

time the events took place. Newspaper headlines in mid-1915 heralded, "More Armenian Massacres," "Armenian Horrors Grow," "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed," "800,000 Armenians Counted Destroyed," "Spare Armenians, Pope Asks Sultan." On July 16, 1915, Morgenthau sent the following message by telegraph to the Secretary of State:

"Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Other diplomats and consular officers substantiated the Ambassador's report of what was taking place. Abram Elkus, Morgenthau's successor, through his cables to the State Department confirmed his predecessor's assessment.

We must not allow a handful of revisionists to shake our resolve to prompt recognition and acceptance of responsibility for this well-documented historical event. Indeed, Morgenthau and other diplomats who witnessed and reported in great detail the enormous devastation of the Armenian community would be astonished to learn today that the abundant evidence they collected, much of which is held in our own National Archives, and the testimony of survivors who are still with us, have come under challenge. Despite the irrefutability of the documentation and testimony, including extensive accounts from survivors, witnesses, and historians, there are those who deny the past, blame the victims, and oppose reconciliation.

It is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people that, after enduring centuries of oppression, they have reestablished a free and independent state that is making new strides toward democracy and economic revitalization. In its short existence, the Republic of Armenia has survived the earthquake of 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and a blockade by its neighbors. The spirit of the Armenian people is reflected not only in their dedication to rebuilding a nation from the ashes of totalitarianism, but also in the strength and vibrancy of the Armenian-American community. Americans of Armenian origin have successfully contributed to the cultural, social, economic, and political life of this country while preserving the rich faith and cultural traditions of their forebears. Clearly, the spirit of the Armenian people continues to thrive.

Mr. President, to ensure that such a tragedy never be repeated it is incumbent upon us to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide and pay tribute to the survivors. Just as we have vowed never to forget the Nazi Holocaust, we must continually remind ourselves of the events of 1915. They became, after all, a precedent for Hitler, who rationalized his barbarism by asking, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

As citizens of a nation founded on the ideals of freedom and human dignity, we must educate ourselves about the events that constituted the Armenian genocide and renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on humanity. In the words of the great philosopher, George Santayana, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."●

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Old and young around the world today remember the Armenian holocaust. We remember that on this date in 1915, the Ottoman Empire and the successor Turkish nationalist regime began a brutal policy of deportation and murder. Over the next eight years, 1.5 million Armenians would be massacred at the hands of the Turks and another 500,000 would have their property confiscated and be driven from their homeland.

Although it seems that the world stood silent while the Armenian population was devastated, a few witnesses did try to tell the terrible story. In 1919, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, published a memoir which extensively detailed what he had seen and heard in Turkey during the previous six years. Of the events of the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau wrote, "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."

Last August, I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I was able to see the treasures of that land firsthand and pay tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Armenia. One morning I toured the Genocide Monument and Museum in Yerevan and then stood by the eternal flame while a vocalist sang a haunting solo. It was the most moving moment of my visit.

My trip to the Transcaucasus made it clear that despite having already undergone such terrible persecution and hardship, the people of the Armenian Republic still suffer today. The economy is struggling and the area has still not recovered from the 1988 earthquake. The Karabagh conflict remains unresolved and Turkey continues to blockade humanitarian aid to Armenia.

However, the Armenian people remain resilient, hopeful, and an inspiration to others. In Armenia, they continue their quest for peace and democracy. Just last month, the residents of Armenia showed their commitment to democracy when they participated in the third presidential election since independence in 1991. In America, many

communities, like those in my home state of Rhode Island, are enriched by the traditions of Armenians who have immigrated to our shores.

Because Armenia is a part of our world and persons of Armenian descent are members of our community, we must remain committed to always remember the Armenian genocide. As Peter Balakian, author of the critically acclaimed "Black Dog of Fate", wrote:

Commemoration is an essential process for the bereaved and for the inheritors of the legacy of genocide. It is a process of making meaning out of unthinkable horror and loss. The burden of bereavement can be alleviated if shared and witnessed by a larger community. Only then can redemption, hope and community be achieved.

Menk panav chenk mornar.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DUNWOODY HIGH STUDENTS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dunwoody High School students, Bakari Brock, Jennifer Campbell, Richard Cartwright, Michael Cayes, Carol Chandler, Melissa Chastnew, Zack Cullens, Melissa Derick, Kevin Franklin, Erin Green, Judy Hudgins, Rebecca Lamb, Dwayne O'Mard, Sandra Park, Andrea Pierce, Jennifer Price, Scot Prudhomme, Carlyn Sibling, Geren Stone, Dannon Taylor, David Weiner, David Yoo, and their teacher, Celeste Boemker, who will be traveling to Washington to represent our state in the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution Program" in early May.

As a strong proponent for the education of our nation's youth, it is with great pride that I hear of children from my home state to compete on a national level to test their knowledge of politics and the government of the United States. Students and teachers such as these, who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and intelligence, should be appropriately recognized. Therefore, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend these students and wish them luck in their upcoming competition.●

#### EXPLANATION OF SELECTED VOTES TO THE SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, now that the budget resolution has been adopted, I wanted to take a few moments to discuss several of the more important votes that took place.

The first of these was the Allard amendment to create a new point of order against future budgets that fail to eliminate the federal debt by the year 2028. Mr. President, I fully support reducing the size of the federal debt, and I am glad the pending resolution cuts the relative size of the debt by almost 20 percent over the next five years. On the other hand, the Allard amendment may require making payments on debt that is not actually due.