

At a time today when so many people in our own society too often shirk their individual responsibility to make personal choices based on principles and values, it is a good lesson for us to recall the years when American witnesses and Turkish civilians made the personal choice to resist a wrong and save human lives, when a few Turkish officials even chose to object, even though doing so could have endangered their own lives.

One was Ottoman Senator, Ahmed Riza. In December 1915 he courageously condemned the policy to destroy and deport Turkey's two million Armenian citizens and expropriate their assets, which authorities were carrying out under the cover of a legislative fig leaf euphemistically called the Abandoned Properties Law.

"It is unlawful to designate" Armenian properties as abandoned, declared Senator Riza, because they did not leave their properties voluntarily. They were "forcibly" removed from their homes and exiled. "Now the government is selling" their possessions. "Nobody can sell my property if I am unwilling to sell it. This is atrocious. Grab my arm, eject me from my village, then sell my goods and properties? Such a thing can never be permissible. Neither the conscience of the Ottomans nor the law can allow it."

Mr. Chairman, during a debate on the Senate floor in February 1990, your colleague Robert Dole championed another resolution commemorating the Armenian Genocide (SJR 212), and declared, "it's finally time for us to do what is right. Right. We pride ourselves in America" for "doing what's right, not what's expedient."

In this case, doing what is right does not exact a big price. The frequently heard argument that a commemorative resolution will harm American-Turkish relations is not credible. It ignores the fact that the relationship is much more in Turkey's favor than America's. Not doing what is right, on the other hand, is tantamount to rejecting mountains of documents in our National Archives, testimonies that refute the denial arguments generated in Ankara and, most disturbingly, promoted in prestigious academic circles here in America.

This denial recently spurred over 100 prominent scholars and intellectuals, including Raul Hilberg, John Updike, Norman Mailer, Kurt Vonnegut, and Arthur Miller, to sign a petition denouncing the "intellectually and morally corrupt . . . manipulation of American institutions" and the "fraudulent scholarship supported by the Turkish government and carried out in American Universities.

A typical example of the powerful evidence in the US Archives is a cable to the State Department from Ambassador Henry Morgenthau: "Persecution of Armenians assuming unprecedented proportions. Reports from widely scattered districts indicate systematic attempts to uproot peaceful Armenian populations and through arbitrary arrests" and "Terrible tortures," to implement "wholesale expulsions and deportations from one end of the Empire to the other," frequently accompanied by "rape, pillage, and murder, turning into massacre . . ."

And the persecutions continued even after World War I ended in 1918. "It was like an endless chain," reported Edith Woods, an American nurse, in 1922. "The children would often be dead before I had taken their names. Forty to fifty of the older women died each day. . . . Their mouths were masses of sores, and their teeth were dropping out. And their feet, those poor feet, bleeding feet. . . . Deportation is sure death—and a far more horrible death than massacre. Unless one sees these things it is difficult to believe that such monstrous cruelty and barbarity exist in the world."

Ms. Woods' testimony ripped to shreds the web of denial being woven by Turkish officials in the early 1920's. She also exposed the new atmosphere of insensitivity at the American Embassy in Istanbul which contradicted the overwhelming sentiment of American public opinion and the spirit of Congressional resolutions in favor of Armenians that were passed during those days. This American woman made the personal choice to speak up against the response at her own Embassy, a policy imposed by acting ambassador Admiral Mark Bristol, who, driven obsessively by commercial interests, was colluding in a cover-up crafted by Turkish authorities.

Allen Dulles, the State Department's Near East Division chief (and later CIA Director), found it hard to keep things under wraps as Bristol requested. "Confidentially the State Department is in a bind," Dulles cautioned in April 1922.

"Our task would be simple if the reports of the atrocities could be declared untrue or even exaggerated but the evidence, alas, is irrefutable and the Secretary of State wants to avoid giving the impression that while the United States is willing to intervene actively to protect its commercial interests, it is not willing to move on behalf of the Christian minorities."

And the evidence mounted. In May 1922, four American relief workers, Major Forrest D. Yowell of Washington DC, Dr. Mark Ward of New York, Dr. Ruth Parmalee of Boston, and Isabel Harely of Rhode Island, were all expelled from their posts in Turkey because they too chose to do what is right, they protested the ongoing persecutions. Major Yowell said Armenians in his district were "in a state of virtual slavery," with "no rights in the courts."

Dr. Ward quoted Turkish officials. One Turk declared: "We have been too easy in the past. We shall do a thorough job this time." Another remarked: "Why do you Americans waste your time and money on these filthy Greeks and Armenians? We always thought that Americans knew how to get their moneys worth. Any Greeks and Armenians who don't die here are sure to die when we send them on to Bitlis, as we always choose the worse weather in order to get rid of them quicker."

Not all Turks were so cruel. A British diplomat reported that another American in Turkey, Herbert Gibbons, knew of prominent Turks who protested the "unparalleled inhumanity:" but they were "beaten and sent away" for intervening. The Mayor of the Black Sea city of Trabzon had no sympathy with the government's policy and did what little he could. The Governor also opposed the "massacres and persecutions," but was powerless to stop it. His predecessor tried and was removed.

