

Many survivors of the genocide have made the United States their new home. On April 24, 1996, Armenians all over the world will commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Commemoration activities will occur in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and in my district in Fresno, CA. I have the honor of representing thousands of Armenians in California's Nineteenth Congressional District, and I send my sincerest condolences on this solemn occasion to all members of the Armenian community. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I intend to join my colleagues, Representatives PORTER and FRANK PALLONE, in a special order on April 24, 1996 on the floor of the House of Representatives to commemorate the genocide victims.

I am an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 47 which calls on Congress to officially recognize the Armenian genocide and encourages the Republic of Turkey to do the same. This legislation would call on the Government of Turkey to turn away from its denials of the Armenian genocide, and instead, to openly acknowledge this tragic chapter in its history. By doing so, the Turkish Government can help to raise the level of trust in a strategic, yet highly unstable, region of the world and facilitate the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia. I encourage my colleagues to vote for the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 47.

Remembering this genocide against the Armenians will help ensure that this type of tragedy is never allowed to occur again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1730

BRAD PELZER BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MASCARA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to plead the case of 11-year-old Brad Pelzer from my district who needs a bone marrow transplant. Brad is suffering from CML, an adult form of leukemia.

Until early this year, Brad Pelzer was a typical 5th grader at Charleroi Elementary Center, located in my hometown of Charleroi, PA. Brad, an honor student, enjoys playing soccer, deck hockey, and using his family's computer.

But in February Brad became ill and by the end of the month he was diag-

nosed with leukemia. Now Brad and his parents, Joe and Josie Pelzer, are engaged in a desperate search for someone whose bone marrow will match Brad's.

Brad's doctors say a transplant from such a donor will offer him his best hope for beating this very serious illness.

Like hundreds of other parents faced with a similar situation, Joe and Josie are mustering every ounce of courage and hope they can. After discovering no family members were a match for Brad, they sought the help of local blood bank officials. They have organized three donor drives over the next several weeks to seek a potential donor from the local community.

As the chart reflects, the first will be held tomorrow, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at California University in California, PA. Donors should go to the performance center located in the student union.

The second will be held Saturday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the north Charleroi fire hall. The third will be held Monday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the Washington County Courthouse in Washington, PA.

Anyone who is 18 to 60 years old is invited to come and give blood and be tested. The reward will be so great—giving life to Brad.

It is very ironic to me that Brad's situation came to my attention at this time when the Nation is observing National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week.

His family are long-time friends of mine, his grandparents, Leroy and Susan Rotolo and Rita Pelzer, are my neighbors. They are very lovely people. Good, solid citizens. And now they must rely upon the goodness of the rest of us to help them through this very trying and difficult ordeal.

Situations like this make you reflect on the blessings that have been bestowed upon us and how important it is to reach out and be kind and helpful to our neighbors and friends.

Having children and grandchildren of my own, I know exactly how Joe and Josie feel. They are looking for an answer and the miracle might be a person who is viewing these special orders tonight. You could be the one to reach out to Brad Pelzer and help save his life.

According to material marking National Donor Awareness Week, provided by Congressman MOAKLEY, a transplant recipient himself, at any given time 43,000 Americans are awaiting a transplant. They are rich and poor. They are old and young. And they all need our help.

The amazing thing is even if you live nowhere near Charleroi, PA, you can still help Brad Pelzer, and the thousands of other youngsters in need of a bone marrow transplant. The American Red Cross has set up a 1-800 number you can call to locate the nearest blood bank where you can be tested and

added to the national bone marrow transplant registry.

Since the bone marrow transplant registry was established in the mid-1980's, over 1.6 million people have been added to the registry. Because the base of donors is growing each year, I am told that 60 percent of patients find a matched donor on their first search.

The bottom line is please attend one of the drives in my district, or call 1-800-MARROW-2, and help improve the chances for Brad.

His mom and dad, his brother, Brent, and his grandparents, are all praying that you will answer the call. Please help. Hang in there Brad—we'll find a match.

LYON COUNTY WANTS EPA TO HALT SUPERFUND CLEANUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this evening to talk about the environment. Last evening, I spoke to my colleagues about education, and this has been Earth Day this week, and Earth Week. People talk about saving the environment. And last night I talked about paying more for education and getting less. Tonight I wanted to address the House and my colleagues about paying more for preserving and protecting the environment and getting less.

Just a few hours ago the House passed, I believe, the 13th or 14th continuing resolution, and that is a temporary resolution to fund the Government for one more day, and you know we have had a tremendous amount of difficulty in trying to nail down the budget and nail down the expenditures for this year that we are in, 6 months into.

What we have not been able to do on our side of the aisle is really tell the American people or convince a majority of our colleagues here that we, in fact, are paying more in education. Tonight I use as an example the environment and getting less for cleanup. And part of the contest that the Congress is engaged in is not just a question of how much more money you spend on these programs, but how you spend it: Are we protecting the environment?

One of the things that I have learned as chairman of the House Civil Service Committee is where the bodies are buried or where the public servants are working in the large bureaucracy we have, with so many people employed by the Federal Government. Particularly, my concern is Washington, DC, and then some of the regional offices, if you just take a minute and look at what part of this debate is about with EPA.

The total number of EPA employees has grown to almost 18,000 EPA employees. There are 6,000 EPA employees in Washington, DC. Now, that 6,000 is equal to about the total number of employees in EPA about a little over a

decade ago. If this were the only figure, this 17,000, it would be huge by any measure. But, in fact, you find thousands and thousands of contract employees. If you wonder where the rest of these employees are, there are 6,000 in Washington, there is another approximately 1,200, a 1,000 to 1,300 in 10 regional offices across the country.

When I get down to my State of Florida, we had a total, I believe, of 65 EPA employees in this particular fiscal year.

