

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus—who has been a leader in drawing attention to the plight of Christians in this conflict—testified that “Repeatedly we hear from Church leaders in the region that Christians—and other genocide survivors—are last in line for assistance from governments.” We can and must do better. To that end, H.R. 5961 requires the Administration to assess and address the humanitarian vulnerabilities, needs, and triggers to flee, of religious and ethnic communities that were targeted for genocide or otherwise severely persecuted. It directs the Administration to fund entities that are effectively providing assistance to these communities and guarantees that faith-based organizations on the ground are not excluded from U.S. assistance.

One such example is the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil, which provides assistance to internally displaced families of Yazidis, Muslims, and Christians, including food and resettlement from tents to permanent housing, as well as rental assistance, for Yazidis, medical care and education to Yazidis and Muslims through its clinics, schools, and university—which are open to everyone. The Archdiocese provides some form of each of these kinds of assistance to all of the estimated 10,500 internally displaced Christian families in the greater Erbil region. Yet as it provides these critical services, it has not received a single penny from any government. H.R. 5961 is clear that the Administration must be supporting entities, regardless of whether they are faith-based, that are heroically providing assistance to genocide survivors on the ground.

In recognition of the extraordinary suffering of these religious and ethnic communities, and their extraordinary vulnerability to persecution, H.R. 5961 requires the Administration to create a Priority Two, or “P-2,” visa category of special humanitarian concern that would provide one additional avenue for genocide survivors to seek resettlement in the United States through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. It is important to note that this is not a “fast track” to resettlement—P-2 applicants undergo the same security screening as all refugee applicants. But this special category allows them to access an overseas interview wherever the United States interviews refugee applicants, without needing a referral from the UN, an NGO, or a US Embassy, as is usually the case.

This bill also addresses a critical factor that will influence the continued presence of smaller, vulnerable religious communities in Syria and Iraq beyond this conflict: accountability for those who perpetrate heinous crimes against them. H.R. 5961 directs the Administration to prioritize supporting the criminal investigation, prosecution, and conviction of perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. These efforts will be focused on funding and supporting entities that are conducting criminal investigations, building Syrian and Iraqi investigative and judicial capacity, or collecting and preserving evidence for eventual use in domestic courts, hybrid courts, or internationalized domestic courts. Whether they are members of the Assad regime, ISIS, or some of the Popular Mobilization Brigades in Iraq, there can be no impunity for individuals who committed these dreadful crimes.

H.R. 5961 also directs the Administration to identify gaps in our criminal statutes to facilitate the prosecution of American perpetrators,

and non-Americans present in the United States, of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Without accountability, without humanitarian assistance reaching these religious and ethnic communities, we risk losing the invaluable, ancient presence of these communities in these countries altogether. This will feed violent extremism and dim the future of Iraq and Syria.

I urge my House colleagues to support this measure that will deliver immediate assistance to genocide survivors, help prosecute and punish perpetrators, and invest in a sustainable future for these persecuted religious and ethnic communities in the lands in which they have lived for so many generations.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ED MORLAN

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Mr. Ed Morlan of Bayfield, Colorado. Ed has worked tirelessly for decades to grow the economy of Southwest Colorado and provide opportunities for countless families in his community to succeed and prosper.

Ed's life of service started before his work in local economic development when he fought for his country in three tours in Vietnam. For his actions he received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. Returning from Vietnam, Ed set his sights on making a difference in his community, becoming a town board member of Bayfield, CO, for five terms while also working with the Region 9 Economic Development District of Southwest Colorado, a nonprofit organization that supports business startups, that has given more than \$19 million to advance growth and opportunity in the region which encompasses five counties and two Indian Reservations.

Through his hard work over 27 years, as Executive Director of Region 9—a fledgling organization with a \$30,000 deficit when Ed took over in 1989. Ed has overseen an expansion of the organization that now boasts an operating budget of close to \$2 million dollars and has for decades been instrumental in the economic health of Southwest Colorado.

The mining industry in Silverton, CO has faced several rounds of layoffs in recent decades. Ed's work with Region 9 has helped to offset many of these negative impacts by creating a thriving environment for small businesses. Through the years, under Ed's direction, Region 9 has assisted businesses from hardware stores, to ski areas, and even an animal hospital.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Morlan is an outstanding citizen of Colorado's Third Congressional District. He embodies the spirit of entrepreneurship and commitment to community that makes this such a special place to live. Without Ed's hard work, many rural businesses would not be thriving today. Although Ed is retiring from Region 9, he plans on continuing to help the community. On behalf of the people of Colorado's Third District I want to thank Ed for his work, and service to his country and community. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING “EDDIE GAEDEL DAY”

HON. DENNY HECK

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 9, 2016

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of my House colleagues to one of the most unusual careers in our national pastime of baseball, one that began and ended with just one trip to the plate at Sportsman's Park in St. Louis on August 19, 1951. In the bottom of the first inning, during the second game of a Sunday afternoon doubleheader against the Detroit Tigers, the St. Louis Browns sent a pinch hitter to the plate, 3'7" Eddie Gaedel, whose 65 pound weight made him the shortest and lightest player in Major League Baseball history.

Wearing the uniform of the Browns nine year old batboy, Eddie drew a walk on four straight pitches from Detroit pitcher Bob Cain, and was replaced by a pinch runner. His one day professional baseball career came to an abrupt halt several days later when American League president Will Harridge voided Gaedel's contract. Nevertheless, his place in baseball history was preserved in the record books as one of the only players to have a perfect 1.000 on base percentage for his entire career. Eddie Gaedel's autograph is now worth more than Babe Ruth's, and the bat he used in the game recently sold at auction for over fifty thousand dollars.

St. Louis Browns owner Bill Veeck promised Eddie Gaedel immortality when he signed him to a contract to play for the Browns. In Spokane, WA, an organization works annually to help Eddie achieve the immortality he was promised. Founded in 2011 at O'Doherty Irish Grille and Pub, the Eddie Gaedel Society, Spokane Chapter No. 1 has launched a national campaign to make each August 19th “Eddie Gaedel Fan Appreciation Day” in ballparks everywhere. The club is also seeking Eddie Gaedel's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame, where his jersey bearing the number 1/8 was displayed for many years before being returned to St. Louis, where it now hangs in the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame and Museum. I am a proud honorary member of that organization.

Several years ago, Spokane Mayor David Condon declared August 19, “Eddie Gaedel Day” and St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay did so this year, the sixty-fifth anniversary of Eddie Gaedel's one day, four pitch baseball career. In addition, the St. Louis Cardinals have made their home game on Friday, September 9, “Eddie Gaedel Bobblehead Night,” and will give away thirty thousand of the miniature statues of baseball's smallest player to fans who attend their home game against the Milwaukee Brewers.

Of particular note is the fact that the St. Louis Browns batboy who literally gave Eddie Gaedel the shirt off his back in August of 1951 so he could go to bat, Bill DeWitt, Jr., is now principal owner of the St. Louis Cardinals. His son, Bill DeWitt III, is the team president. The DeWitt family's involvement in professional baseball in both St. Louis and other cities stretches back over one hundred years. Bill DeWitt, Sr. sold the St. Louis Browns to Bill Veeck only weeks before Eddie came up to bat, and was serving as the team's general manager at the time.