Gibbons thought the government's policy was "a calumny upon the good Turks, of whom there are many," Massacres never broke out spontaneously, since "Christians and Moslems ordinarily get along very well." The massacres were ordered, as part of a plan "to make Turkey truly Turkish."

Yet there are "humane and kind hearted Turks," Gibbons stressed, and there are "Mohammedans who fear God and who are shocked by the impious horrors of the extermination policy."

Revisionists today say in that effect Americans like Forrest Yowell, Mark Ward, Ruth Parmalee, Isabel Harley, Edith Woods, Herbert Gibbons, and Ambassador Henry Morgenthau were either liars or misguided.

Remembering the atrocities against the Armenians would show respect for those Americans who spoke up, and respect as well for Turks like Senator Riza who also chose to oppose the injustice. A recognition of the

Armenian Genocide by the US Congress would be a step toward helping erase described in 1951 as "this black stain on the forehead of the Turkish people."

Encouraging Turkey to face the facts of its history would help lift the cloud of controversy which haunted it for decades. It would help eliminate the deep roots of Armenian-Turkish enmity, paving the way to normalized relations, and it would give Armenia the sense of security many Armenians feel is necessary if they are to respond to Russia's regional policies with more independence and balance. The prospects for American commerce and regional stability would be strengthened by a recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Acknowledging the Armenian Genocide also would show that Congress cannot condone the brazen contradiction of its own Archives and the dangerous corruption of America's academic institutions. It would send a strong signal to all deniers of genocide, especially to deniers of the Holocaust. Mr. Chairman taking a stand against the denial of the Armenian Genocide would be entirely consistent with the successful resolution "Deploring Holocaust Deniers" which you so wisely introduced last December, in which you too did what is right, by calling denial efforts "malicious." Such language is applicable to the denial of the Armenian Genocide as well.

Mr. Speaker, when weighing the merits of the arguments on both sides of this issue, it would be useful to keep in mind a letter sent to Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes in 1924 by Admiral Bristol, a man who was called "very pro-Turk" by Joseph Clark Grew, Washington's first Ambassador to Ankara. Even the pro-Turk Admiral acknowledged "the cruelties practiced upon the Armenians by Turks acting under official orders, and in pursuance of a deliberate official policy." For that policy, wrote Admiral Bristol, "there can be no adequate excuse."

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#### HONORING STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE

**HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization in our country called Students In Free Enterprise.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), is a non-profit organization located on over 500 college campuses across the United States. SIFE has continually encouraged the free enterprise system through educational programs since its inception more than 20 years ago. Students in the organization dedicate their time and resources to helping others. SIFE's mission is to provide college students the best opportunity to develop leadership, teamwork and communications skills through learning, practicing and teaching the principles of free enterprise. SIFE is not only involved with the encouragement of free enterprise, but has also worked closely with international charitable organizations. Students involved in this organization gain valuable leadership, communication and business skills by teaching others, especially at risk youth.

The Students In Free Enterprise organization is a valuable asset to the citizens of our

country. In honor of their many charitable and civil contributions, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing May 12, 1998 as National Students In Free Enterprise Day.

I congratulate SIFE as they continue their mission of helping people achieve their dreams through free enterprise education.

A TRIBUTE TO BLUE RIBBON  
WEEK

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the dedication and fine work of the many peace officers serving the cities and County of San Bernardino in California. To recognize the work they do to protect and serve our citizens, the week of May 11, 1998 has been designated as Blue Ribbon Week. Inland Empire Chapter 67 of the International Footprint Association—an organization made up of police, attorneys, and local business people—is a leading sponsor of this worthy effort.

Blue Ribbon Week has been established to show public confidence for all peace officers and law enforcement agencies and to provide a moral boost for the men and women who display a badge in the name of protecting our local communities. During the week of May 11th, each citizen displaying a blue ribbon will demonstrate support for every police agency now serving both the cities and County of San Bernardino.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and our colleagues to join me in remembering the brave, devoted peace officers who willingly put their lives on the line every day. Blue Ribbon Week is an appropriate means of recognizing the many law enforcement personnel in San Bernardino County. It is only fitting that the House join Inland Empire Chapter 67 of the International Footprint Association and the many citizens of California's 40th district in paying tribute today to these dedicated men and women.

IN MEMORY OF AL McNABNEY

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 5, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Al McNabney last week. I knew Al well, enjoyed our conversations and highly regarded his opinions on local and national concerns. California has lost a tireless leader whose many contributions as an environmental activist will be remembered and revered by the citizens of Contra Costa County and all who knew him.

Al McNabney was an outstanding citizen whose passion for the environment began with an interest in birds and later developed into active memberships with a variety of advisory councils and environmental organizations, including his service as Vice President of Conservation for the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. Al is remembered as a respected source of in-

formation about most conservation issues, and he wrote many letters to me about his personal environmental concerns and pending legislative policy issues. His vision for the development of the Delta Science Center, a state-of-the-art facility for environmental research, education and recreation, will soon become a reality and a valuable resource for the citizens of my district.

