NJ)
Frelinghuysen
Frost

Shuster
Sisisky
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Solomon
Souder
Spence
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stockman
Stump
Stupak
Talent
Tanner
Tate
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Tejeda
Thomas
Thornberry
Thornton
Thurman
Tiahrt
Traficant
Upton
Volkmer
Vucanovich
Walker
Walsh
Wamp
Ward
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Williams
Wise
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)
Zeliff

Morella
Nadler
Neal
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pastor
Payne (NJ)
Pelosi
Rangel
Reed
Richardson
Rivers
Rose
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanders
Sanford
Schumer
Scott
Serrano
Shays
Skaggs
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Stark
Stokes
Studds
Thompson
Torkildsen
Torres
Torricelli
Towns
Velazquez
Vento
Visclosky
Waters
Watt (NC)
Waxman
White
Woolsey
Wynn
Yates
Zimmer

NOT VOTING—7

Ackerman
Foglietta
Hansen
McDade
Parker
Schroeder
Wilson

□ 1656

The Clerk announced the following pair:

On this vote:

Mr. McDade for, with Mr. Ackerman against.

Messrs. FRELINGHUYSEN, DAVIS, CLAY, THOMPSON, MOAKLEY, and LAZIO of New York, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas changed their vote from "yea" to nay."

Mr. KLINK and Mrs. CUBIN changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1675, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 1675, NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that in the engrossment of the bill, H.R. 1675, the Clerk be authorized to make technical and conforming changes as are necessary to reflect the actions of the House on the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alaska?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 4 OF RULE XI WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCINNIS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-535) on the resolution (H. Res. 412) waiving a requirement of clause 4(b) of rule XI with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

□ 1700

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1202

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1202.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4, rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill earlier today: Senate 735, to deter terrorism, provide justice for victims, provide for an effective death penalty, and for other purposes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on last Wednesday, April 17, 1996, I was away from the floor because of a family medical emergency. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 121, on H.R. 842; and on rollcall 122, final passage on H.R. 842, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was absent on Thursday, April 18, for a family medical emergency. Had I been present on rollcall 123, House Resolution 406, honoring Ron Brown, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall vote 124, ordering the previous question on S. 735, the antiterrorism bill, I would have voted "no." On rollcall vote 125, on S. 735, I would have voted "no." On rollcall 126, final passage, S. 735, I would have voted "yes."

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Mr. Lundergan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a joint resolution of the House of the following title:

H.J. Res. 175. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, and gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

STATEMENT ON ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today, April 24, marks the 81st anniversary of the unleashing of the Armenian genocide, one of the most horrible events of the 20th century and probably in all of human history.

Mr. Speaker, each year Members of Congress from both the House and Senate take time to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were slaughtered during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. I am proud to continue this congressional tradition today. I am joining with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and other Members from both sides in these 5-minute special orders.

Mr. Speaker, between the years 1915 and 1923 in the Ottoman Turkish Empire, there were 1.5 million Armenians slaughtered and another 500,000 forced to leave from their homelands. What happened was not a series of random atrocities but a systematic policy of deportation, separation of family members, slave labor, torture, and murder. Although the killings finally ended in 1923, efforts to erase all traces of the Armenian presence in what is now eastern Turkey continued, such as the changing of geographical names and the destruction of Armenian religious and cultural monuments. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, a precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and the other cases of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination of peoples in our own time. We must call it by its correct name: genocide.

Yet to this day, the Government of Turkey maintains its disgraceful policy of denying that the genocide ever took place. The facts contradict those denials. The historical record, including documented accounts from American eyewitnesses, proves that the rulers of the Ottoman Empire, conceived in the name of Turkish nationalist ideology, planned and carried out a program to eliminate ethnic minorities, especially the Armenians. The record includes the eyewitness accounts of journalists and diplomats on the scene and the eloquent and horrifying testimony of the survivors. The historic record is clear. At that time the word genocide had not yet been coined, but genocide is what it was. Yet there were no Nuremberg trials. There has been no official atonement by the Turkish nation. In fact, statements by me and other Members of Congress about the Armenian genocide are routinely dismissed by Turkey's Ambassador to the United States.

We must continue to persuade Turkey, the recipient of hundreds of millions of dollars each year in United States aid, to officially acknowledge the truth, and in our own time we must insist that Turkey lift its illegal block-

ades of Armenia and accept the Armenian government's offer to normalize relations without preconditions.

Just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, the Turkish President came to Washington on a state visit. For anyone who has held out the hope that the President would offer an olive branch of reconciliation to the Armenian people, the visit was a major disappointment, though not a major surprise. The Government of Turkey refused to lift the blockade of Armenia and accept the offer of the Government of Armenia to normalize relations without preconditions.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, United States administrations have also avoided using the term genocide in describing what happened 80 years ago, no doubt under heavy pressure from the Government of Turkey. While President Clinton and his predecessors have acknowledged the Armenian people were the victims of tragic massacres, these Presidential statements have never sufficiently conveyed the full extent of the evil that occurred. Clearly this entire shameful and appalling period of history meets every definition of the term genocide.

Earlier this month, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and I, as co-chairmen of the Caucus on Armenian Issues, asked our colleagues to join us in urging the President to make a much stronger statement acknowledging the genocide. Fifty-nine Members of Congress signed on. Last year many of us signed a similar letter. Sadly, although President Clinton last year issued a powerful statement, he carefully avoided the word genocide. I want you to know that I support President Clinton on many issues and he has shown strong support for many pro-Armenian initiatives. He has appointed a special United States negotiator for the Nagorno-Karabagh situation, and the United States Agency for International Development has devoted great resources to Armenia, but I have no problem putting the President on the spot on the question of calling the genocide by its proper name. It is very important and a clear-cut case of doing the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that while the purpose of our ceremony today is a solemn remembrance of a tragedy that affected an entire people, I would like to say a few words about the present and the future. The survivors of the genocide, their sons and daughters and grandchildren, have refused to accept the effort by the Ottoman Turks to destroy the Armenian people. In fact, in the decades since, the Armenian people have flourished.

One of the most inspiring events of recent years has been the emergence of the Republic of Armenia, and we as Americans must support the Republic of Armenia. It has, through great difficulty, registered positive growth in its gross domestic product. It has moved forward with the process of democratization. It has been having elec-

But the people of Armenia still need our help. They need American help now. Last year, in the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs of the Committee on Appropriations, again primarily through Congressman PORTER's help, \$85 million in United States humanitarian aid was provided to Armenia, plus an additional \$30 million for development assistance. Last year's foreign operations bill also included the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, which bars aid to Turkey for as long as Turkey blocks the delivery of United States aid to Armenia.

There are a number of things our caucus has been doing, and I am sure other Members tonight will also talk about more of them. But the main thing, Mr. Speaker, is we must continue our support for the Republic of Armenia, improving relations between the two countries, because that is one way that we can make it clear why this genocide, when it took place 80 years ago, was so wrong and what the accomplishments of the Armenian people have been since that time.

