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COMMEMORATING THE 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. April 24, 1915 marked the beginning of the Ottoman Turks' systematic deportation and murder of over 1.5 million Christian Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians, marking the first genocide of the 20th century.

To this day, however, neither the President of the United States nor Congress have recognized this tragedy as what it is: a genocide. This does not do justice to the vibrant Armenian-American community in the Central Valley—a result of survivors settling anew after being displaced. The families of the Central Valley have not forgotten the pain of their ancestors and continue to advocate for justice with passion and persistence. Today, I am proud to be their voice and have joined my colleagues in introducing a Resolution this Congress, recognizing and memorializing the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian people are a great example of what it means to move forward while remembering who they are and where they come from. Recognizing what happened in 1915 as genocide is the first step towards reconciling with the past, something that is long overdue. We must reconsider our relationship with Turkey and entities that deny the Armenian genocide and uphold our American values by promoting justice and peace. It is our responsibility to ensure our future generations never forget this critical moment in history and that we continue pushing for its official recognition.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join me in condemning all crimes against humanity in the past, present, and future. We must learn from this atrocity and continue to advocate for the protection of human rights for the Armenian people, and for all.

TRIBUTE TO I.A.T.S.E. LOCAL 728

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 728 upon its 80th anniversary.

Chartered in 1939, Local 728 has served thousands of studio electrical lighting technicians in the motion picture community. Today, Local 728 provides its members with a myriad of services such as legal, medical, and financial assistance. The union also works hard to ensure its members receive the best retirement benefits and disability insurance. With a rich and long history, Local 728 has been involved in both federal and state political action

on behalf of its members, including lobbying efforts to keep jobs in California. Their advocacy for worker-centered initiatives has pushed California to be a leader in raising wages and improving education for its workers. Since its inception, Local 728 has grown to represent over 2,700 studio electrical lighting technicians and has been a shining example of what a strong labor union can achieve.

For eighty years, Local 728 has not only supported backlot technicians with assisted services but has also offered various occupational safety and job skills trainings to ensure that members are always performing the industry-best practices. These include helpful resources on Rigging for Wet Locations, LXBeams Software Training, and assistance in completing the Entertainment Technician Certification Program. Through these services, Local 728 continues to demonstrate their strong commitment to the well-being of its members. Their efforts exemplify the ever-important values of civic engagement, respect for the rights and safety of others, and to instill hard work in all members.

It is my pleasure to honor I.A.T.S.E. Local 728 for eighty years of dedication and service to the Los Angeles area's studio electrical lighting technicians. I ask all members to join me in commending their efforts.

HONORING KEVIN BARR

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman JARED HUFFMAN to recognize Kevin Barr as the recipient of the 2019 Viticulture Award of Excellence. This award recognizes grape growers who have made significant contributions to our Sonoma County wine community and Sonoma County overall.

Mr. Barr attended the University of California, Davis where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Management with a specialization in Viticulture and has since been committed to sustainability and conservation. Mr. Barr started his company, Redwood Empire Vineyard Management (REVM), in 1983, which sustainably develops farms and other properties. Mr. Barr is committed to sustainable farming and conservation. REVM was the first vineyard management company to be certified sustainable in California and has 22 clients that have been certified by the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance.

Mr. Barr has been an active and involved community member since he first moved to Sonoma County in 1979. He is a current board member and past chairman of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission Board. His expertise played no small role in the Commission certifying 100 percent of Sonoma County's vineyards as sustainable by 2019. Mr. Barr is also the current chairman of the Santa Rosa Junior College Viticulture Advisory Board and the Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation Board.

The 2019 Viticulture Award of Excellence is not the first time Mr. Barr has been recognized for his contributions and commitment to our community. He received the Leadership in Agriculture Award from the Santa Rosa Chamber

of Commerce in 2015, the Award of Excellence for Sustainability in Farming in 2016, and the Nick Frey Community Contribution Award in 2018. Despite his well-deserved accolades, Mr. Barr has remained humble and dedicated to sustainable farming and our community.

Madam Speaker, Kevin Barr is a generous person who works hard to keep our land beautiful for generations to come and is committed to our community. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING ISABEL WILKERSON

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, Isabel Wilkerson is one of the most important documentarians of African-American history in the United States.

Ms. Wilkerson devoted fifteen years to researching and writing *The Warmth of Other Suns*, one of the most important accounts of the Great Migration. From the 1910s to 1970s, millions of African-Americans left the segregated South in search of prosperity elsewhere. Drawing inspiration from the migration of her own parents from the rural South to Washington, D.C., Ms. Wilkerson set out to document stories from six decades of the continuous exodus of African-Americans from the South. By sharing the very important but underreported story of the six million people who were once enslaved and their descendants who fled the South for a better life, Ms. Wilkerson has helped our nation better understand the dynamics of our society.

The Warmth of Other Suns is only one of Ms. Wilkerson's great achievements. She has been a trailblazing author for decades. In the 1990s, she was Chicago Bureau Chief for *The New York Times*. In 1994, she became the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for journalism. Her Pulitzer-winning stories centered on the Midwestern flood of 1993 and the reality of life for a ten-year-old boy from the South Side of Chicago. Since then, she has written and taught at the highest levels in the United States.

Today, at Rutgers University in Newark, Ms. Wilkerson is delivering the prestigious Tanner Lecture on Human Values. Her work has enhanced our nation's understanding of human rights and human values. I proudly honor Ms. Wilkerson for her achievements and continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIRNESS IN FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS MEDICAL CARE ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, in recognition of April being Second Chance Month, I introduce the Fairness in Federal Bureau of Prisons Medical Care Act of 2019. This bill would remove the current copay Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) inmates are required to pay to visit a BOP-provided doctor.