My heart goes out to Al's wife Helen, to whom Al was married for 57 years, his family and his friends. Al will be sorely missed, but his contributions toward environmental conservation will be enjoyed for generations to come. I ask that the following article from the Contra Costa Times, "Al McNabney Battled for Nature in East Bay" be printed below in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Contra Costa Times, May 3, 1998]

AL McNABNEY BATTLED FOR NATURE IN EAST BAY

(By Abby Collins Sears)

WALNUT CREEK.—There may never be another environmentalist like Al McNabney in Contra Costa County, say friends, fellow advocates and even opponents.

The man was synonymous with environmentalism in the East Bay. He died Friday morning of natural causes.

Al belonged to more environmental organizations, projects and advisory councils than Heather Farm Park has trees, the Delta has islands or Mount Diablo has trails, he said in a January interview. He knew because he monitored them for more than two decades. "He was a great environmental warrior," said Walnut Creek resident Steve Barbata, who knew Al for 12 years after meeting him at an environmental event.

"Even before that, I was always aware of his eminent presence," he said. "He made the environment more tolerable for all life forms."

HEAVILY INVOLVED

Funny thing was, Al rarely got outdoors.

In his later years, the Rossmoor resident used most of his energy to read land-use studies, attend meetings and write letters. On average, he wrote more than 25 letters a week to developers, politicians and public agencies. He also subscribed to 37 conservation publications and would read every page.

When one saw Al in action at a city planning commission or the county Board of Supervisors meeting, you would know that was no exaggeration. He would spew facts and figures at bullet speed—without forgetting to flash a smile.

"He was exceptionally competent and always very thorough," said Martinez resident Ted Radke, a member of the East Bay Regional Park District board. "He earned a great deal of respect from everybody he came into contact with, whether people agreed with him or not."

DEFUSING TENSION

Several people commented that one of Al's greatest talents was infusing dry humor into heated discussions.

"He would defuse steamy or difficult situations with humor," Barbata said. "He knew people learned better through humor than pointed criticism. He was a master of it."

His presentation were often facetious. He often gave a spiel about the bugs and bees, birds and flowers, water and soil, animals and trees—yet steely facts would glint through the friendly fluff.

Al's passion to save the county's natural milieu from eradication began about 30 years ago with a simple affinity for a bird. Every day, he passed the pet shop near his former San Francisco home. Eventually he made

regular stops to admire one bird—a green Amazon parrot.

One day the owner suggested Al take it out of the cage. It bit him. But the owner said he handled the bird very well. So he bought that parrot, and soon after, another.

LOVE OF BIRDS

Al then read everything he could about parrots, an interest that expanded to other birds.

He even took a job studying hospital systems in Australia so he and his wife, Helen, could spend their free time studying the country's native species.

Al and Helen were two lovebirds themselves. Even after 57 years of marriage, they still exchanged affectionate glances and coy grins. Helen matched Al's clever witticisms with her own gentle quips.

She said she appreciated numerous qualities about him, but was shy about commenting on her husband out of respect for his humble and private character.

Helen's only half complaint was having to put up with his bird Coco, a talkative African gray parrot that he had for more than 30 years. She and Coco could never hold a conversation.

VOLUNTEERED AFTER RETIRING

After retiring in the late 1970s, Al said he had nothing better to do so he volunteered with the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society. It was the beginning of his environmental work.

"They sounded like they had something to do with birds, and by then I was pretty well steeped into bird life," he had said in the interview earlier this year.

The organization made Al vice president of conservation, and he fought to maintain ecological equilibrium ever after. That involvement sprouted into other environmentally related issues, such as overseeing effects of Tosco refinery emissions, and developing the Delta Science Center, a proposed research, education and recreation facility that became his pet project the past five years.

"He called it a world-class center," said Radke, the park district board member. "He wanted everyone involved with it to think big. It was a dream of his, which will someday soon become a reality."

MANY MEMBERSHIPS

Al was also a member of the Sierra Club, CalFed, Advocates for Bird Conservation, Committee for the American Federation of Aviculture, Commission for Endangered and Exotic Species, Committee on the Conservation on International Trade and Endangered Species, and the Lindsay Wildlife Museum. Al also watched over practically every development plan proposed in Contra Costa, making him the county's environmental conscience.

He said he had lived so long that his many lives all helped in his role as an effective activist. Al was a hospital administrator for medical facilities in San Francisco and Tucson, Ariz., and he was once a labor leader and belonged to the American Arbitration Association.

MODEST ACTIVIST

But when asked about other accomplishments, he was always self-effacing.

"There's not a huge rush of people wanting the job and the environment is going to pot in a hand basket," he said a few months ago. "As long as I can negotiate, talk and walk I'm going to keep doing it."

Helen said there will be no services because her modest husband wouldn't have wanted it. She plans to privately scatter his ashes.

"I thought of doing it in the Delta or Shell marsh or maybe Mount Diablo," Helen said. "I'll have to really think about it because he truly loved all those areas so much."