Mr. Speaker, today, April 24, 1996, marks the 81st anniversary of the unleashing of the Armenian genocide, one of the most horrible events of the 20th century, and in all of human history.

Each year Members of Congress from both the House and the Senate take time to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children who were slaughtered during the final years of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. I am proud to continue this proud congressional tradition today.

I am joining with the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] and other members from both sides in the aisle in a series of 5-minute special orders to commemorate this tragic anniversary. Other Members are submitting statements in writing testifying to their deep concern about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, between the years 1915 and 1923, in the Ottoman Turkish Empire, 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered and another 500,000 were forced to leave from their homelands. What happened was not a series of random atrocities, but a systematic policy of deportations, separation of family members, slave labor, torture, and murder. Although the killings finally ended in 1923 efforts to erase all traces of the Armenian presence in what is now eastern Turkey continued, such as the changing of geographical names and the destruction of Armenian religious and cultural monuments. This was the first genocide of the 20th century, a precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and the other case of ethnic cleaning and mass extermination of peoples in our own time. We must call it by its correct name: genocide.

Yet, to this day, the Government of Turkey maintains its disgraceful policy of denying that the genocide ever took place. But the facts contradict these denials: The historical record, including documented accounts from American eyewitnesses, proves that the rules of the Ottoman Empire conceived, in the name of Turkish nationalist ideology, planned and carried out a program to eliminate ethnic minorities, especially the Armenians. The record includes the eyewitness accounts of journalists

and diplomats on the scene, and the eloquent and horrifying testimony of the survivors. The historic record is clear. At that time, the word genocide had not yet been coined, but genocide is what it was. Yet there were no Nuremberg trials. These has been no official atonement by the Turkish nation. In fact, statements by me and other Members of Congress about the Armenian genocide are routinely dismissed by Turkey's Ambassador to the United States.

We must continue to persuade Turkey, the recipient of hundreds of millions of dollars each year in United States aid, to officially acknowledge the truth. And in our own time, we must insist that Turkey lift its illegal blockade of Armenia and accept the Armenian government's offer to normalize relations without preconditions.

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Sadly, United States administrations have also avoided using the term "genocide" in describing what happened 80 years ago—no doubt under heavy pressure from the Government of Turkey. While President Clinton and his predecessors have acknowledged that the Armenian people were the victims of tragic massacres, these Presidential statements have never sufficiently conveyed the full extent of the evil that occurred. Clearly, this entire shameful and appalling period of history meets every definition of the term "genocide."

Earlier this month, Congressman PORTER and I, as cochairmen of the Caucus on Armenian Issues, asked our colleagues to join us in urging the President to make a much stronger statement acknowledging the genocide. Fifty-nine Members of Congress signed on. Last year, many of us signed a similar letter to the President. Sadly, although President Clinton last year issued a powerful statement, he carefully avoided the word "genocide." I support President Clinton on many issues, and he has shown strong support for many pro-Armenian initiatives. He has appointed a special U.S. negotiator for the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, and the U.S. Agency for International Development [AID] has devoted great resources to Armenia. But I have no problem putting the President on the spot on the question of calling the genocide by its proper name. It is so very important, and such a clear-cut case of doing the right thing.

While the purpose of today's ceremony is a solemn remembrance of a tragedy that affected an entire people, I would like to say a few words about the present and the future. The survivors of the genocide, their sons and daughters and their grandchildren, have refused to accept the effort by the Ottoman Turks to destroy the Armenian people. In fact, in the decades since, the Armenian people have flourished. The Armenians who came to the United States and their descendants have made tremendous contributions to our business, professional, and cultural life. Armenians have made new lives and significant contributions in many other countries.

One of the most inspiring events of recent years has been the emergence of the Repub-

lic of Armenia. Rising out of the ashes of the former Soviet Union, the Republic of Armenia has shown a remarkable resilience, a commitment to democracy and a market economy. And it has not been easy: Armenia has been squeezed by cruel and illegal blockades imposed by modern Armenia's two neighbors, Turkey and Azerbaijan. Some of the noises coming out of Moscow, about a reunited Soviet Union, are most troubling. In spite of these difficulties, Armenia has been the only former Soviet Republic to register positive growth in its gross domestic product. The Republic of Armenia also moves forward with the process of democratization, having held Parliamentary elections last year and planning for Presidential elections this year.

But the people of Armenia need our help—American help—now. We must do everything possible to make sure that they get that assistance, and many of my colleagues are working equally hard.

The foreign operations appropriations for fiscal year 1996 provided \$85 million in U.S. humanitarian aid, plus an additional \$30 million for development assistance. Last year's foreign operations bill also included the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, which bars aid to Turkey for as long as Turkey blocks the delivery of United States aid to Armenia. We are working to have this provision reenacted, and to make sure that the administration strictly enforces this law. In addition, last year's foreign aid bill had a cut in aid to Turkey, as a direct statement of disapproval for Turkey's actions with regards to the Armenian blockade, as well as the mistreatment of the Kurdish people, its occupation of Cyprus and its generally bad human rights record. I find it incredible that a country that gets \$600 million in U.S. taxpayers' funds can get away with blocking the delivery of American humanitarian assistance to its small, struggling neighbor.

Another way we can help Armenia is by ending the illegal blockade imposed by Armenia's neighbor to the east, Azerbaijan. Current U.S. law blocks the provision of American assistance to Azerbaijan until the Azeris lift their blockade. Unfortunately, last year, legislation to waive this law was included in the foreign operations bill. This year, we will try to be more vigilant to make sure that Azerbaijan is not rewarded for failure to comply with the conditions of United States under the Freedom Support Act.

Last year, Congressman PORTER and I founded the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, to be a voice for a stronger United States-Armenia partnership and to better represent the interests of the Armenian-American community. We now have 49 Members, from both parties and all regions of the country. There is a lot of sympathy and moral support for Armenia in the Congress, in the administration, among state legislators around the country, and among the American people in general. But we should not kid ourselves: we are up against very strong forces, in the State Department and the Pentagon who believe we must continue to appease Turkey, and among United States and international business interests whose concerns with profits and sources of raw materials outweigh their concerns for the people of Armenia.

In closing, let me pay particular tribute to the survivors of the genocide. The horrors you have witnessed and experienced are unspeakable. Yet we must never forget what hap-

pened to you, your brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, friends, and neighbors. I will do all that I can to keep alive the memory of what happened to the Armenian people in the past—and to play a role in working for a brighter future for the Armenian people.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I join in commemoration of the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, under the direction of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, a campaign of Armenian extermination began. Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders from Istanbul were arrested and exiled—silencing the leading representatives of the Armenian community in the Ottoman Empire. Over the next 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered, with another 500,000 forced into Russian exile. Today we recognize the struggle of the Armenian people to live peacefully in their historic homeland.

Armenians in the United States and elsewhere should know that their history of suffering has not and will not be ignored. Like the Jewish and Cambodian holocausts, the Armenian genocide stands out as one of the world's most morally reprehensible acts. We need to address and trace the causal factors leading to the rise of totalitarian governments, and ensure that the seeds of fascism are never again planted.