So people who think that EPA is out there in the States protecting the environment, it is not so. They are in Washington, and they are passing countless rules and regulations. A tremendous amount is spent on administration.

And then some of the programs we have heard talked about like Superfund. Superfund, I have explained to the House, over 80 percent of the funds on Superfund have been spent on attorney fees and studies.

I had a gentleman visit me in my office yesterday, and he said a Superfund site in Florida was identified in 1984. He said it went through a half a dozen project administrators and they still have not done anything to resolve the problems of the Superfund site. That is in Florida.

Here is a site in Nevada. Lyon County commissioners, and this is part of a release from them, asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to halt mercury cleanup program of the Carson River. The mercury that they were going to clean up is left over from mining operations of the Comstock Lode in the 1800's.

Then we have another example, of Vermont here, Burlington, Vermont. Twelve years ago, after a site was picked there to clean up some hazardous waste left over from a coal gasification plant, nothing was done. They spent millions of dollars. Very little was done in the way of environmental cleanup.

So we are paying more, we are getting less, and the more I talk about this, the more examples that are brought for me from across the country, and that is part of the debate. Republicans favor protecting the environment, preserving the environment. Republicans favor clean water, clean air, clean land. But when you spend money like this, when the money goes for a bureaucracy like this, and it does not go for a cleanup, then we have a real problem.

I want to quote as I get towards the end here a comment from Carol Browner, EPA administrator, who said in the New York Times in 1993, in November: "When I worked at the state level, I was constantly faced with rigid rules that made doing something 110 times more difficult and expensive than it needed to be. It makes no sense to have a program that raises costs while doing nothing to reduce environmental threats."

Now, that is Carol Browner, former Florida EPA administrator, comment-

ing on her experience in dealing with the Federal Government.

So, Mr. Speaker, I call on Carol Browner, I call on this administration, I call on my colleagues, to stop paying more and getting less. We can do a better job if we concentrate and effectively utilize our limited taxpayer dollars.

A SPECIAL DAY, A SPECIAL EVENT, AND VERY SPECIAL STUDENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DE LA GARZA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend I participated in an Earth Day celebration back home in my district. The event was a Hometown Trees celebration and took place at the Kika de la Garza Elementary school whose principal is Mr. Jose Louis Trigo.

We planted a live oak tree in remembrance of the children of the Oklahoma bombing tragedy. This was donated by first grader Amy Sojak and her classmates. Amy and her classmates are students of Miss Veronica Galvan. Fourth grade student Joel Espinoza was the master of ceremonies. And awards were presented to the following students for their essays which emphasized the special and unique benefits provided by trees: Victor Villarreal, Brandi Martinez, Andres Aguilar, Juan Carlos Lopez, and Denise Sepulveda.

What was particularly exciting about the occasion is that 10 year old Victor Villarreal was recognized as the Hometown Trees National Essay Contest Winner for the Southwest region. He is the son of Guadalupe and Francisca Villarreal.

Over the past 5 years, Hometown Trees, sponsored by IGA supermarkets, Louisiana-Pacific and Coca-Cola, has teamed up with thousands of local volunteers in communities nationwide to ensure that the future generations will enjoy the ecological and aesthetic benefits of trees. This year, as part of the Hometown Trees initiative, IGA sponsored a nationwide environmental essay contest for children age 12 and under.

Young Victor won the contest—quite an accomplishment and one of which he can be very proud. His essay was chosen for its uniqueness and creativity. It vividly captures the importance of trees from a child's perspective.

It reads: "Trees are important in my hometown because at La Joya, 'The Jewel of the Valley,' we treasure trees—our jewels. They add that special spark that only nature can provide. Anything that mother nature creates, is a true treasure that no other power can originate. Treasure your jewels!"

To specifically honor Victor's accomplishment a tree donated by IGA and Carl's Grocery was planted. It will forever be a living monument to him. These trees will be enjoyed by all the community.

What made this occasion particularly unique for me is that I feel the sentiments expressed by Victor are shared by his fellow students. What I saw in the faces of the youngsters was an eagerness not just to participate in an event for the one day we officially recognize as Earth Day, but rather a desire to make every day Earth Day.

This tells me that as we celebrate this 26th Anniversary we have passed on to our children and grandchildren how important it is to look after our environment in the way we live our lives every day. That is quite an accomplishment—and Victor, and all of his fellow students, are quite an outstanding group of youngsters.

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. DINGELL] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I join all of my colleagues today in commemoration of April 24, 1996, the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide which occurred under such tragic circumstances 81 years ago, and it is my purpose to join with my colleagues to insist that such inhumanity never be repeated again.

Mr. Speaker, today we are recalling the loss of 1½ million Armenians who were killed and a half million more who were driven from Turkey. No person of any decency can do other than oppose this sort of inhumanity, and all join in a statement of hope for a world free of genocide and ethnic conflict.

I have the great privilege to represent a large and active Armenian population, many of whom have parents and grandparents who were amongst the persecuted religious, political, and intellectual leaders in the turn of the century Armenia.

Today's Michigan community of Armenians follow the great tradition of doing much to further the commercial, political, and intellectual growth of Michigan and of the country. It is my hope that today's effort to honor the victims and the survivors of this genocide will educate all of us, will educate our neighbors country men and all of the world's people so that peace remains a priority of this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We look back to honor those who have died, but we also look forward and say, "Never again."

□ 1745

BUDGET SHORTFALL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, a couple of days ago I announced, along with the chairman of the Committee on National Security, that we were going to address a shortfall in funding under the Clinton administration budget that seriously impeded the capability of our pilots to operate their aircraft effectively and safely. That was done on the heels of the hearing in which we talked about the three, now four, F-14 crashes since the first of January and the three