Mr. Speaker, the transition to democracy has not been easy for the nations of the former Soviet Union. It is all too easy for a nation going through so difficult a transition to lose sight of its goal of building a peaceful, prosperous, democratic nation. Because in times that try men's souls and challenge their convictions, the forces of darkness, hate, violence, and demagoguery offer easy, false answers to the most difficult and complex problems.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the forces of evil have struck a blow to the people of Armenia and their democratic government. I am saddened to hear of the deaths of Prime Minister Sarkisian, Speaker Demirchian, Finance Minister Barkudaryan, and the other officials. I pray for their families, and for the country they loved and served with distinction.

The Armenian people have faced great trials and tests throughout their history. They have proved their resilience in the face of tragedy before, and I have no doubt that they will endure today's tragic occurrence, recognize that a madman's bullet can never put an end to a people's dreams, and keep moving forward on the path of peace and freedom.

Armenia faces serious challenges at home and abroad. When I met Prime Minister Sarkisian last month, he expressed his hopes for the future of his nation, and his desire to tackle the problems of today. Yesterday, he witnessed his country hold free and fair local elections. He had also participated in conversations attempting to initiate the peace process with Azerbaijan. It is now time for others to use his life, beliefs, and death to motivate them to continue to build on the principles he embodied and the work he leaves unfinished.

Mr. Speaker, let us all pray for the families of the victims and the people of Armenia. We must remember that making the transition to democracy is no easy task. Let us in America recommit ourselves to assisting Armenia and other countries making this most difficult transition.

ALBERT EINSTEIN MONUMENT AND SCIENCE GARDEN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a very special ceremony taking place December 8, 1999: the dedication of the Albert Einstein Monument and Science Garden in Jerusalem. The monument and this occasion pay tribute to the greatest mind of the 20th Century and perhaps of all time—Albert Einstein. I also want to recognize the contributions of Dr. Dan Maydan, president of Applied Materials, Inc., whose generosity made this ceremony possible.

Einstein's scientific revelations transformed mankind's understanding of the origins and nature of the universe, and placed within humanity's grasp the power of the elemental forces of nature. But Einstein's genius was not limited to the scientific realm alone, as he was also a great humanitarian, strong advocate for world peace and a proud Jew. A powerful advocate of a Jewish state all his life, Einstein delivered the first-ever scientific address at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1923. Although he was never able to return to Israel, Einstein worked for the rest of his life for the rebirth of the Jewish State, whose presidency he was offered in 1955, shortly before his death.

After his escape from the Nazis, Einstein made his home in the United States, becoming one of his adopted country's most revered citizens. In his memory, a deeply moving statue by the noted American artist Robert Berks was erected on the grounds of the National Academy of Sciences here in Washington. Washington's Einstein Memorial inspires all who visit it with its gentle power and its evocation of Einstein's world-altering ideas. For young and old, scientists and non-scientists alike, the statue has become a place of pilgrimage, drawing people back again and again for contemplation and inspiration.

Now, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Dan Maydan, President of Applied Materials, Inc., of San Jose, California, a new casting of that statue is being dedicated in Jerusalem. Standing on the grounds of the Israel Academy of Sciences, the monument will serve not only as a tribute to Albert Einstein's contributions to the Jewish people and the State of Israel, but also to the bonds of scientific cooperation between the United States and Israel. This monument, and the display and visitor center that will accompany it, is certain to become a new historical and cultural landmark in Jerusalem. Like its counterpart in the United States, it will become a magnet for visitors and provide inspiration for future generations of scientists and statesmen.

Albert Einstein was a man of truly universal vision. ''All religions, arts, and sciences,'' he said, ''are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man's life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom.'' The Einstein Monument and Science Garden will serve as an eloquent testament to Einstein's scientific genius. Equally important in this dawning era of peace between Israel and its neighbors, it will commemorate Einstein's hatred of war and the vision of world peace that he so passionately espoused.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to please join me in celebrating this historic event as well as recognizing the efforts of Dr. Dan Maydan to bring this to fruition.

TRIBUTE TO DR. J. CARL NATCHEZ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness to pay special tribute to a dear friend of mine, Dr. J. Carl Natchez who passed away October 23, 1999. I had the pleasure of knowing Carl for many years. He was not only my Optometrist, he was a mentor to me. Carl shared my deep commitment to the promotion, protection, and enhancement of human dignity.

Dr. Natchez was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, on October 15, 1915, the son of Shay and Jennie Natchez. He was a retired Lieutenant Colonel of the U.S. Air Force, serving in World War II and was a Liaison Officer of the U.S. Air Force Academy. He graduated Valedictorian at Chicago College of Optometry. Dr. Natchez practiced as a Doctor of Optometry for 48 years in the Flint and Lansing area.

It is not often that our lives are touched by someone like Carl who has served his fellow citizens in so many ways; first in the Air Force, then through active participation in civic events, and through his skilled services as a Doctor of Optometry.

Dr. Natchez has made a tremendous contribution to all our lives and he will be greatly missed. Our community is certainly a better place because of Carl and I know that I am a better person because of him. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in offering our sincerest sympathy to his entire family and host of friends. While we all mourn Carl's loss, we will forever remember the legacy of such a giving, dedicated, and exceptional man.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MIGHTY EIGHTH

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the members of The Mighty Eighth who served in the Armed Forces during World War II. They, along with the other armed services, answered the call to defend our homes and our loved ones, and to crush Hitler's dream to rule the world. The Eighth Air Force was our premier fighting outfit. It took the war directly to the heartland of Nazi Germany from bases across East Anglia.

America called on them and these brave men answered our country's cry for help—the call to strike out tyranny and injustice. The Mighty Eighth airmen stepped forward from all walks of life. They gave it everything they had—some with their lives, but all with their hearts—for the freedom we celebrate today.

Imagine, if you will, the most horrible conditions. Flying over enemy territory in broad daylight in an unarmored bomber. It is freezing cold, about 30 degrees below zero, your life line is your flightsuit and your oxygen mask. The bombers fly in a tight square formation as a defense against Nazi fighter planes. There is a constant danger of colliding with the other bombers. Now, imagine dozens of Nazi fighters coming from all directions. It had to be terrifying for these young airmen, but they bravely carried on. These are the people who risked their lives for our country and the freedom we now enjoy.

From humble beginnings, The Mighty Eighth formed shortly after the United States entered World War II. It included 200,000 people—40 bomb groups, 15 fighter groups, and two photo reconnaissance groups. They hailed from all over the United States including young men from the 21st Congressional district of Pennsylvania. Their mission was to help the Royal Air Force destroy the military and industrial power of Nazi Germany. They were young, patriotic, and inexperienced. They were determined to give the United States the best that they had to give.

The faced nearly impossible odds. They were pitted against the German Air Force who