On this day, we should remember those Armenians who died 81 years ago. I have co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 47, which would put the House on record honoring the memory of the 1.5 million genocide victims. The House should pass this resolution and send a message to the world that we will never forget what happened during that terrible period in history and that we reaffirm our resolve to ensure that no nation will ever again have the opportunity to participate in mass genocide.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues in remembering and paying tribute to the victims of the Armenian genocide. The tragedy of these murders cannot be overestimated—millions lost, a generation of mothers and fathers, children and grandchildren killed. I rise in solidarity with the people of the Armenian-American community, as well as with the people of Armenia, because I feel a connection through tragedy with them. I share that disabling sense of loss that many in the Armenian community feel because I lost members of my family in another Holocaust at the hands of the Nazis. I believe it is vitally important to talk about these heart-breaking events, to keep the spirit of those who died alive for the benefit of the world. And we must continue to call attention to the horror and the inhumanity of genocide whenever it takes place.

The Armenians who perished at the hands of the young Turk Committee between the years of 1915 and 1923 were people like you and me—they had raised families, worked hard, enjoyed holidays together, had petty arguments, shared joys and sorrows. These people, just like you and me, were killed because of who they were, and even today, 81 years later, this chills us to the bone.

The atrocities began on April 24, 1915, when 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders from Istanbul were arrested and exiled from their community in the Ottoman capital. Over the next 8 years, more than 1 million men, women, and children experienced deportation, forced labor, and in some

cases, torture and extermination. This tragedy set the tone for an entire century in which crimes against humanity plague our history books and continue to cover the front page of newspapers.

I am convinced of one thing—the Armenian genocide existed. We know it did. The National Archives holds the most comprehensive documentation in the world on this historic tragedy, over 30,000 pages. More importantly, I have talked with those who survived it. Armenians suffered then, and continue to do so, whenever the atrocity is denied.

I think the most important thing we can do as a nation is acknowledge this tragedy and continue to pay tribute to those Armenians who perished under such terrible circumstances. It is my hope that by preserving these victims and their terrible experiences in our communal memory, we not only honor them, but may even prevent similar situations in the future from occurring.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, today, on the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I rise to commemorate the lives of the 1.5 million Armenians who were enslaved, tortured and exterminated from 1915 to 1923 by the Ottoman Empire.

On this day in 1915, Armenian intellectuals, clergy and leaders were rounded up and taken to their deaths. What was to follow was the ethnic cleansing of the native homeland of the Armenian people. Over a period of 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and another 500,000 were deported. Before World War I, over 2 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. By 1923, the entire population of Anatolia and Western Armenia had been killed or deported.

This was the first genocide of the 20th century, and, tragically, it was not the last. Prior to the invasion of Poland, Adolf Hitler asked, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" In a climate where no one remembered, the death camps became a reality.

Today, as the slaughter continues in Bosnia and Rwanda, it is more important than ever to remember—and to stand up to oppose genocide, systematic extermination, or ethnic cleansing. I have cosponsored H. Con Res. 47, a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide, because of my belief that we must never forget the victims of this terrible act, and that we must always be prepared to prevent further crimes against humanity.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, one of the most profound calls to action ever written emerged from the Holocaust. Martin Niemöller expressed so well the guilty anguish of silence:

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me.

This quote is telling because it can be said as much for the Armenian genocide as the Jewish Holocaust.

In fact, it has not been lost on historians of this century that the failure to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it was made it easier, not harder, for evil men like Hitler to believe they could do the same.

Today we in Congress are solemnly observing the tragedy of the Armenian genocide.

By observing this event we honor the bravery and courage of those who survived and we honor the memory of those who perished.

By observing this event we take a small step toward ensuring that such horrors will never occur again.

I am honored today to rise on behalf of Rhode Island's Armenian community—a vital and dynamic group that has made an incalculable contribution to the life of my State.

During my years in the Rhode Island General Assembly I joined my colleagues in consistently passing resolutions commemorating the Armenian genocide.

Additionally, we passed a resolution that condemned the removal of a photograph from the Ellis Island Museum which depicted horrors visited upon Armenians. Rhode Island was the first State in the Nation to issue such a resolution.

We can not erase the past by hiding it. We can not make today better by ignoring yesterday. While history may not be pleasant, it is grossly irresponsible to refuse to face the past and all the truths it contains. This photo was restored and visitors were allowed to see the past and learn from history.

As has often been remarked, those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it. Because of that ever-present risk we must all work to always remember and never forget the genocide, to cherish and preserve the Armenian culture, and to continue to fight for human rights and peace in this region.

Not until all Armenians are safe and secure, protected from harm and threat, will our work be done. Not until that day will our cause be won.

Not until that day can we rest.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Each year, I join my House colleagues from both sides of the aisle in remembering the terrible atrocities that have been committed by Turkey against the Armenian people.

Members of Congress rise in this chamber every spring to publicly remember the genocide, but far too often these words and speeches are quickly forgotten. Far too often, people want nothing more than to forget that mankind can be so cruel. Far too often, people whisper quietly in the dark among themselves about how such a terrible thing as the Armenian genocide could never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, those people who whisper such words are wrong, terribly wrong. First, I would like to talk about how the Armenian genocide began. It began on April 24, 1915, when over 400 religious, political, and intellectual leaders of the Armenian community in Constantinople were executed by the Turkish Government. Thus began a war of ethnic genocide by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians that finally ended in 1923, when over half of the world's Armenian population—an estimated 1.5 million men, women, and children—had been killed. By the end of 1923, virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenia was dead.

While it is important to remember this horrible fact of history in order to help comfort the survivors, we must also remain eternally vigilant in order to protect Armenia from new and more hostile aggressors. Even now, as we rise to commemorate the accomplishments of

the Armenian people and mourn the tragedies they have suffered, Turkey and other countries are attempting to break Armenia down by maintaining a crushing and total blockade against this free nation.

For five consecutive years, Turkey and the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan have maintained a blockade of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. The blockade has cut off the transport of food, fuel, medicine, and all other commodities. The blockade has driven over 90 percent of Armenia's population below a poverty level of \$1.00 a day. As many as one-fifth of Armenia's 3.6 million people have fled the country. Because of the ongoing blockade and long winters without heat, thousands of Armenians have died from the harsh cold. These deaths are on Turkish hands, just as the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians earlier this century are on Turkish hands.

Last year, I led the fight in the House of Representatives to protect Armenia from this vicious blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan by stripping out a provision in the fiscal year 1996 Foreign Operations appropriations bill that would have allowed the United States Government to provide direct cash payments to the Government of Azerbaijan before Azerbaijan had lifted its blockade of Armenia.

My amendment was approved by a voice vote, demonstrating widespread bipartisan support among House members for maintaining the strict sanctions against the Azerbaijani Government. There were over 2 hours of debate on the amendment, during which both Republicans and Democrats spoke strongly in favor of keeping prior U.S. law in place.

