

Wilson to take action and later remembered the events of the Genocide, saying, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Those who survived the Armenian Genocide, however, persevered due to their unbreakable spirit. Survivors of the Armenian Genocide contributed greatly to the lands in which they established new homes and communities, including the United States. That is why we not only commemorate this grave tragedy each year, but also take the time to celebrate the traditions and the contributions of the Armenian people. Indeed, my home State of Rhode Island continues to be enriched by our strong and vibrant Armenian-American community.

I was pleased when a resolution to encourage the U.S. to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide passed the Senate in December. We must find a way to come together to recognize the truth of what happened, and support and assist those facing persecution today.

As ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee and a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I also remain committed to supporting assistance to Armenia to strengthen security, promote economic growth, and foster democratic reforms and development.

As we remember the past, we remain committed to forging a brighter future. We must continue to guard against hatred and oppression so that we can prevent such crimes against humanity from happening again.

Thank you.

#### NEUROFIBROMATOSIS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Children's Tumor Foundation is observing May 17, 2020, as neurofibromatosis—NF—Awareness Day to educate the public about this rare genetic disorder that impacts more than 2 million people around the world. It is estimated that 1 in every 3,000 births is diagnosed with NF; yet it is still relatively unknown to the public.

NF affects all populations equally, regardless of race, ethnicity, or gender. The disorder causes tumors to grow on nerves throughout the body and can also affect development of the brain, cardiovascular system, bones, and skin. Further, the disorder can lead to blindness, deafness, bone abnormalities, disfigurement, learning disabilities, disabling pain, and cancer.

The Children's Tumor Foundation leads efforts to promote and financially sponsor world-class medical research aimed at finding effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for NF. They do this by actively fostering col-

laborative partnerships in both science and industry to speed the drug research and development process through a number of consortia.

In kind, the Children's Tumor Foundation is working around the clock to improve access to quality patient healthcare through its national NF clinic network. It provides patient and family support through its information resources, youth programs, and local chapter activities.

Much remains to be done in raising public awareness of NF to help promote early diagnosis, proper management and treatment, prevention of complications, and support for research.

NF affects children all across the world; and in recognition of this important initiative and the tireless research taking place, I support recognizing May 17, 2020 as Neurofibromatosis Awareness Day.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DARCY SCHINDLER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Darcy Schindler of Granite County for his tremendous efforts to support his community during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Darcy has been a committed and passionate science teacher over the past 27 years. He joined the teaching ranks at Drummond High School 20 years ago, where he continues to mentor and encourage countless students.

When the coronavirus pandemic began spreading across the country, Darcy was hearing stories from his friends working in the medical and dental fields, that they were having a tough time finding protective masks.

Darcy decided to take action and began volunteering his time and resources to create protective masks for our healthcare heroes and first responders on the frontlines of this ongoing coronavirus pandemic in Montana.

With the school's permission, Darcy used the school's 3D printer to produce the protective masks. With support from those in the community, along with his own time and resources, Darcy has shipped well over 100 masks across Montana. He has not taken any payments for his shipments. He only asks that they instead make a donation to the Drummond Schools Science Fund to help his students.

It is my honor to recognize Darcy Schindler for his efforts to support our healthcare heroes and our first responders. His selflessness and commitment to serve others is an extraordinary example of how Montanans are stepping up in the face of this pandemic to help one another. I thank Darcy Schindler for his efforts to help the Drummond community and communities all across Montana. ●

#### 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OAKLAND COUNTY

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 200th anniversary of my home, Oakland County, MI. Established March 28, 1820, and situated just north of Detroit in southeastern Michigan, Oakland County has, over the past 200 years, transformed from a small rural settlement to a thriving economic hub.

On January 11, 1805, Congress established the Michigan Territory, but nearly a decade later the area remained largely unsettled due to the reputation that it was too wild, even for the heartiest of pioneers. The territory began to modernize and attract settlers under the strong leadership of Governor Lewis Cass, appointed in 1813 by President James Madison as a reward for his military service in the War of 1812. Avon Township, now Rochester and Rochester Hills, became the first area settled in Oakland County thanks to a settlers from New England, New York, and southern Canada. Governor Cass requested the remaining territory carefully surveyed, which revealed a bounty of fertile land ripe for settlement in the area now known as Pontiac. Therefore, on March 28, 1820, Cass established Oakland County and designated the central city of Pontiac—no more than a day's journey from any point in the county—as county seat. In this newly established seat, Cass allocated land to erect a courthouse, jail, cemetery, market, schoolhouse, and several churches. At this time, Oakland County had a population of 330.

It is crucial to recognize the inhabitation and development of the land prior to the arrival of European settlers. Native Americans from the Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi Tribes, collectively known as the Anishinaabe, occupied the region for thousands of years prior. Early European explorers to Michigan recorded the Anishinaabe development of the land, noting their key paths and roadways. When forming the county, settlers continued to use and build upon these thoroughfares, many of which still exist to this day. The Shiawassee Trail is now Shiawassee Street in Farmington; Saginaw Trail is part of Dixie Highway; and Grand River Trail is now US 16. The Anishinaabe indisputably shaped the current landscape of Oakland County and its trade and travel routes.

Today, 200 years since Governor Cass established Oakland County, I recognize its transformation from a rural community to the home of 62 cities, townships, and villages, 11 colleges and universities, and a center for industrial and technological development. The economy employs over 650,000 workers, with the largest industries being manufacturing, healthcare and social assistance, and professional, scientific, and technical services. In addition to its robust private sector, Oakland County is