

it is important indeed that we study the history and culture and language of Turkey. But this \$1 million gift came with strings attached, strings designed to make sure that the person who sat in that chair at UCLA would be a person selected by the Turkish Government to begin the process of covering up and concealing the Armenian genocide.

Now I am proud of many things at UCLA. I was there when Bill Walton led us to an NCAA championship. But I was never prouder of my alma mater than when UCLA said "no" to the \$1 million. And now that same \$1 million is being floated in front of the University of California at Berkeley and other institutions. I hope that academic institutions from one coast to the other will join in unison in saying America's academic integrity is not for sale; \$1 million, \$10 million will not buy the prestige of American universities and enlist them in the goal of denying the Armenian genocide.

Likewise, it is time for the State Department to go beyond shallow, hollow reminders and remembrances of this day and to use the word "genocide" in describing the genocide of the Armenian people at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

You know the United States plays a unique role in the world today. Never before in history has a single Nation not only been the sole superpower but then accepted by all the other nations in the world as the sole superpower. We hold that position uncontested because other nations have allowed us. They have not joined in some sort of anti-American alliance but rather are happy to see America as the world's superpower. Why? Because our foreign policy is guided by morality.

Mr. Speaker, never again, never forget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROGAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, Haig Baronian of Glendale, California in my district can recite history like few historians can. He has lived it. Last year he told the Daily News of Los Angeles that he had seen his mother pulled away, never to be seen again. The story he has to tell is like those echoed in history books, college classrooms and town halls across the Nation. However, he did not live in Bosnia, Uganda, Cambodia or Nazi Germany. As a child Haig lived in Armenia.

Between 1915 and 1923 over 1 million Armenians, who had inhabited their homeland since the time of Christ, were displaced, deported, tortured and killed at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Families were split, homes were destroyed, lives were torn apart. In the years since, officials from what is now Turkey have dismissed these charges as a mere civil war. But men like Mr. Baronian tell a different tale, and today I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering his family and his neighbors, and to seek justice so that future generations will never again face tragedy at the hands of their own government.

Mr. Speaker, as their friends and family were killed before them, nearly a million managed to escape and build new lives in the United States. Of these, nearly 100,000 Armenians now live in the Los Angeles area. What is inspiring to me is witnessing their climb from tragedy to triumph as dedicated, informed and prosperous members of our community. And while the story of Armenians in America is truly a success story, an injustice to friends, neighbors and to history still remains.

Every April 24 we in Congress gather to recognize the contributions of Armenian Americans and to remember the Armenian genocide. As we look to a new century we must be mindful of our dual obligation both to diplomacy and to justice. Like my colleagues, I rise today in the interests of justice, to call on humanity to put to rest one of the darkest episodes in history.

Mr. Speaker, for 10 years the Ottoman Empire tried to strip the Armenian people of their dignity, their property and their lives. What they failed to do was rob them of their soul and their will to survive and prosper.

In recognition of Haig Baronian and his fellow Armenians, both at home and abroad, who suffered at the hands of the Ottomans, I ask my colleagues to join me and for Congress to commit itself to the interest of justice and to the cause of peace. I ask that we remember the past so, as we have been warned before, we shall not be condemned to repeat it.

□ 1845

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO NANCY OSTER, BARBIE DEUTSCH AND THE BREAST RESOURCE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a very brave woman from my district, Nancy Oster,

and to a very special organization, the Breast Resource Center.

Nancy Oster is a survivor of breast cancer. As a survivor, she is an example and a symbol of courage and persistence. She was determined to do something about that life-changing event called breast cancer.

Another example of resolve and bravery, Barbie Deutsch, is in the gallery today. She is from my district, and I am honored to be speaking in her presence.

A few weeks ago, Nancy Oster came to visit me here in Washington while she was attending the celebration of survivors in conjunction with the Race For The Cure. Seeing her here, I was once again struck by her bravery and her caring nature, and energized by her commitment to the unique breast cancer collaborative community project that has emerged in Santa Barbara. And I want to pay tribute to that effort.

Nancy Oster is President of the Board of the Breast Resource Center of Santa Barbara. This organization came about after a group of women diagnosed with the disease found it very difficult to obtain critical and objective information.

Ideally, they wanted a friendly place where anyone impacted by a breast cancer diagnosis could come and find information about local and national resources, and also find access to what they described as a breast cancer grapevine. People who are willing to listen, to share experiences, and to offer a reassuring hand.

Their brainstorming session took place in 1996. Just 1 year later, the dreams of these courageous women came to fruition and the Santa Barbara Breast Resource Center was born. A cottage on Pueblo Street is the home for this special organization in Santa Barbara.

I have been at the cottage, and it is indeed a warm and inviting place. There is a pot of chicken soup on the stove; there is a little garden outside; there is access to the Internet. There are many books and pamphlets, comfortable couches, and most of all, caring and concerned people.

Dr. Susan Love, its medical director of the Breast Cancer Institute in Santa Barbara, serves as honorary chair of the Breast Resource Center. She was the driving force in the formation of this group, and in her words, information is power, which helps to dispel the fear and vulnerability of a breast cancer diagnosis. The Breast Resource Center provides the Santa Barbara community the access to that power.

The central coast of California is unique in that we have so much and such easily accessible support for those battling this disease. I hold Santa Barbara up as a model for communities all around the country. It provides wonderful resources for women who often feel like they have nowhere else to turn.

I am honored and humbled to be a partner in this effort and in this enterprise.