Although it has suffered greatly, Armenia is once again a sovereign, independent country. Its people are strong and determined to succeed. I am proud to support Armenia and the many noble ideals it represents. It is my sincere hope that the United States continues to strengthen its relationship with the nation and the people of Armenia.

Towards that end, I am extremely pleased that a strong and vibrant Armenian-American community is flourishing in northwest Indiana. In fact, my predecessor in the House of Representatives, the late Adam Benjamin, was of Armenian heritage. There are still strong ties to the Armenian homeland among Armenian-Americans. During the devastating Armenian winter of 1992–1993, Mrs. Vicki Hovanessian and her husband, Dr. Raffi Hovanessian, residents of Indiana's First Congressional district, helped to raise over \$750,000 for purchases of winter rescue supplies of heating fuel and foodstuffs. In the last 12 months, alone, the Hovanessians have raised over \$1,000,000 for charitable and educational purposes in Armenia and the United States. Two other Armenian families in my congressional district, Heratch and Sonya Doumanian and Ara and Rosy Yeretsian, have also contributed countless hours and resources toward charitable works in the United States and Armenia. One of the notable causes for which they have worked is the Saint Nersses Seminary in New York, which sponsors an exchange program between the United States and Armenia for new seminarians. I commend these generous families for their hard work and dedication to charitable giving.

In closing, I would like to commend my colleagues, Representatives PORTER and PALLONE, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. This remembrance will not

only console the survivors and their families, but it may also serve to avert future atrocities.

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, this is a solemn day in the history of the modern world. Eighty-one years ago today began a period of systematic persecution of the Armenian people—what would become one of the more terrible cases of state-sponsored terrorism against an ethnic group.

Beginning with the execution of some 200 leaders from the Armenian community on April 24, 1915, Armenians in Turkey were subjected to cruel and brutal treatment. Those of Armenian descent serving in the Ottoman army were subjected to forced labor and later executed. Women were raped or forced into prostitution. Thousands of men, women, and children were forced to leave their villages and either killed outright or sent on death marches through the desert, where they suffered horribly from disease and starvation.

When it was all over, nearly 10 years later, 1½ million Armenians were dead—victims of torture, executions, and forced labor—and hundreds of thousands of others were refugees. The terrible results of this systematic persecution can still be seen today: where once over 2 million Armenians lived in Ottoman Turkey, less than 80,000 live in the region today.

Many years have passed since the Armenian genocide, but we must never forget what happened to the Armenians of Ottoman Turkey solely because of their ethnicity. We must make sure that our children, and their children, learn about the genocide and understand the circumstances which led to such a horrific event in history.

In remembering the millions who died so tragically and unnecessarily, we would be well to remind ourselves of what the terrible effects of racism and bigotry can be. When a nation sees political gain in supporting ethnic persecution, as Ottoman Turkey did in persecuting the Armenian people, the result can only be disaster and tragedy.

We must also remember that individual cases of persecution are often followed by more extreme measures. The Armenian genocide of 1915–1923 had followed decades of anti-Armenian persecution in Ottoman Turkey.

For these reasons, we must never, never tolerate discrimination or bigotry in any form, whether it comes from a single individual or a whole government. We must work together to ensure that such a horrible tragedy as befell the Armenian people never happens again.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand and join with my colleagues in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I would like to thank the other members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and particularly the cochairmen, Mr. PORTER and Mr. PALLONE, for their tireless efforts in organizing this fitting tribute.

On April 24, 1915, 81 years ago today, the nightmare in Armenia began. Hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and educational leaders were arrested, exiled, and murdered. These events marked the beginning of the systematic execution of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire, and also launched the first genocide of the 20th century. Over the next 8 years, 1.5 million Armenians were put to their deaths and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their homes. The details of these atrocities are among the most cruel and inhumane acts that have ever been recorded.

As we reflect today on the horrors that were initiated 81 years ago, I cannot help but be disturbed by the forces who wish to discredit or deny that these deeds occurred. Despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary—eyewitness accounts, official archives, photographic evidence, diplomatic reports, and testimony of survivors—they reject the claim that genocide, or any other crime for that matter, was perpetrated against Armenians. Well, History tells a different story.

Let me read a quote from Henry Morgenthau, Sr., United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, which helps to set the record straight. He said, “When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact * * *.”

The world knows the truth about this sad episode of human affairs. We will not allow those who wish to rewrite history to absolve themselves from responsibility for their actions. This evening's event here in the House of Representatives is testament to that fact. I would like to once again thank the organizers of this event and I would like to once again reaffirm my sincere thanks for being given the opportunity to participate in this solemn remembrance.

Mr. ZIMMER. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to join my colleagues today in remembering and honoring the 1½ million Armenians who were victims of a brutal campaign of genocide between 1915 and 1923 by the Ottoman Empire and its successor state.

This systematic campaign of murder and forced exile is one of the darkest events in this century, and as we recognize it we should also vow to do whatever we can to help prevent such atrocities again.

Today, we honor those who fell in the Armenian genocide. But we also honor the spirit of perseverance and courage that has enabled Armenians to transcend such horrible destruction by surviving not only as individuals but also as a vital people.

Eighty years after the onset of the genocide, Armenia is an independent, democratic state. It was the first among the former Soviet republics to privatize agricultural land and livestock production, and it is working hard to build a strong economy despite tremendous obstacles, both natural and manmade. The 1988 earthquake continues to leave deep scars, and the blockade of Armenia's rail lines and roads has severely limited international trade. Turkey's refusal to allow humanitarian relief to pass through its territory to Armenia also has taken a tragic human toll.

Armenians time and again have displayed enormous courage in the face of adversity, and it is that quality that we commemorate the most here today, even as we honor those Armenians who suffered the evil of the genocide eight decades ago.

Ms. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the 1.5 million victims of an unspeakable 8-year genocide carried out 81 years ago.

From 1915 to 1923, over 1.5 million Armenians living in Turkey were systematically murdered by the Ottoman Empire. And, throughout history, the world has experienced other horrible acts of cruelty such as the killing of 12 million in the Holocaust, ethnic cleansing/tribal

warfare in Bosnia and Rwanda and, most recently, the bombing in Oklahoma City. That is why it is so important for us to remember this senseless tragedy every year—so that we remain vigilant in our efforts to promote peace and democracy throughout the world in order to help prevent such atrocious crimes from repeating themselves. Only by remembering such heinous acts can we move forward as a nation.

As we pay tribute to those Armenians who lost their lives, we must also continue to denounce racism, sexism, anti-semitism, bigotry, religious persecution, and ethnic violence both in the United States and throughout the world. And, taking the necessary steps to eradicate these prejudices will allow us to celebrate the many contributions that all groups of people have made to our country.

As the world took steps to end the tremendous suffering endured over 80 years ago, thousands of Armenians came to the United States in search of better lives. Today, they, their children, and their children's children represent what is best in America. Having one of this Nation's largest Armenian community's in my district, I am proud to say that their strong sense of work ethic and family values, among other things, is a model for other families to follow.

