

running out of time as an international community to move toward peace and reconciliation in the region. We are running out of time for the victims and those who remember the tragedy to come together and heal.

A clear recognition of this atrocity would affirm that the Armenian Genocide is not an opinion, but a widely documented fact supported by a body of historical evidence. Forty three states including Minnesota have recognized, by legislation or proclamation, the Armenian Genocide. Fortunately the Ottoman Empire no longer exists. However, people living in the region, and especially the descendants of the Armenian victims, deserve to have an accurate reflection of history acknowledged in order to move forward toward peace and reconciliation. As a Member of Congress, I want the United States to officially call the events of 100 years ago a genocide inflicted upon the ancestors of Armenian-Americans. Furthermore, our government should call on our NATO ally—Turkey—to acknowledge their historic responsibility.

On this 100th anniversary, my thoughts and prayers are with the families and ancestors of victims of this international crime against humanity. Let us remember and pray for the victims we never have met. Let us pray for those who survived and lived lives of courage. And, let us pray for the Armenian community in Minnesota, across the U.S. and all around the world who stand united in honoring your ancestors and in pursuing the truth with perseverance, honor, and dignity. As we reflect on this tragedy let us also reinforce our own resolve, as Americans, to prevent future genocides.

IN HOPES THAT JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE WOULD UPHOLD INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND ADDRESS COMFORT WOMEN ISSUES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, this year marks an important year for the United States and Japan as August 15th will be the 70-year anniversary of the Japanese surrender and the end of World War II. This upcoming anniversary comes on the heels of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's historic address to a joint session of the United States Congress, the first time a Japanese head of state has delivered such an address. While our two countries have experienced the pains of war and peace, I am looking forward to this historic speech in order for Prime Minister Abe to not merely highlight our strong alliance built over since 1945 but also to deliver justice for women who have endured irreparable harm and trauma in the years before 1945.

In the past, the joint session on the House floor has been used as a platform to call for peace by some of the world's greatest leaders such as Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle and Nelson Mandela. His speech on April 29 would be a great opportunity for Abe to do the same. In particular, it would be significant for him to acknowledge the pain and suffering of comfort women, a phrase used to describe hundreds of thousands of women, mostly Ko-

rean, whom former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton correctly pointed out were "enforced sex slaves" for Japanese soldiers during the war.

The plight of the comfort women was addressed by the U.S. Congress in 2007, when the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed House Resolution 121, which called upon the government of Japan to formally acknowledge, apologize and accept historical responsibility for its coercion of young women into sexual slavery during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands in the 1930s and throughout World War II.

Eight years later, the Japanese government has not officially issued the apology, and there are only 53 Korean comfort women living. Among them is Lee Yong-soo, who had the courage to testify before Congress for the passage of House Resolution 121. I met her several times over the years and was moved to hear of her story of survival. Lee Yong-soo's journey is a reflection of the horrors of war but also demonstrates our collective need to make amends for the things that were committed.

In an effort to overcome the shadows of our past since World War II, the United States and Japan have built and maintained an unbreakable alliance. Japan's political and financial support has substantially strengthened the U.S. position on a variety of global issues, including countering the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and terrorism in all its forms; working to stop the spread of the Ebola epidemic; advancing environmental and climate change goals; maintaining solidarity in the face of Russian aggression in eastern Ukraine; assisting developing countries; countering piracy; and standing up for human rights and democracy. Additionally, Japan is currently our 4th largest trading partner with \$204 billion in goods traded during 2013.

My recent visit to Japan reaffirmed my belief that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the cornerstone of our security interests throughout Asia and the world. Our bond is essential to regional stability and is based on our mutual values, including the preservation and promotion of political and economic freedoms, respect for human rights and democratic institutions and securing of prosperity for the people of both countries and the international community as a whole.

Japan is one of the world's greatest leaders and most reliable partners in the fight for peace. Prime Minister Abe's mention of this human rights violation would send a message to the world that the lingering pain of the comfort women is real and it would further convey Japan's commitment to human rights and peace in the region.

As a veteran myself, I know firsthand that war creates immeasurable pain and suffering on all sides. With so many Americans risking their lives in war, it is crucial for today's leaders to promote healing in order to continue to make this world a better place for future generations. I hope that Prime Minister Abe would move history forward in advancing diplomacy and ensuring Japan remains a pillar of peace, stability and an advocate of human rights in the region and the world.

RECOGNIZING THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY CHILD CARE CONSORTIUM AND ITS PARTNERS ON THE 5TH ANNUAL DAY OF THE YOUNG CHILD

HON. RAUL RUIZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the extraordinary work of the Riverside County Child Care Consortium and their partners on the success of the 5th Annual Day of the Young Child/Día de los Niños celebration.

The cities of Cathedral City, Coachella and La Quinta are proud participants of this important celebration. The planning committee of the Week of the Young Child (WOYC) in 2015 served our communities tirelessly and devoted themselves to raising awareness about the needs of young children and their parents and the importance of early childhood programs.

The Coachella Valley is home to more than 10,000 children under age six. More than half of these children are involved in Early Childhood Programs for at least part of their day in the over 4,300 licensed child care spaces in the Coachella Valley.

WOYC's annual celebration event is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This is the nation's largest early childhood association, with almost 80,000 members and over 300 affiliates, including Riverside County.

This event celebrates the contribution of organizations, community members and parents who support the well-being of our children and the future of our nation.

I would like to thank WOYC committee, the cities of Coachella, La Quinta, Cathedral City and the Riverside County Child Care Consortium for their efforts this year in making our community a better place for future generations.

CONGRATULATING GREENWOOD LABORATORY SCHOOL STUDENTS' NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITIONS

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate four outstanding students from Springfield, Missouri's, Greenwood Laboratory School. Luke Ellickson received a National Merit Scholarship Commendation and Madelyn Stroder, Adam Brock and Matthew Woodward are National Merit Finalists.

Upwards of 1.5 million students compete for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship. Of those, 50,000 are identified as high achievers and receive a "commendation." 15,000 will be named as National Merit semi-finalists. Only 7,600 are chosen as National Merit Finalist. These students fall in approximately the top 3 percent of all high school students in the nation.

These four students represent 10 percent of the graduating class at Greenwood Laboratory