

their work in shaping society. The Girl Scouts serves to teach our future leaders and creates a refuge where young women can find themselves.

Their mission is to help all girls to grow strong. They stress the development of a woman's whole being, while fostering physical, mental, and spiritual growth. Girl Scouts enables women to reach their full potential. Not only do the Girl Scouts empower women to strive for their goals, but it teaches them responsibility, values, and decision making skills that are the basic foundations for success.

Since its founding, Girl Scouts across the Nation have been serving our communities. During World War I Girl Scouts learned about food preservation, sold war bonds, and collected peach pits to use in gas mask filters. In the 1950s Girl Scouts were working to break racial discrimination. And today Girl Scouts are on the cusp of technological insight, working hard to end hunger, save the planet, and help support those less fortunate than themselves.

The simplest things that Girl Scouts do impacts everyday people. In the wake of September 11, Girl Scouts across the Nation sent thank-you cards to the rescuers, and contributed \$1 a piece to send to the orphans of Afghanistan. Throughout its long history, Girl Scouts has led efforts to tackle important societal issues and has remained proactive in its commitment to inclusiveness. Today we look to the future and our young people for reassurance. We look to the youth and see promise. We know that girls growing up today will need to take on challenges involving health, economics, politics, and social change. Our future leaders will have to be value conscious, globally aware, technologically skilled, and able to act with self-confidence. These are the very skills the Girl Scouts work to encourage in every girl.

Being a Girl Scout is important to the girls. Only a Girl Scout can explain what it truly means to be part of the organization. A Girl Scout from Illinois put it best:

Being a Girl Scout is really fun. You can learn about growing up in a fun, roundabout kinda way. You can go on a six-day canoe trip or go on a two-hour hike. You can help with the Special Olympics or help someone with their homework. You can make a quilt or make a get-well card. Being a Girl Scout is being what you want to be.

Girl Scouts is about being well-rounded and being yourself.●

#### 2002 PENNSYLVANIA BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I seek recognition today to acknowledge the Golden Lancers, the boys basketball team at Bishop Hannan High School in Scranton, PA.

On March 23, 2002, the Lancers won the PIAA Class AA State Boys Basketball Championship, when, in a very close game, the team defeated Sto-Rox,

70-68, becoming the first Lackawanna County team to win a State title since 1993 and the first team from Scranton to take home the title since Bishop Klonowski in 1976.

Each and every member of the team and its coaching staff should be proud of their accomplishment. Their hard work and commitment have produced many awards throughout this past season and will no doubt mean even more in the years to come.

I want to express my congratulations not only to the team and coaches, but to the entire Bishop Hannan community for representing Pennsylvania in such an outstanding manner.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO BEN LEBER OF VERMILLION, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate Ben Leber of the Kansas State University Wildcats. Ben, a Vermillion, South Dakota native, was chosen in the third round of the National Football League's 2002 Draft by the San Diego Chargers, and was the 71st overall draft pick.

At Vermillion High School, Ben excelled both in the classroom and on the football field. Ben played offense, as a running back, and defense, as a linebacker. He was a two-time All-State and All-Conference selection and played in the North-South Dakota All-Star game. He was also named to the Academic All-State team and was an honor roll student every year in high school. In 1997, his senior year, he was a Parade All-American, the only player from South Dakota to receive the honor that year, and received an honorable mention to the All-USA team by USA Today. At VHS, Ben also participated in Track and Basketball.

At KSU, where Ben is a Business-General Management major, he started 35 of his last 37 games as an outside linebacker, continuing the school's excellent linebacker tradition. His junior year, Ben was an All-Big Twelve Conference second-team pick. His senior year, he was an All-American third-team selection by the Associated Press and a Consensus All-Big Twelve Conference first-team choice. Ben was also named to the Butkus and Lombardi Award watch lists and was invited to participate in the prestigious Senior Bowl. Ben was a team representative and defensive captain both his junior and senior years. Over the course of his career at KSU, Ben had 216 tackles, 13.5 sacks, 11 passes broken, three forced fumbles and one fumble recovery.