But, despite everything that has been achieved over the past 81 years, we cannot forget the plight that Armenia continues to face. In the middle of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, Armenia finds itself in a struggle for survival. Not only must the international community continue to increase its efforts to bring about democracy and stability in the TransCaucases, but the United States must also must continue its resolve to restore security in the region and cleanse it of ethnic hatred.

All of us will forever remember this horrible tragedy. But, by working together with other countries to resolve present international conflicts, we will hopefully never have to speak about a similar tragedy in the future.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues once again in remembrance of the Armenian genocide.

In commemorating this terrible human tragedy, it is important for us to remember other such tragedies that have occurred throughout history. In recent years, the horrifying reports of systematic ethnic cleansing and other atrocities in the war-ravaged former Yugoslavia have demanded the attention and response of the Western world. The Balkan conflict has proven to be a very powerful and chilling reminder that if such aggression is ignored, an event much like the Jewish Holocaust can all too easily occur again.

The events of the Balkan conflict have brought the Jewish Holocaust back to the center of human consciousness regarding the history of human tragedies and genocide. While it is important to remember that tragedy, we must not forget that Adolf Hitler's plan for the final solution was rooted in the Armenian genocide. Today, we must remember the Armenian genocide and reflect upon the suffering endured by Armenia and her people.

One and one-half million Armenian people were massacred by the Ottoman Turkish Empire between 1915 and 1923. More than 500,000 Armenians were exiled from a homeland that their ancestors had occupied for more than 3,000 years. A race of people was nearly eliminated.

However great the loss of human life and homeland that occurred during the genocide, a greater tragedy would be to forget that the Armenian genocide ever happened. Adolf Hitler, predicted that no one would remember the atrocities and human suffering endured by the Armenians, years prior to unleashing his plans for the Jewish Holocaust. After all, he claimed, "Who remembers the Armenians?" Our statements today are intended to preserve the memory of the Armenian loss, and to remind the world that the Turkish Government—to this day—refuses to acknowledge the Armenian genocide.

The 81st anniversary also brings to my mind the current plight of the Armenian people, who are still immersed in tragedy and violence. The unrest between Armenian and Azerbaijan continues in the enclave of Nagorno-Karabagh. Thousands of innocent people have already perished in this dispute, and still many more have been displaced and are homeless. In fact, families from my own district in central California have become tragically involved in this conflict.

In the face of this difficult situation comes an opportunity for reconciliation. Now is the time for Armenia and its neighbors, including Turkey, to come together, to work toward a sustaining peace and to rebuild relationships between countries. The first step, must be to recognize the facts of history, however painful or awkward that may be.

Meanwhile, in America, the Armenian-American community continues to thrive and to provide assistance and solidarity to its countrymen and women abroad. Now numbering nearly one million, the Armenian-American community is bound together by strong generational and family ties, an enduring work ethic and a proud tradition of ethnic heritage. Today we recall the tragedy of their past, not to place blame, but to answer a fundamental question, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Today our commemoration of the Armenian genocide speaks directly to that end, and I answer—We do.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

Today is the 81st anniversary of the beginning of the genocide that ultimately took the lives of one-and-a-half million Armenian men, women and children. On April 24, 1915, 200 Armenian religious, intellectual and political leaders in Constantinople were arrested by the Government of the Ottoman Empire and murdered. It was the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century, and it continued until 1923. It was a vicious, organized crime against humanity that included murder, deportation, torture and slave labor.

The permanent exhibition of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, just a few blocks from here, contains an excerpt from a speech by Adolf Hitler which says: "Who after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Mr. Speaker, that is why we must speak today about the Armenian genocide of 1915–23. So that no individual or government can ever think that such a crime against humanity will be forgotten. By commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide we bring attention to an atrocity that most of the world knows very little about. It is a part of history that must not be forgotten.

The Armenian genocide was followed by a concerted effort to destroy any record of the

Armenians in Asia Minor, including the destruction of religious and cultural monuments, and the changing of place names. I am saddened that there are those who would prefer to forget the Armenian genocide. To ignore it is to desecrate the memory of those who lost their lives. And such denial sends the message that genocide will be tolerated by the world.

To deny the genocide of the Armenians, or any atrocity of this scale, is to forsake the value we place on human life and the principles of liberty upon which this country is based. Those who turn a deaf ear to the Armenian genocide, knowingly or unknowingly, abet the future of genocide by failing to raise public consciousness about this tragic reality.

As we remember those whose lives were brutally taken during the Armenian genocide, we also pay tribute to the survivors—the living testimony of this historic crime—and to their families, many of whom are now Armenian-Americans. We must assure them that we, as the leaders of the democratic world, will not forget this tragedy, but rather gain the wisdom and knowledge necessary to ensure that we can prevent its repetition.

The surest way to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide and all crimes against humanity is to recognize their suffering and ensure that these acts are never repeated. As we pause to reflect upon this grievous example of man's inhumanity to man, let us strengthen our conviction that such atrocities never be allowed to happen again.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, on this solemn day of remembrance I join Armenians throughout the United States and around the world in commemorating the genocide of innocent Armenian men, women, and children slaughtered with ruthless precision during the closing days of the Ottoman Empire. It is crucial that we recall the chilling events of this dark chapter in world history, face the historical facts directly and without hesitation, and dedicate ourselves to preventing such atrocities in the future.

The historical record shows that in 1915, a systematic massacre of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders began. Continuing until 1923, the cruelty and ruthlessness which marked this campaign of terror still shock the conscience more than 80 years later. Between 1915 and 1923, 1.5 million Armenians lost their lives, and more than 500 thousand were expelled from their homes. Innocent Armenians were rounded up and sent away to unknown destinations to be murdered. Uncovered by a researcher only a few years ago, a report from a United States consul stationed in eastern Turkey from 1914 to 1917 provides disturbing details of this coordinated effort to commit genocide against the Armenian people. This record of cold-blooded murder is harrowing.

Despite the calculated attempt to purge the Armenian people from their land and erase Armenian culture and traditions, today the Republic of Armenia is working to establish a vital and progressive nation built upon democratic institutions. The Armenian Government has drafted a constitution, launched a program of industrial reform, privatized agricultural land, and made substantial progress in small-enterprise privatization. Armenia also has taken steps toward resolving the Karabakh conflict and moved to stabilize its economy based upon free-market principles.

I am pleased that our Government has recognized the importance of Armenia and has been working closely with international lending institutions to help ease Armenia's transition to a market economy. Through a comprehensive assistance program, USAID has funded numerous initiatives in Armenia, including one aimed at improving the distribution of much-needed commodities such as kerosene. Armenia has cooperated with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, made the difficult fiscal decisions necessary to construct a market-based economy, and steadily progressed towards a free and open democratic system.

