

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.

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.

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.

What is different is that the President has a strong record on the science of this issue, and the Republican leadership does not. The President called on the National Academy of Sciences for advice. The Republican leadership has ridiculed the Academy as political because it does not like their scientific judgment. The President continues to seek the advice of experts through the National Academy of Sciences and through advisory committees. The Republican leadership continues to fret about what a fair and accurate census might do to their attempts to manipulate the redistricting process.

Right now, the Census Monitoring Board is a political entity because the Republican leadership made it that way. But it does not have to continue in that vein. Let me put forward four principles that, if adopted, could make the monitoring board a bipartisan operation.

First, all personnel hired to work for the monitoring board other than the executive directors, have to be hired with the agreement of both executive directors.

Second, all work done by board employees has to be approved by both executive directors.

Third, any press release, publication, or statement attributed to the board has to have the approval of both chairs before released.

Fourth, any funds expended by the board have to be approved by the two chairs.

If the Republican appointees on the Board will agree to these four principles, the board can proceed in a bipartisan manner.

If they refuse to agree with these principles, it is a clear indication that their agenda is to conduct partisan political activities and try to use the monitoring board to legitimize their partisan agenda.

I ask the Chairman of the Census Subcommittee to join me in calling for the Census Monitoring Board to accept these four principles.

His willingness to join me in supporting these principles will also send a signal that he too is interested in fact and not fiction.

LET US REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, as we near the dawn of a new millennium, many people have begun reviewing the events of the past 1,000 years. In the year 1000, Europe was only just beginning to rise from the Dark Ages, but the advances of the enlightenment were still centuries away. Life was still brutish and short, marked by random violence and terrible purges from time to time. We like to look at history and see a steady improvement in the condition of mankind. We would prefer to believe that humanity today bears little resemblance to the near barbarism that marked the last millennial change.

Sadly, as we narrow our focus and look back at the 20th century, we see that many of the horrors that marked

the 10th and 11th centuries still exist in our world. This century has seen horrors on a scale that even the cruellest leaders of the beginning of this millennium could not have imagined. More than 100 million people have been savagely murdered in this century. It is disheartening that many in the present day continue to hide or diminish these events of sheer terror.

In our lifetime, we have seen the genocide of Stalin, of Mao, of Hitler, of Pol Pot, and a large number of lesser known despots; the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews.

The practice of genocide certainly was rooted in the efforts of the Turks to destroy the Armenian people 83 years ago. At that time, the Ottoman Empire began a movement that would ultimately kill more than 1.5 million Armenians, and it left deep scars upon those who survived, scars that continue to exist today.

What is so disheartening is that not only did this awful travesty occur but today the effort to cover it up or diminish this awful event continues. Mankind is capable of forgiveness, but it requires an acknowledgment by the guilty party of that guilt and a desire for contrition. Unfortunately, the government of Turkey wants to escape its guilty by blaming the Ottomans and has made no effort at reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, Turkey not only denies responsibility for its past action but has continued efforts to cause hardship in Armenia by blocking U.S. assistance from reaching Armenia and generally trying to obstruct closer relations between the United States and Armenia. Turkey is our ally and has helped further the security of the United States and Europe. It would be unfair to leave this unacknowledged. But it would also be unfair to ignore a serious issue that does affect our mutual relations.

By accepting its responsibility, Turkey can help show that, while horrible events still take place, mankind has advanced to the point that we acknowledge and atone for these awful actions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my appreciation to the Members of this body who have done so much to prevent the world from forgetting the atrocities of 83 years ago, and to the many Armenian American organizations throughout the Nation, and in particular California, for their good work on behalf of the Armenian American community and to foster closer ties between the United States and Armenia.

Let us remember. Let us never forget.

RECOGNIZING THE SACRIFICE OF THE CREW OF THE U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today several of my colleagues and I join 12-year-old Hunter Scott in his outstand-

ing efforts to correct an injustice dealt to the skipper and crew of a World War II battle cruiser. The U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was torpedoed and sunk just before the end of the war, in the U.S. Navy's worst disaster at sea.

Hunter Scott, a 7th grader at Ransom Middle School of Cantonment, Florida, researched the story of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* as a school history project. This week, today, he came to Washington to ask Congress to exonerate Charles McVay, the ship's captain, who was court-martialed for the loss of the ship.

Hunter has been able to do what adults have been unable to do for 53 years. He has drawn attention to the story of the *Indianapolis*, and now we are preparing to give the crew and captain of the ship the recognition that they so rightfully deserve.

The U.S.S. *Indianapolis* was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1945 after delivering the components of the atom bomb to Tinian Island in the Pacific. Only 316 of the 1,916 soldiers who served on the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* survived to be rescued.

The crew was adrift at sea without lifeboats, food, or water for 4½ days. More than 500 were eaten by sharks or succumbed to injuries or the elements. During this time, the failure of the ship to arrive in port at the Philippines went totally unnoticed. The ship's Captain, Charles B. McVay III, was convicted in a 1946 court-martial. He was the first U.S. naval officer ever to be tried and convicted following the loss of his ship in combat. McVay committed suicide in 1968.

Captain McVay's conviction was based on the fact that he failed to zigzag the ship, but his superiors never gave him information that a Japanese submarine was patrolling the area. In addition, the Japanese captain of the submarine said before the trial that he would have sunk the ship even if it had been zigzagging.

Evidence suggests that the Navy made McVay a scapegoat for the embarrassing loss of the ship and tragic death of most of the crew. Because McVay's court-martial severely tarnished the ship's reputation, the crew of the *Indianapolis* has gone without recognition for 53 years.

Today, my colleague and I introduced legislation to reverse this injustice to Captain McVay and the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. The enactment of the bill would exonerate Captain McVay of the responsibility for sinking the U.S.S. *Indianapolis*. It would express the sense of Congress that the court-martial conviction of McVay was a grave injustice. It urges the President to grant a posthumous pardon to Captain McVay and expresses the sense of Congress that the President not only award a Presidential Unit Citation to the crew of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* in recognition of their courage and fortitude but it waives any time limit applicable to such a situation.

Twelve of the survivors of the sinking of the U.S.S. *Indianapolis* came to