

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF VANDY D. LAWSON

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Vandy D. Lawson for her dedication to teaching the students at the Comal Leadership Institute in the Comal Independent School District.

Vandy D. Lawson received her bachelor's degree in math from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and her master's in statistics from Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Currently she is teaching students grades ninth through twelfth in the subject of math. Through her extraordinary teaching methods she is able to reach students and appeal to their interest like none other—this is what distinguishes her as a great teacher.

The unique teaching style of Mrs. Lawson is one that the teachers of our Nation should regard as an example of how they can reach students in a more effective way. It is said that Mrs. Lawson "looks at what she does every day as a being on a treasure hunt, uncovering great treasures and bringing them back to life." The students she teaches all benefit from Mrs. Lawson's continuous drive to reach each and every student to make sure they all receive as much assistance as possible.

The math and sciences are two essential fields of study that students around the Nation need exposure to America's teachers like Mrs. Lawson, play the most vital role in ensuring students get taught the necessary skills to become tomorrow's leaders. I am honored to have this opportunity to distinguish Vandy D. Lawson for her dedication to the perseverance of knowledge in our community.

### TRIBUTE TO UNITED COMMUNITY CENTER IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 27, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of an outstanding community center in my district. This week the United Community Center celebrates its 35th Anniversary.

Since 1970, the UCC has endeavored to provide services and cultural opportunities to members of the Hispanic community in Milwaukee. Founded as a youth center, the UCC has grown into one of the premier social service agencies in our city, with an impressive array of programs designed to serve the needs of Hispanic families and communities.

The UCC attempts to create new opportunities for Hispanic families to move out of poverty and join the ranks of the middle class.

Confronting the challenges of poverty requires a multi-faceted approach, a fact that is not lost on the leaders and members of this organization.

The UCC attends to the educational needs of the community, serving hundreds of students in its pre-kindergarten, grade school and middle school programs. Recognizing the importance of physical health, the Center offers prevention and health awareness services designed to reduce smoking, drug abuse, and teen pregnancy. The UCC understands that communities are sustained, in part, by culture, and as a result, regularly exhibits the works of prominent Hispanic artists and stages musical and dance performances. Young people in the community benefit from classes and workshops in theater arts, ceramics, dance and music. The UCC helps us care for our elders, providing assistance with transportation and affordable housing, while also maintaining adult day care for senior citizens.

The UCC understands that caring for families and individuals requires caring for the environment and stabilizing the neighborhood. Through its neighborhood development initiative, the UCC helps build the wealth and desirability of the community by helping families repair their homes, plant trees, and landscape open areas.

Through all of these activities, the UCC also serves as an ambassador for Hispanic people, reaching out to other communities in Milwaukee to develop understanding and acceptance of Hispanic culture.

By offering a unique array of services and programs, the UCC has established itself as a vital center of Hispanic culture in my district. On the occasion of this 35th Anniversary, I salute the leaders of the UCC, its current and former volunteers, and its members, for these impressive achievements.

### 90TH COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 26, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and to place in the RECORD a portion of an opinion article written by Lee Enokian.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE VICTIMS ARE NOT  
FORGOTTEN

(By Lee Enokian)

Today is the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Between 1915 and 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians were murdered or forcibly exiled because they were the wrong religion and ethnicity. The world community memorializes the anniversary annually as Armenian Martyrs Day.

Thousands of Armenians were offered their lives in exchange for their conversion to Islam. They refused and died as a result. Their steadfast faithfulness to the Christian

faith is not surprising. Armenia was the first Christian nation and remains the only Christian nation in the Middle East.

Various Turkish people invaded southwest Asia during the Middle Ages and carved an empire for themselves from lands occupied by the indigenous Semitic and Indo-European inhabitants.

Turkish nationalism grew relentlessly during the following centuries. In the years preceding World War I, they actively sought to Turkify the Ottoman Empire and strengthen their rule by eliminating fractious ethnic minorities.

The western two-thirds of Anatolia was once inhabited by Greeks and other Indo-European peoples. It is now primarily occupied by Turks.

The eastern third of modern Turkey was once Armenian with an Assyrian minority, but is now populated by Turks and Kurds.

Modern Armenia survived only because it was the single province controlled, and protected, by the Russian Empire. The rest of the territory within its historical borders is almost wholly devoid of ethnic Armenians.

The organized depopulation of Christians and non-Turks from Anatolia by the Ottoman Empire is one of the worst incidents of racism and religious intolerance documented in the world.

The Genocide was master-minded by the ultra-nationalist "Young Turk" government of Ottoman Turkey. Mehmet Talaat Pasha was the Minister of the Interior and architect of the Armenian Genocide. He was rewarded by being elevated to the position of Grand Vizier in 1917. Pasha fled to Germany as his empire collapsed in 1918. He was convicted of capital crimes, including massacring the Armenians. The post-war Ottoman government sentenced him to death in absentia.

Just-minded federal, state and local governments throughout the world continue to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

Illinois is no different. Gov. Rod Blagojevich has continued the practice of his predecessors by remembering the plight of the Armenian people. Part of his annual proclamation reads: "The Armenian community, as well as the global community, remembers the Armenian Genocide, which occurred 90 years ago; and during this tragic historical period between the years of 1915 and 1923, Armenians were forced to witness the genocide of their loved ones, and the loss of their ancestral homelands; and this extermination and forced relocation of over 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks is recognized every year."

Sadly, the modern state of Turkey denies the Genocide ever occurred. It restricts the ability of ethnic Armenians, Kurds and Assyrians to enter and travel within the country. In fact, Turkey has done its best to remove every trace of the Armenian people from their ancestral homeland. These efforts still don't change history.

Blagojevich concluded his proclamation with the fact that we must remember hateful events like the Genocide to help prevent their future institution.

"Both recognition and education concerning past atrocities such as the Armenian Genocide is crucial in the prevention of future crimes against humanity."

Evil wins when good men turn a blind eye.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.