As we mark the anniversary of the Armenian genocide, we join with our Armenian friends in remembering those who lost their lives in the early years of this century. While we reflect upon the past and dedicate ourselves to preserving the history of this humanitarian disaster, we also look forward. We look forward to a future in which Armenia will, we hope, grow prosperous, achieve economic strength, and, above all else, enjoy peace.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

The genocide committed against the Armenian people in the late 19th century and the early years of our own ranks among the worst such occurrences in human history. That it took place during the supposedly civilized "modern" era makes the crime all the more abysmal—and the need to commemorate it that much more important. The essential features of the story can be summarized briefly. As the 19th century drew to a close, authorities in the crumbling Ottoman Empire decided to crack down against a growing movement for Armenian autonomy. After enduring brutal persecution, the Armenians refused to pay the taxes levied by their oppressors. As a result, thousands of innocent civilians lost their lives and thousands more witnessed the destruction of their homes—all because the Ottoman Government wanted to teach them a lesson.

When the Armenians sought to publicize their plight by seizing a government building in Constantinople, government forces instigated a vicious pogrom during which over 50,000 perished. Several years later during the First World War, Armenian service in the Allied cause prompted the Turkish authorities to order the deportation of almost the entire Armenian population from their homeland to two distant provinces of the Turkish Empire, Syria and Palestine. Well over 1 million died during this long forced march, many thousands at the hands of government soldiers and many more from disease and malnutrition.

Sadly, we have not managed to escape the consequences of these atrocities. The legacy of bitterness is readily observable in central Asia, where memories of past injustice have complicated the search for peace and stability in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Humanitarian Corridor Act is another echo of the tragedy that occurred so many years ago. We would have had less reason to prepare such legislation if we did not also have to deal with ethnic conflict in the Caucasus.

One bright element did emerge from what befell the Armenians. As the horror continued, thousands of Armenians came to this country; many of their heirs now live in my own State of California, where they have established an enviable record of prosperity and service to the United States and to the broader world

community. To them, we all owe a considerable debt of gratitude.

The achievements of Armenian-Americans demonstrate once more that it is possible to pay homage to one's ancestors while rising above the traumas of the past and embracing the opportunities of the here and now. This spirit is one element—no doubt, an essential one—of the American genius. Let us pray that it begins to animate all the people of the Caucasus region. Without a willingness among all parties to put aside ancient feuds while working jointly to resolve the problems of the present day, it will be impossible for the region to achieve even half of what Armenian-Americans have managed to do in less than a century.

Mr. Speaker, please permit me to close by altering slightly what I said at the outset. Even though this is indeed a day of commemoration for the thousands who perished in the Armenian genocide, we must not forget the great duty of those now living to prepare a better world for generations to come.

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss genocide. According to the Genocide Convention, genocide constitutes killings and other acts done "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group." Genocide has occurred throughout history. Genocide is a crime that has been committed far too many times than we want to acknowledge. It has been committed by many peoples against those perceived as ethnically or religiously different. Many of its perpetrators have gone unpunished; many of its victims have gone unrecognized.

We are immediately reminded of the genocide committed by the Nazi Germans against the European Jews during World War II. Mournful remembrance of its 6 million victims was commemorated by this body this past week. Less known is the genocide committed by the Nazi Germans against the Slavic peoples during World War II. More recently, we are reminded of the genocide committed by the Hutus against the Tutsis in Rwanda beginning April 6, 1994. One million were estimated killed; 2 million were forced to flee to neighboring countries. Neither can we forget the genocide committed during the past 5 years by the Orthodox Christian Serbs against the Muslim Slavs in the former Yugoslavia. The total number dead and homeless have yet to be determined. In addition to these, we need to be reminded of another—the genocide of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks, which occurred between 1915 and 1923. Although this persecution claimed the lives of 1.5 million people and resulted in the forced deportation of 500,000 people, too few of us are even aware of its occurrence.

The Genocide Convention entered into force January 12, 1951. It was ratified by the United States on February 23, 1989. It confirms that "genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law." The convention recognizes that every nation in the world has an obligation "to prevent and punish" genocide. As a world power, the United States must do whatever it can to ensure that perpetrators of genocide are brought to justice and to ensure that genocide never happens again. As representatives of the American people, we must speak out and condemn genocide wherever it has occurred. Each of us, individually and collectively, has a moral obligation to acknowledge

the wrongs of the past and to ensure that they are never again allowed to occur.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, April 24 marks the commemoration of the massacre of Armenians in Turkey during and after the First World War. In what historians refer to as the first of this century's state-ordered genocides against a minority group, more than 1.5 million people were murdered. We mourn the dead and express our condolences to the descendants of those who perished. We must also reflect upon the meaning and lessons of their suffering and sacrifice.

As many have observed, the massacres and deportations inflicted upon the Armenian community during that period were to mark this century of horrors. Civilian populations, defined by ethnic, racial, or religious distinctiveness, have become the objects of persecution and genocide simply because of who they are—Armenian Christians, European Jews, Bosnian Muslims. The range of victims—geographical, ethnic, religious, and political—testifies to the universality of human cruelty and fanaticism. The response of the survivors, however, testifies to the indestructibility and the resilience of the human spirit, even in the face of the most virulent evil.

Like the phoenix of mythology, the Armenian people survived its bleakest days and arose with renewed vigor. Armenians' sense of national identity has been strengthened and the Armenian language is flourishing. Most important, independent Armenian statehood has been restored to guarantee the security and future of the nation. However, independent Armenia, the realized promise and the living memorial to the victims of 1915 and later years, has endured a difficult rebirth. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has cost thousands of lives, created hundreds of thousands of refugees, and kept the entire region from enjoying the blessings of independence. Blocked by its neighbors, Armenia's people have suffered through cold, hunger and deprivation. But their spirit remains sturdy, and their sacrifices link them in an unbreakable bond with past generations of Armenians.

It is our fervent hope, Mr. Speaker, that future generations will not have to sacrifice as their ancestors have. It is also our hope that all parties to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh will build on the now 2-year-old cease-fire and renew their efforts through the OSCE process to reach a negotiated settlement. Nothing could honor the memory of the victims of 1915 more than a free, prosperous Armenia living in peace with all its neighbors, and moving and impressing the world with both the spiritual and material products of the unbreakable Armenian spirit.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to Mr. PALLONE and Mr. PORTER for holding this special order today to commemorate the Armenian genocide.

Approximately 6 million people of Armenian descent live in the United States. The elderly among them still have memories of the systematic persecution of Armenians during the years of the Ottoman Empire, and the accounts of this terrible crime against humanity have been passed down through the generations.

It is impossible to comprehend all of the genocidal horrors that were perpetrated against the Armenians during this dark time. In a few short years, approximately 1½ million ethnic Armenians were killed. Another one-half

million were driven from their homes, robbed of their property, and saw every sign and symbol of their religion and culture obliterated and replaced with Turkish nationalist symbols.

Journalist Marjorie Hagopian reported that when the Nazis contemplated the destruction of the Jewish people, one of the leaders asked whether or not there would be world repercussions for the planned atrocities. Hitler is said to have responded, "Who cared about the Armenians?"

Would that the moral outrage of past atrocities against Armenians, Jews, Romanys—gypsies, gays, labor leaders, intellectuals, and clergy prevent any such occurrence again. Sadly, even today we see in the former Yugoslavia gross violations of human rights, "ethnic cleansing," massive forced relocation of populations, and other horrors for which the Armenian genocide was a horrible precedent.

