

after the Civil War. Many were reluctant to finish funding the project because of technical issues related to the construction and the perception among some that it was a waste of money. S. 245, a bill to secure the completion of the Washington and Lincoln Monuments, was introduced on the Senate floor by the Honorable Thomas Ward Osborn on April 1, 1869. Through Senator Osborn's efforts, this legislation was enacted and construction of the Washington Monument quickly resumed. The design of the monument was altered to remove much of the embellishment in the original design and the result was the 555 foot obelisk that is so recognizable today as the symbol of an exceptional man and an exceptional Nation.

Senator Thomas Ward Osborn was motivated out of a sense of patriotism and a desire to create a permanent reminder for posterity of the character of George Washington. It is important for citizens to retain a link to their country's origins in order to fully engage in civic life in the present. To understand the exceptional nature of Washington's character is to understand the exceptional nature of the United States as a Nation.

I believe that Senator Thomas Ward Osborn deserves recognition for his vital efforts in seeing to the completion of the Washington Monument. In fact, I have written to the Department of the Interior urging that some form of recognition, such as a plaque, be provided to remind visitors of Senator Osborn's efforts. It is my understanding that the regional director for the Park Service National Capitol Region has since directed the chief of Visitor Services to research Senator Osborn's efforts and share that information with the park rangers whose job it is to help interpret the monument for visitors. The late Senator Thomas Ward Osborn played a key role in seeing that George Washington received the recognition he deserves, and now it is my hope that Senator Osborn will receive the recognition he deserves.

#### 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this year I once again come before the Senate to pay tribute to those who lost their lives or were forced from their homeland as a result of the horrific genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people from 1915 through 1923. During those years, the Turkish Ottoman government used the outbreak of World War I as a pretext for subjecting its citizens of Armenian descent to deportation, abduction, torture, massacre, and starvation. The land on which some of the Armenians had lived for generations was expropriated from them. It is imperative for the American people and for people around the world to commemorate this tragedy, with the hope that by remembrance we

will advance the day when the world will no longer witness such horrors.

Over one million Armenians perished as part of a deliberate campaign of murder in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire. Armenians, given that they were neither Turks nor Muslims, were treated as threats, even though the Armenians had been exemplary citizens and had lived together peacefully with their Turkish neighbors for centuries. April 24th is the date chosen to commemorate this genocide, since it was on that day in 1915 that government leaders rounded up 300 Armenian leaders, writers, thinkers and professionals for their deportation and for many, their deaths. While the pre-eminent members of the Constantinople's Armenian community were being rounded up on that day, 5,000 others were slaughtered in their homes and on the streets.

Many Western, democratic nations became aware of the ruthless targeting of the Armenian population yet did not act to stop it. In May 1915, Great Britain, France, and Russia advised the Turkish leaders that they would be held personally responsible for this crime against humanity. Later that year, Henry Morgenthau, the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, cabled the State Department saying, "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." His successor, Abram Elkus, wrote in 1916 that, "... unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

In addition to the government records decrying the events in the Ottoman Empire, historians have been able to record the memories of the victims. It is important to share these stories, to ensure that the subsequent generations can truly understand the appalling conditions under which their ancestors both perished and survived. The Genocide Project, an effort by the San Francisco Bay Area Armenian National Committee, has done a remarkable job of compiling oral and visual documentation from some of the survivors.

Edward Racoubian told the project how when, "We reached the Euphrates River and despite the hundreds of bodies floating in it, we drank from it like there was no tomorrow. We quenched our thirst for the first time since our departure. . . . Of a caravan of nearly 10,000 people, there were now only some 300 of us left. My aunt, my sisters, my brothers had all died or disappeared. Only my mother and I were left. We decided to hide and take refuge with some Arab nomads. My mother died there under their tents. They did not treat me well—they kept me hungry and beat me often and they branded me as their own."

"Sometime later, Turkish gendarmes came over and grabbed all the boys from 5 to 10 years old. I was about 7 or 8. They grabbed me too," Sam Kadorian said. "They threw us all into a pile on the sandy beach and started jabbing us with their swords and bayonets. I must've been in the center because only one sword got me . . . nipped my cheek . . . here, my cheek. But, I couldn't cry. I was covered with blood from the other bodies on top of me, but I couldn't cry. If had, I would not be here today."

