

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

who bring us to 55 strong. Bella so filled the place, there must be some who cannot even tell that our numbers have grown since she left; so large was her impact that those three short terms beginning in 1970 seemed not to have ended.

After Bella left, she showed she did not need this House to have impact. While she was here though, she brought her causes to the House floor, and often made them law, from the resolution to withdraw from Vietnam introduced on her first day in the House, to her place as the first to call for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

Make no mistake, Bella was a legislature par excellence and a procedural expert in this House. She coauthored the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act, bringing into law her lifelong crusade against the excesses of the FBI and the CIA, and the prominent battle for which she will always be remembered, of course, the Equal Rights Amendment.

Once Bella got in, they could not get her out, so they redistricted her out. Her State came within 1 percent of getting her in the Senate, however.

For many women who serve in the House, Bella's place will always be in the House and in our hearts.

If the truth be told, however, Bella, the outsider, never came fully into this House or any part of the establishment. For public officials today, this capacity not to take your official self so seriously that you lose sight of the outside causes that sent you here in the first place may be the most valuable legacy of her service in this place.

If we remember only that part of her fact legacy, all of us who serve here will serve better, and all of us who seek to be better public servants shall have found in her an important guiding principle left over from Bella's abundant life.

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

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to remember one of the most appalling events in human history, the genocide of the Armenian people.

It shames and saddens me to say that the human race is no stranger to genocide: the great purges in Russia, during which Stalin methodically killed millions of Russians; the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were systemati-

cally slaughtered by the Nazis; and less well known but certainly just as significant, the Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenians were exterminated by the Ottoman Turks.

I feel a special kinship to the Armenian people. As many know, I am of Greek descent and my ancestors, too, suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. In fact, this past March 25, my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN MALONEY) and I conducted a special order to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

On that day, 177 years ago, the Greeks mounted a revolution which eventually freed them from the tyranny of the Ottoman Empire. Unfortunately, the Armenians were not as fortunate as their Greek brothers and sisters. Between 1915 and 1923, one and one-half million Armenians were murdered, and hundreds of thousands were driven from their homes by the Ottoman Turks.

Today I want to acknowledge this tragedy and remember those Armenians who lost their lives. As citizens of a Nation that celebrates the strength of its diversity, we should always remember those dark moments in history where people were persecuted because they were different.

Mr. Speaker, there is an unfortunate tendency to forget these horrific tragedies and bury them in the past. However, it is only through the painful process of acknowledging and remembering that we could keep similar dark moments from happening in the future.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, for helping us do that.

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#### THE CENSUS

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

#### THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to put on the RECORD my statement on the Armenian genocide on its 83rd anniversary. As we stand here on the floor now, the Armenian National Committee is hosting a meeting with Members of Congress to remember the genocide and to take action to make sure that it becomes part of the history of the world and is recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), who are co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, for all of their hard work on this issue and other human rights issues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a very important point, and that is getting a fair and accurate census, one that counts every American.

There has been a lot of rhetoric about the Census Monitoring Board

floating around. Once again, there has been little connection between that rhetoric and reality. I hope to set the record straight by discussing the facts of the situation and not the mythology the opponents of a fair census are trying to create.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues who oppose a fair and accurate census, who repeatedly call for spending billions more to assure that the inaccuracies of the past are repeated, have criticized the President for appointing a couple of, and I use their quotes, "political hit men" to the Census Monitoring Board set up in the 1998 appropriations bill. These appointments, they claim, show that the President is really interested in politics, not in science.

The facts argue that just the opposite is true. The President has put forward a plan for the 2000 Census based on science, not politics. The opponents of that plan know they cannot win a debate on the merits, so they have tried to smear the President and the Census Bureau with innuendo.

The President appointed politicians to the Census Monitoring Board because, from the outset, it has been clear that the board was a political entity. The President appointed politicians to counter the politicians appointed by the Republicans. It is clear that, from the beginning, the new leadership intended this board to be political.

Let us look at the facts. When the board first appeared in language drafted by the Republican leadership during the negotiations over the 1998 budget, it had four Republican appointees and just two Democratic appointees. That sounds rather partisan and slanted to me. At the same time, they tried to give the board subpoena power, congressional printing authority, and a host of other functions. In fact, they designed the board to look very much like a House committee, where they could control the rules of the game. In other words, they tried to create a political entity.

We are fortunate that the President refused to accept such a blatantly partisan board. Even after the President forced the Republican leadership to accept a board that had four Republican appointees and four Democratic appointees, the Republican leadership wanted the board to operate with a quorum of four.

Mr. Speaker, I would like Members to stop and think about what that means. A quorum of four would allow the four Republican appointees to meet without including a single Democrat. Is that partisan? Does that tell us what their agenda is? I think it does.

The Republican leadership at every turn has signaled that this monitoring board is nothing but a political entity. The President has responded to these signals in the only rational way possible. When the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate appointed board members with political rather than scientific credentials, the President did likewise.