April 24 has been set aside to remind us of George Santayana's prophetic warning that those who forget history are doomed to repeat it. Today we honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to fight all crimes against humanity.

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide of 1915 to 1923 and pay tribute to the more than 1.5 million Armenians killed by the Turkish Ottoman Empire. I commend my colleagues, Congressman PORTER and Congressman PALLONE, for arranging this special order to observe this horrific event in world history.

On April 24, 81 years ago, the Ottoman Turkish Government launched their systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide against the Armenian people. This violent campaign resulted in the deaths of over one-third of the Armenian population living in the Ottoman Empire and the exile of approximately 500,000 Armenians from their homeland.

Unfortunately, the persecution of the Armenians did not end in 1923, but continues today. Since 1988, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict involving Armenia and Azerbaijan, has left more than 1,500 Armenians dead and hundreds of thousands of refugees in the three territories. A withering blockade of economic disruption has made everyday life a struggle for Armenians. Acquiring necessities for survival has become a great obstacle.

As a member of the congressional Armenian caucus, I have been working with my colleagues on the caucus on issues which effect the Armenian community. Recently, I joined my colleagues in sending the President a letter asking him to join the congressional Armenian caucus to issue a strong statement of commemoration and to honor the memory of the survivors of the Armenian genocide. In addition, I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring House Concurrent Resolution 47, honoring the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide. It calls for the United States to encourage the Republic of Turkey to acknowledge and commemorate the atrocity committed against the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923.

New York State is one of the few States which has offered a human rights/genocide curricula for teachers to use at their discretion, which includes the story of the Armenian genocide. Educational programs such as this will allow our children to learn about the tragic past in Armenian history, ensuring a peaceful existence for future generations.

It is my hope that next year when we remember the 82d anniversary of Armenian Martyrs Day we will be able to celebrate a restored peace to the Armenian people and confidently proclaim that "never again" will the world allow such a senseless tragedy to occur.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, there is a well-worn saying that "Time heals all wounds." As we reflected this past weekend on the one-year anniversary of the tragedy in Oklahoma City, we drew some solace from it. Mercifully, the immediate pain and sadness of that most horrendous American terrorist act in history have passed. However, while we draw comfort from the passing of time, it does not mean that we are expected or should forget.

This is an especially poignant time to recall another horrible act of hate and evil, the genocide committed against the Armenian people in Turkey 81 years ago. Just as we will never forget the terrorism committed in Oklahoma, it is important that we not forget the 1.5 million Armenian men and women and children who were brutally murdered in the inaugural genocide of the 20th century.

Each year, Americans, and not just Armenian-Americans, come together on this occasion. We do so to do more than simply remember that the Armenians were the first victims of what sadly has become man's bloodiest century. Rather, we each hope that raising the consciousness of past atrocities helps prevent similar tragedies in the future.

With tragedy so near and so fresh in our minds, we are easily reminded that hate and evil are unfortunate aspects of the human condition. However, it is our responsibility as Americans to remain vigilant against hate, violence, and intolerance, whenever and wherever it rears its ugly head.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues for this commemoration, and I thank Mr. PORTER and Mr. PALLONE for arranging it.

Recent history has seen the Armenian people subjected to a number of very difficult, troubling and tragic circumstances. From being forced to live under the Soviet communist regime, to the terrible 1988 earthquake—much worse than any this Nation has ever seen, to the present blockade and violence imposed by the Azeris.

The Armenian people have long suffered.

But nothing is more tragic than the genocide which took place from 1915 to 1923. One and one-half million died, countless more lost mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, uncles and aunts, comrades and friends.

We stand here, more than half a century later, to ensure that others will not forget.

Not forget the massacres. Not forget the persecution. Not forget the death marches. Not forget the bloodshed. And not forget that all citizens in the world deserve to live in freedom without the threat of destruction by people that hate.

That is why it is important we commemorate this 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We can not afford to let the people of this world forget that genocide can, and does happen. Already, this decade has been marred by events in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

In light of the sorry events in those countries we must do everything in our power to make sure the people of the world remember the

genocide in Armenia 81 years ago. For, if we forget the past we will be condemned to repeat it.

As part of this effort the distinguished minority whip, Congressman BONIOR and I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 47. This resolution would put the House on record honoring the memory of the 1.5 million genocide victims. The House must pass this resolution and send a message to the world that we can never forget.

Furthermore, we are hosting a congressional reception next week and encourage all Members to take a moment out of their schedules to honor the survivors and the memories of the victims of this dark event in world history.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to join today in the special order organized by my colleagues, Congressman JOHN PORTER and Congressman FRANK PALLONE, to honor the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. It has in fact been my privilege to participate in such observances throughout the time that I have served in the U.S. Congress.

Eighty-one years is certainly a long time, but the memory of the atrocities committed by the former Ottoman Empire at that time against those of Armenian descent still burns in the consciousness of Armenian-Americans. This is indeed an important occasion, not just for Armenian-Americans, but for all those concerned by human rights abuses and by campaigns of genocide.

Our observance of this anniversary can serve as a reminder that such atrocities will not be forgotten. That, in itself, is very important. It is also equally important, however, to take this opportunity to think of those innocent men, women, and children who fell victim to this genocidal campaign in 1915 and the years immediately following. Their lives were abruptly ended—in a brutal and revolting manner—but they can come to life in our memories each year at this time. Those of their descendants who migrated to the United States after this terrible event still carry the memory of these unfortunate victims on this day and every day, and I believe that their ancestors would be proud to know how those who lived through this terrible event worked hard to make a new, prosperous life as citizens of their adopted land, the United States of America—and how they worked hard to keep their memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank my colleagues for arranging this special order on this important anniversary.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues tonight in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. It is a testament to the Members of the Chamber that year after year we stand in the well of the House and pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenian who were systematically slaughtered by the Ottoman Turks from 1915 to 1923.

Mr. Speaker, April 24, 1915, represents a tragic day in the history of the Armenian people. It is a day that has left an indelible mark on the consciousness of mankind. Eighty-one years ago, the Ottoman Turks unleashed the forces of hatred upon Armenian men, women, and children in a deliberate policy of extermination. On this fateful night, the Ottoman Turks ruthlessly rounded up and targeted for elimination Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders.

For 8 bloody years a reign of terror-ruled the daily lives of Armenians in the Ottoman empire. For 8, long, horrific years, Armenians were consumed by the fires of racial and religious intolerance. Tragically, by the end of 1923, the entire Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenian had been either killed or deported.

On the eve of launching the Jewish Holocaust, Adolph Hitler commented to his generals, "Who, after all, speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?" Mr. Speaker, the Members of the U.S. Congress speak of the annihilation of the Armenians. We speak out tonight so that future generations of Americans will know the facts surrounding the first genocide of the 20th century. We observe this solemn anniversary, along with the Armenian-American community and the people of Armenia, so that no one will be able to deny the undeniable.