So, Mr. Speaker, I salute the Breast Cancer Institute, the Breast Resource Center, Nancy Oster, Barbie Deutsch, and all the other breast cancer survivors who carry on. They have taken what can be seen as a tragic circumstance and turned it into something real and something powerful. This is a community operating at its best, and I implore women all around the country to look to Santa Barbara and these special women for inspiration. I also implore those of us who are Members of this body, this House of Representatives, to take the inspiration of these women as motivation, as a call to action, to provide the resources to find a cure, resources for early diagnosis, for effective treatment.

We are partners with you, Barbie and Nancy, and those of you in the Breast Resource Center. I salute you, and I thank you for leading the way.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 83rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor again to commemorate the anniversary of one of the darkest stains on the history of Western civilization, the genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. I greatly appreciate the strong support of so many of our colleagues in this effort, especially that of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) my fellow cochairman of the Armenian Issues Caucus.

I commend the gentleman for arranging this evening and for his continued dedication to these vitally important issues.

Mr. Speaker, there is not a single Member here who wishes that we did not have to have this special order. We would like to believe that such a tragedy could have never happened, because it is painful to accept that man is capable of perpetuating and tolerating such atrocities. Unfortunately, however, we have seen over and over the tragic results of hatred and ignorance; the Holocaust, ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia, the Rwandan genocide. And too often, the so-called civilized nations of the world have turned a blind eye.

On April 24th, 1915, over 200 Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Istanbul and killed, marking the beginning of an 8-year campaign, which resulted in the destruction of the ethnic Armenian community, which had previously lived in Anatolia, in western Armenia. Between 1915 and 1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and more than 500,000 were exiled.

The U.S. Government was aware of what was happening during these tragic years. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., sent back graphic descriptions of death marches and mass killings. Other Western diplomats did the same.

Although the U.S. and others voiced concerns about the atrocities and sent humanitarian assistance, little was actually done to stop the massacres. The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the modern age and has been recognized as a precursor of subsequent attempts to destroy a race through an official systematic effort.

We must call this what it was, genocide, and we must never forget that it happened. Congress has consistently demanded recognition of the historical fact of the Armenian genocide. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for our executive branch.

The modern German Government, although not itself responsible for the horrors of the Holocaust, has taken responsibility for it and apologized for it. Yet the modern Turkish Government continues to deny that the Armenian genocide ever happened. Moreover, they have chosen to attack the messengers with smear campaigns and misinformation, rather than facing historical facts. A number of Members of Congress have been called names and accused of lying and treachery by the Turkish media for simply speaking the truth.

Turkish refusal to acknowledge historical facts fits the pattern of denial that, unfortunately, we have come to expect; denial of torture, denial of repression of minorities, denial of political repression, denial of high-level corruption.

Recently, however, some Turkish officials have realized that the only way Turkey can cement her position in the community of democratic nations is to admit these problems and deal with them.

There is finally a national dialogue in Turkey about these human rights abuses. I have yet, however, to witness a change in rhetoric about the Armenian genocide. I hope that the fact that Turkey and Armenia may begin direct bilateral discussions to improve relations will signal real substantive change.

Armenia and the Armenians will remain vigilant to assure that this tragic history is not repeated. The United States should do all it can in this regard as well, including a clear message about the historical fact of the Armenian genocide.

I call on President Clinton to have the courage to speak plainly about what happened 83 years ago. We do Turkey no favors by facilitating her self-delusion, and we make ourselves hypocrites when we fail to sound the alarm on the human rights abuses occurring in Turkey, a close American ally today.

Armenia has made amazing progress in rebuilding a society and a Na-

tion, a triumph of the human spirit in the face of dramatic obstacles. Armenia is committed to democracy, market economics, and the rule of law, as evidenced by the recent peaceful free and successful Presidential elections.

The time has come to recognize the history of the region, to admit the truth of the Armenian genocide, and to bring the nations and peoples together to live in peace and with a commitment that never again will an atrocity such as this be allowed to occur.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE BELLA ABZUG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), I am due later to cosponsor a special order for Bella Abzug, who died last week. I will need to be in my district for an event, and wanted to offer these 5 minutes of commemoration at this time.

When I heard that Bella was dead, I immediately said something close to, "Well, she can't die. She doesn't die. Bella doesn't do things like that."

I think this was my spontaneous reaction, because Bella seemed to many of us incapable of dying. There was so much life there, we felt that by the time she was to die, there would simply be leftover life. In the permanence of the memory of her life and times there, of course, is leftover life.

Feminists will compete with the other great causes of Bella's time for entitlement to her energetic legacy, for Bella's feminism owed as much to her universal sense of justice as to her gender.

Bella has been called, "The bravest, smartest, brightest progressive of our generation," and I think that the vote in the House where she served would not be close on that one. Civil liberties and the antiwar movement, civil rights and the environment, economic justice and the labor movement, Bella did not simply taste the great social movements of her time; she drank deeply, more often than not after being among the first to pour the energy into them that started their growth in the first place.

Every new movement needs a Bella. Few get them. The second feminist revolution got Bella, and Bella is just what feminism needed then. Women had been patronized and placated for so long in this country, they needed a woman who could not be ignored.

Bella of the Bronx, in case you had not noticed; Bella, daughter of the live-and-let-live meat market; Bella, who learned to live by the opposite credo; Bella was a force that spread through this House and has made it never the same since.

Then there were 10; now we are 55. Today we celebrated three new women