I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Leber family, who have played no small role in Ben's success: his parents Al and Han, his brothers Jason and Aaron, and his sister Gina. I also want to congratulate VHS head football coach Gary Culver, who guided Ben and the Tanagers to the South Dakota 11A State Championship in 1995.

Ben reflects the best of South Dakota, and I know I speak for the entire

state when I congratulate him on being drafted. We are all very proud of him.●

#### TRIBUTE TO RABBI SOLOMON GOLDBERG

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Madam President, I would like to recognize the outstanding contribution that has been made by Rabbi Solomon Goldberg to the Rutland, VT, Jewish Community and to his community at large.

Rabbi Goldberg, retiring after 42 years of service, has been a leader, mentor, and teacher at the Rutland Jewish Center, the regional anchor for Jewish life in central Vermont. His wisdom, compassion, and spiritual leadership have guided hundreds of families in Jewish tradition. He has taken his congregation through the arc of life experiences; from birth to bar and bat mitzvah to marriage and through memorial, his kindness and strength have been a constant source of support for all.

Rabbi Goldberg has also been a fine educator. He has dedicated himself to the work of interfaith teaching, learning and communication, which are so important to the overall understanding and peace between people of different faiths. I know that he intends, even in retirement, to continue this fine work and I commend and encourage him in those endeavors. He is a fine American, and I wish he, his wife Marilyn and their family, all the best as they enjoy this transition in their lives.●

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, on this the 87th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, I would like to take a few moments to pay tribute to the men, women and children who lost their lives in the 20th centuries' first systematic attempt to extinguish an entire people.

The past century was marred by many acts of unthinkable brutality and genocide. Among these events was the Armenian Genocide. April 24 marked the inception of a brutal campaign to eliminate Armenians from the Turkish Ottoman Empire. It was on this day in 1915 that 300 of the leaders in Istanbul's Armenian community were rounded up, deported and murdered along with 5,000 of the poorest Armenians who were executed in the streets and in their homes. During the period from 1915-1923, approximately 1.5 million Armenians perished under the rule of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. Countless other Armenians fell victim to deportation, expropriation, torture, starvation and massacre. It is out of necessity that all freedom loving people must remain vigilant in their efforts to rebut and refute those who would deny the events of the Armenian genocide ever occurred.

The Armenian genocide was the result of a consciously orchestrated government plan. Henry Morgenthau Sr., the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, sent a cable to the U.S.

State Department in 1915 saying that the, "deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eye witnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

During my tenure in the Senate, I have spoken out about the Armenian Genocide because we must acknowledge the horrors perpetrated against the Armenian people and reaffirm our commitment to ensure that the world cannot and will not forget these crimes against humanity. We must speak out against such a tragedy and dedicate ourselves to ensuring that evils such as the Armenian Genocide are not revisited on our planet. This is the highest tribute we can pay to the victims of any genocide. It is important that we take time to remember and honor the victims, and pay respect to the survivors that are still with us.

In the Rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building there is an important exhibit displayed by the Genocide Project. The Genocide Project is an organization that seeks to preserve the memory of the Armenian Genocide by creating powerful displays that combine photos and the narrative from survivors of the Genocide. I would urge all my colleagues to view this powerful and moving account of the tragic events which we remember today.

The Armenian people have preserved their culture, faith and identity for over 1,000 years. In the last century alone, the Armenian people withstood the horrors of two World Wars and several decades of Soviet dominance in order to establish modern Armenia. I hope all my Senate colleagues will join me in honoring and remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide.●

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate the 87th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. I do so every year because the lessons of the past must not be forgotten and the crimes of the past must not be repeated.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire launched a brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder. Over an 8-year period, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and another 500,000 were driven from their homes, their property and land confiscated.

As Americans, as sons and daughters of liberty, justice and freedom, we must raise our voices and acknowledge this terrible crime to ensure that it does not happen again.

Those who would single out men, women, and children to be killed solely on the basis of their race, ethnicity, and religion must know that the United States and the international community will not allow their crimes to go unpunished.