Many of the survivors of the Armenian genocide established new lives in America, contributing their considerable talents and energy to the economic prosperity and cultural diversity of our great Nation. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of gratitude toward Americans of Armenian descent and a deep sense of moral obligation that I join my colleagues in honoring the memory of these fallen victims of genocide. They are not forgotten.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the Armenian genocide, as we do every year on April 24. This is a time of solemn remembrance, as Armenians everywhere set apart this day to mark the genocide perpetrated against them by the Ottoman empire in 1915 and afterwards. For friends of Armenians, this is an occasion to express condolences and to show solidarity with the worldwide Armenian community.

We not only mourn with them the loss of some 1.5 million Armenians but we voice our determination to prevent any such horrors from recurring. Unfortunately, the Armenian genocide was only the first in this bloody century of horrors. Since then, powerful states have singled out and massacred other ethnic, racial or religious minorities, and to judge by the atrocities committed in this decade in Yugoslavia, human cruelty knows no bounds of geography, race or religion.

Nevertheless, Armenians—the first victims of genocide this century—have served as models of strength, steadfastness and resistance. The most important target of resistance is amnesia. Armenians have taught us the lesson that some events are too important not to recall—no matter how painful—for the particular nation in question, and for all of us, but equally important is the lesson that a nation's hopes do not flicker out with the loss of so many of its children. Instead of being defeated, the wound can steel the soul and fertilize dreams of freedom and security.

Today, an independent Armenian state guarantees the security and future of the nation. Despite all the difficulties and travails of the last few years, Armenia has defended its people and will continue to do so. For our part, we today signal our commitment to foster all efforts to resolve the causes of tension between Armenia and its neighbors. The road to peace and normal relations among the states of Transcaucasia is arduous, but it must be pursued by all the peoples of the region with the decisiveness and strength that Armenians have demonstrated in keeping alive their traditions and striving for freedom.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it brings me no pleasure to stand before you in remembrance of the tragedy that mars this day in history. But the silent denial of wrongdoing that continues to accompany this date 81 years after the fact underscores the importance of this special order. April 24 stands as a black mark on the historical calendar; for the victims of the Armenian genocide perpetrated by an unapologetic government, I must call attention to these horrible deeds.

It was on April 24, 1915, that the Ottoman empire commenced a genocidal cleansing unlike any that had come before. In seizing 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders on this date, the Ottomans announced that Armenians would no longer be considered worthy of the basic human rights which must be afforded to all humanity. For the next 8 years they would brutally demonstrate the extent of these beliefs as they slaughtered 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children, and forced another half million from their homes.

On this solemn day, we must pay homage to the uncompensated families for whom this day brings nothing but sorrow. The genocide of the Armenian people has never been recognized by the Turkish Government; no apology or reparations have been made. Instead, 81 years later, the wholesale slaughter of human beings goes unrecognized and unpunished. This day stands in infamy as a precursor to the atrocities of Hitler, the unspeakable acts in Rwanda, and the recent attempts acts of ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In allowing these deeds to go unpunished we have said to the world that these heinous crimes are acceptable, that the rights of mankind are not universal. But human rights are not malleable ideas, subject to the whims of a nation and the inhumanity of its leaders, and the bonds which one person imposes on another can not be tolerated by a nation based on the concept of liberty and the rule of law. It is for these reasons that we must continue to honor this date, and in honoring it remember the evil of which we are capable.

In honor of the 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives for no reason other than their heritage, we must ensure that the rights of humanity are protected regardless of the false boundaries of nationalism. We are all children of the same Creator; if we are not our brother's keeper, there will be no brother left in our hour of need. As we have said of the Holocaust, we say of this too, never again.

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. PORTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, we mark the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, which did not occur in 1 year, 1915, but lasted over an 8-year period from 1915 to 1923, during which time the Turks of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic policy of eliminating its Christian Armenian minority. This was the first example of genocide in the 20th century, a precursor to the Nazi Holocaust and other cases of ethnic cleansing and mass extermination in our own time; and we must

never forget it, for forgetting history not only dishonors the victims and survivors, it encourages other tyrants to believe that they can kill with impunity.

Mr. Speaker, today's occasion is, of course, a time for solemn reflection, but it is also an occasion that affords us the opportunity to celebrate the human capacity of resilience, the ability even of people faced with the most horrendous disasters and challenges to rebuild their shattered lives. We can see this determination to overcome such an atrocious past in those of Armenian descent.

On a national level, the struggle for survival and the sense of a hope for a better future can be seen by the very existence of the young, independent, democratic Republic of Armenia.

Despite the preponderance of evidence about the historic fact of the genocide against the Armenian people, which is strong and undeniable, modern Turkey continues to deny that the Armenian genocide took place. While various Turkish sources expressed the view that certain unfortunate incidents took place, it denies there was ever any systematic ethnically based policy targeted against the Armenian people. There are those who say we should not offend our Turkish allies by using the word genocide, but let us call it what it was. It was genocide, a most horrible genocide where over 1.5 million people, including women and children, lost their lives and over 500,000 Armenians were killed, eradicating the Armenian historic homeland from Turkey.

Let us remind ourselves that our country and the rest of the world at that time turned away and did nothing to prevent these horrible human rights violations against innocent men, women, and children.

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The problems we face from Turkey historically with Armenia have not gone away, and they are continuing now in a different form against another minority people. Let us remind ourselves as well that today in Turkey another genocide is occurring by the Turkish Government against yet another Turkish minority, the Kurdish people.

Today, thousands of Turkish troops have not only driven through the southeastern portion of Turkey, executing those in the Kurdish minority who oppose them burning and tearing down Kurdish towns, but also crossed into the border in Iraq to attack Kurdish people in their refugee camps. And let us remind ourselves, Mr. Speaker, that our Government has not acted to prevent this additional genocide, but has actually supported this action against an innocent people.

We remind ourselves today of our responsibilities to other human beings, and in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, each one of us should say to ourselves we

are our brother's keeper, and that we do have a responsibility to others to stand up and tell the world that a genocide occurred in 1915 to 1923, and that another is occurring today.

This past year in hammering out the fiscal 1996 foreign funding bill, the Foreign Operations Subcommittee sent a strong message to Turkey that we will not sit idly by as they commit egregious human rights violations not only against their own but also against their smaller struggling neighbors, including Armenia. We cut their economic assistance in the last year, Mr. Speaker.

We passed the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act, which ensures that any country that henceforth prevents transit of U.S. humanitarian aid intended for other people will forfeit all U.S. economic military and military assistance, and we provided to the Armenian people support of \$85 million of aid for food, fuel and medical supplies and an additional \$30 million for economic and technical assistance.

We have made great progress in the last years in helping to establish a new Armenia, an Armenia that is free and democratic and forging ahead to provide through economic freedom a greater economic life to its people and a greater stability for its future.

Mr. Speaker, we have made that commitment previously. We have to renew it this year. Even in tough budgetary times, we ought to realize that, if we can prevent the kind of foreign assistance, provide the kind of foreign assistance to Armenia, a struggling young country that does reflect the values that this country stands for and believes in, we will do a great deal to extend those values across the world.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DINGELL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. BILIRAKIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in marking