

The combined forces were met by fierce resistance from the Ottoman Turks. What was originally intended to quickly eliminate Turkey from the war turned into a bloody, 8-month battle. More than 8,000 Australians and 2,400 New Zealanders died in that campaign.

The tragic losses of so many brave soldiers caused Australians and New Zealanders to remember the sacrifice of all those who died on ANZAC Day. On this national day of remembrance I am humbly inspired by how Australians show gratitude to their fallen warriors.

Today I ask my colleagues to join our friends and allies, the Aussies and the Kiwis, across the sea, as they honor their fallen and reflect on the many different meanings of war.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING THE 52ND
ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Head Start organization on its 52nd Anniversary.

Since its establishment, Head Start has been working to serve the country's most vulnerable families. In addition to working with organizations that provide learning, nutrition and general health assistance for children, Head Start has also helped to provide training, job development, and volunteer opportunities for low-income parents. These efforts are critical for establishing an environment in which every American is equipped to reach their full potential.

In my district, the Warren County Head Start Center has strengthened our community by working with over 250 families to provide learning opportunities for children and parents alike. While focusing on early childhood development programs, these centers also offer assistance to parents seeking higher education, lessening their burden so that they may work towards a brighter future for their family.

I would like to thank Head Start for 52 years of commitment to children and families across the country. In New York's 21st District, we are grateful for their work to make sure every child has the opportunity to succeed. I wish Head Start a prosperous future and I am confident that it will continue making a positive impact on the lives of many Americans.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on roll call vote 222 and 223, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "AYE."

HONORING ERIC STILES OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor my constituent, Eric Stiles, for earning a 2017 Governor's Victim Service Pathfinder Award, Pennsylvania's most prestigious award for a victim service professional or program.

Mr. Stiles is a sexual assault survivor who has devoted his career to advocacy and activism on behalf of others. At the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Mr. Stiles has helped to develop best practices in sexual violence intervention and prevention. He's led efforts to support sexual violence victims at all stages of life. His colleagues rave about a man who they say ". . . leads with passion and heart for the work, which only grows with his visionary ideas and creative outlets for engaging others," and who ". . . has an uncanny knack for helping people to move and grow into a better version of themselves."

As a member of the House Victims' Rights Caucus, and simply as a person who empathizes with and prays for the plight of sexual violence victims, I'm truly moved by Mr. Stiles' strength and compassion. His dedication has touched the lives of countless people and his legacy of service to others is exceptional.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-WAGE
FEDERAL CONTRACTOR EM-
PLOYEE BACK PAY ACT OF 2017

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Low-Wage Federal Contractor Back Pay Act of 2017, to grant back pay to federally contracted retail, food, custodial and security service workers who may be furloughed if there is a federal government shutdown this fiscal year. The bill would apply to all three branches of the federal government. The idea for the bill was brought to my attention by federally contracted service workers, some of whom work here on the Capitol grounds providing Members of Congress and congressional staff with daily services, in 2013 when the federal government shut down.

Many federally contracted workers in federal agencies earn little more than the minimum wage with few, if any benefits, and while others are unionized with a little better wage, all are the lowest paid workers in the federal government and should not be punished because Congress fails to do its job and keep the government functioning. Congress has historically provided back pay to federal employees, who work in the same buildings as these low-wage service workers, furloughed during government shutdowns—but not low-wage contract workers. However, both groups of workers deserve to be made whole after these shutdowns. I recognize, of course, that contract workers are employees of contractors, but the distinction between federal workers and at least the lowest-paid service workers who

serve the federal government and its employees and keep, for example, their premises clean, fails when it comes to a deliberate government shutdown. Unlike many other contractors, those who employ low-wage service workers have little latitude to help make up for lost wages. Low-wage federally contracted service workers could least afford the loss of pay during a shutdown, and should not have to go to work every day with everyone else in their federal buildings likely receiving back pay except for them.

The nation's capital is the high-profile home of the federal government's collusion with contractors that pay low wages through leases and contracts with federal agencies. At least this legislation would provide some parity to their low-wage federal contractor workers.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

CELEBRATING MARK! LOPEZ, RE-
CIPIENT OF THE 2017 GOLDMAN
ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate mark! Lopez, a tireless environmental advocate and the executive director of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, on his receipt of this year's Goldman Environmental Prize for North America. mark! has played an integral role in the fight to test and clean up the contaminated homes of families living near the former Exide battery recycling plant, which is situated in my 40th Congressional District. Though mark! is just 32 years old, his activism and passion have already made a clear and positive mark on our community, richly deserving of this global recognition.

mark! was born to a family of activists, and was raised in the midst of the activities of Madres del Este de Los Angeles Santa Isabel (Mothers of East LA Santa Isabel), an organization cofounded by his grandparents, my good friends Juana Beatriz Gutierrez and Ricardo Gutierrez, and continued by his mother, Elsa Lopez. Protesting and organizing were familiar sights to him from an early age, and during his years as an environmental studies major at UC Santa Cruz, he showed his commitment to this family tradition as a community organizer and activist for the needs of minority students and service workers. His dedication to advocacy and the environment foreshadowed his work in the fight to close the Exide plant and clean up the polluted lands surrounding the facility.

Exide finally agreed to shut down this plant in 2015, but properties for miles around remained contaminated with high levels of lead and arsenic. The work of mark! and his colleagues at East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice was invaluable in compelling the California Department of Toxic Substances Control to expand its testing of properties around the plant, and in helping secure a state commitment of \$176.6 million to test and clean up contaminated homes.

All families, regardless of their background, regardless of their neighborhood, deserve to raise their loved ones in a safe and clean environment. Activists like mark! Lopez not only