We have seen the crimes of the Armenian Genocide repeated far too often in this century: in Germany, in Cambodia, in Rwanda, and in Bosnia. We have stood by and remained silent. Let

us commemorate this occasion and state loud and clear: Never again.

Even as we remember the tragedy and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Half a million Armenian Americans reside in my home State of California and I am proud to be their representative in the U.S. Senate. They have overcome the horrors of the past to build a better future for themselves and their families in the United States. They are a testament to hard work, dedication, and perseverance and they have greatly enriched the culture and civic life of our State.

Let us remember the Armenian Genocide. Let us ensure that those who suffered did not die in vain. Let us rededicate ourselves to cause of human rights for all. Let us work together with Armenia and the Armenian American community to create a future filled with hope and possibility.●

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, today marks the 87th anniversary of when the Ottoman Empire began a policy to isolate, exile and even eliminate the Armenian population. Today, we pause to remember and honor the victims of the Armenian genocide. Between 1915 and 1923 one-and-a-half-million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire and hundreds of thousands more were forced to leave their homes.

It has been nearly a century since this period of violence and annihilation began, and this anniversary serves as a reminder that this tragedy will not be forgotten. It must not be forgotten. Each year I commemorate this date on the Senate floor both to honor those who lost their lives and to remind the American people that the capacity for violence and hate is still prevalent in our world today. Recent history in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Rwanda tells us that systematic brutality and the attempts to extinguish a population because of their ethnicity are still all too real. And recent news reports detailing the re-emergence of anti-Semitism worldwide are an admonishment to us all that even lessons as searing and tragic as those taught by the Holocaust can be forgotten if we do not remain vigilant in our efforts to remember them.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa, I had the unique opportunity to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ICTR, in Arusha, Tanzania, earlier this year. There I saw firsthand the tremendous progress being made and groundbreaking legal precedents being set with regards to genocide being seen by the international community as a crime against humanity. The court for Rwanda and the court for the former Yugoslavia send a clear message to the world that such horrific acts cannot and will not go unpunished. Since I became a member of the U.S. Senate, I have strived to make the protection of basic human rights and accountability for such atrocities worldwide a cornerstone in American foreign policy.

Today, we remember the Armenian men, women and children who lost

their lives during that tragic time period in world history, as well as the other countless number of past and present victims of violence.●

● Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to join my colleagues, my fellow Rhode Islanders and our Armenian American community in observing the 87th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Although some in the world still want to convince themselves, as well as others, that the deaths of so many Armenians was simply a product of a civil war, the facts are undeniable: from 1915 to 1923 1,500,000 Armenians died, and 500,000 refugees were forced to flee. These facts must continue to be affirmed. To ignore the Armenian Genocide would be to ignore history and therefore allow the preconditions to exist for another radical leader to rise and legitimize the future genocide of another of the world's people. Let anyone ask: "who remembers the Armenians?" and the answer would be: Millions in the United States and around the world. Today, Rhode Island is among 31 States which have, by either resolution or proclamation, recognized the Armenian Genocide.

At the time of the Armenian Genocide, Europe and the United States were too embroiled in the First World War to understand the magnitude and consequences of the atrocities being committed and therefore did little more than protest by correspondence. Understanding and remembrance today ensures that the world will respond appropriately to avert these tragedies tomorrow. As proof, we need only look to NATO's quick and decisive action to quell the Kosovo crisis.

We must also recognize that, in addition to the tragedies of the past, Armenians continue to suffer from the economic effects of natural disaster and the dispute over Nagorno Karabagh. Yet amidst this suffering the Armenian people continue to strive to build an independent democratic nation of peace in the Caucasus region. So, despite crisis elsewhere in the world, we must remain attentive to Armenia and the people of Nagorno Karabagh and recognize that significant economic assistance now will prove to be an investment with long term reward in a region of strategic significance to the United States.

Today while we solemnly commemorate the tragedy of the past, let us rededicate ourselves to building a strong and vibrant Armenia for the future.●

#### UNPUNISHED RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have followed closely human rights developments in the participating States, especially as they have an impact on freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief. In many former communist countries, local religious establishments have reacted with concern