

Donna Scheidt, this year's recipient from the School Town of Highland, is known for her ability to engage her students in a way few other teachers can. For the past 13 years, Donna, an eighth grade language arts teacher at Highland Middle School, has constantly devised new ways to bring classic literature into her classroom. It is not uncommon to witness Donna as a character from a classic story to help bring the author's words to life. Donna's ability to reach others is not limited to her students. She has also taken a lead in developing staff and the school's curriculum. In fact, many of her colleagues would tell you they have grown from her guidance just as her students have.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 2009 Crystal Bell Award. Their years of hard work have played a major role in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people, and each recipient is truly an inspiration to us all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 94th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

This year, our Nation has the opportunity to finally recognize the Armenian Genocide as such in the annual commemoration from the White House. Year after year, we have seen the same standard letter from the White House which offers sympathy and apology for the "mass killings," yet refused to label these events as genocide. However, President Obama made promises during his campaign that he would right this wrong, and recognize the Armenian Genocide. I am hopeful Madam Speaker, we finally escape from being under Turkey's thumb on this issue. It is vital our Nation has a foreign policy that accurately reflects history.

Despite my optimism, I am told yet again that now is not the right time for our Nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Two years ago, we were told recognition would hurt our troops fighting in Iraq. Four years ago we were told the same thing. This year, we're being told that recognizing the Armenian Genocide will hurt American jobs. How? We cannot develop a foreign policy based solely on what other countries want to hear about their past. Should we not recognize the Soviet

orchestrated famine which killed millions in the Ukraine? Should we allow Cambodia to rewrite the atrocities committed under the reign of the Khmer Rouge? What if our schools stopped teaching the American Revolution and we stopped celebrating the Fourth of July because it offended the British? All nations must recognize past events, both good and bad, and learn from it.

To ensure Congress does not mention or pass the Armenian Genocide resolution, Turkey hires powerful and expensive lobbyists to meet with Members and staff, distort the historical facts, and make veiled threats on what might happen if the Genocide is recognized. For the last 20 years, Turkey has been very successful. I firmly believe that we should work with foreign nations on challenges and mutual interests. However, I do not believe another nation can hold our foreign policy decisions hostage because they do not want to admit to dark periods in their past. It is unacceptable that we continue to allow threats from Turkey to hinder our Nation from recognizing a historical fact that has been recognized by historians, scholars, theologians, philosophers, common people, and President Ronald Reagan.

My district is home to thousands of Armenian-Americans, many who are the sons and daughters of survivors. When I am home, I am often approached in the store or on the street by my Armenian friends asking when our country will honor their parents and finally recognize the genocide. We are quickly approaching the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, and I am hopeful we do not have to wait until then to bring justice to my Armenian friends and neighbors.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I will say again, genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian Genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 252 to recognize the Armenian Genocide in our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO KIDANGO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kidango, a quality early education and child care provider with administrative offices in Fremont, California. Kidango is celebrating 30 years of serving children in the California cities of Fremont, San Jose, Livermore, Dublin, Union City and Newark with plans for expansion in San Jose and Hayward.

In 1979, formerly known as Tri-Cities Children's Center, is now known by the community as Kidango. Kidango began providing mental health consultation to the staff and parents of the children enrolled at Kidango. Utilizing a relationship-based training strategy, staff was specially trained to understand and work with children with social and emotional challenges.

Kidango has a long history of serving children, including infants with developmental

delays and disabilities, by providing Early Intervention Services. In 1994, Kidango merged with the Agency for Infant Development and expanded Kidango's services to children with special needs.

In 2002, Kidango created its own in-house mental health department and Inclusion Team comprised of staff from its Education, Intervention and Mental Health Departments. This program utilizes the relationships developed with families and teachers to provide effective mental health services and responsiveness to the special needs of all children.

Seven Kidango centers in San Jose, California received the honor of being designated as Smart San Jose sites. Smart San Jose is the City of San Jose's premier Early Education Initiative that works to expand the availability of high quality, affordable early care and education spaces in centers and family child care homes.

In 2006, Kidango added Community Family Services as part of their expansive program offerings. This partnership strengthened the work Kidango does with children and families by allowing Kidango to serve more infants and those children who do better in a family child care home environment.

Kidango currently serves 3,300 children annually through its quality early care and education programs, child development services, early intervention services, Mental Health Department, Head Start Department and Community Family Services.

I join the community in recognizing Kidango on its 30th anniversary of exemplary service in childcare, education and child development services to meet the diverse needs of children and families throughout the Bay Area. I send best wishes to Kidango for continued success.

HONORING WORLD MALARIA DAY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, a person dies of malaria every 30 seconds. The vast majority of these deaths occur in children under five years in age. Today, malaria continues to cripple developing countries with the high costs of treatment and the loss of productivity.

However, there is continued hope on the horizon. A recently discovered drug could prevent mutations that led to drug resistance. There are significant efforts to discover a malaria vaccine, with over 20 vaccines currently in development. Treatment with A.C.T. is extremely effective, but unfortunately unavailable to poor people in developing nations who are ill and dying.

We must remember that almost half the world's population is at risk of dying from this preventable and treatable disease.

Madam Speaker, let us recommit ourselves with renewed vigor this World Malaria Day, April 25, to combat malaria and rid the developing world of this scourge.