I believe the highest tribute we can pay to the victims of a genocide is by acknowledging the horrors they faced and reaffirming our commitment to fight against such heinous acts in the future.

In commemorating the tragedy of the genocide today, I would also like to recognize the fact that yesterday Canada's House of Commons, took the courageous step of officially recognizing that the events initiated on April 24, 1915, were in fact a genocide and crime against humanity. It is my hope that all people of goodwill will join in calling this tragedy by its correct name—a genocide. I hope that our colleagues will join me in commemorating this tragedy and vowing to honor and remember the innocent victims of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues, my fellow Rhode Islanders, and our Armenian American community to observe the 89th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

At this time, it is fitting that we reflect on this tragic event in order to ensure that future generations remember and learn from the pain and suffering of those who came before us.

The Armenian Genocide was a demonstration of evil. From its genesis on April 24, 1915, through the end of 1923, nearly one and a half million Armenians were killed and over a half a million survivors exiled.

All the while, the United States Government, too busy trying to defeat the Austro-German alliance and attempting to stay out of a war in Europe, ignored these atrocities. The United States Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., attempted to bring the tragic string of events to a climax, pleading with both President Wilson and Secretary of State Robert Lansing to get involved. Former President Theodore Roosevelt, frustrated by a lack of response from his own government, petitioned President Wilson on 24 November 1915, saying "Until we put honor and duty first, and are willing to risk something in order to achieve righteousness both for ourselves and for others, we shall accomplish nothing; and we shall earn and deserve the contempt of the strong nations of mankind."

Unfortunately, the Armenian genocide was only the first of several 20th century tragedies—the Nazi extermination of the Jews and others during

the Second World War; Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge's slaughter of nearly two million Cambodians in the mid-1970s; the Hutu massacre of the Tutsis in Rwanda in the summer of 1993; and, at the same time, the Serbian annihilation of Bosnian Muslims in Bosnia from 1993 to 1995.

Thus, as we reflect on this atrocity, let us call for our own country to recognize the Armenian Genocide, just as my own State of Rhode Island has done, and as the parliaments of Belgium, Canada, Cypress, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Russia, and Sweden have done over the past 6 years. Let us also pledge never to ignore atrocities by those who claim the legitimacy of government. We must never ignore and we will never forget.

#### IN SUPPORT OF S. RES. 330

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for S. Res. 330, which expresses the sense of the Senate that the President should communicate to the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, cartel and non-OPEC countries the position of the United States in favor of increasing world crude oil supplies so as to achieve stable crude oil prices.

I am proud to again be a cosponsor of this resolution. In the 106th Congress, I was a cosponsor of a virtually identical resolution along with, among others, the current Secretary of the Department of Energy. Unfortunately, the need to stand up to OPEC is even more pressing today than it was two Congresses ago.

Ensuring access to and stable prices for imported crude oil for the United States and major allies and trading partners of the United States is vital to United States foreign and economic policy. Regrettably, the 2004 OPEC production cuts have resulted in outrageous increases in oil prices. The eleven countries that make up OPEC produce 40 percent of the world's crude oil and control three-quarters of proven reserves, including much of the spare production capacity. When OPEC instituted its production cut in February 2004, it reduced production by 2,000,000 barrels per day. From February to March 2004, crude oil prices have gone from \$28 per barrel and now exceed \$38 per barrel.

High gasoline prices are inextricably linked to high crude oil prices. And these high oil and gas prices hurt Americans across the Nation and from all walks of life. Farmers, teachers and small business owners are among those getting hit hard by these skyrocketing costs. For gasoline, the increases in crude oil prices have resulted in a pass-through of cost increases at the pump to an average national price of \$1.80 per gallon. These are the highest gas prices we have seen in 13 years.

We cannot allow this foreign oil cartel to wreak havoc on our economy. The President should use diplomatic

pressure to urge OPEC to increase production. The actions of this cartel have real consequences for Americans. And in an already shaky economy, high oil and gas prices can put working families over the financial edge.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

A lesbian couple was assaulted by a group of men and women outside a Scottsdale, AZ, bar on April 4, 2004. The assailants called the couple derogatory names and beat one of the women and ripped the other woman's dress and then took photographs of her exposed breasts.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases, PIDD, are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin, IGIV. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I am familiar with primary immune deficiencies because of a family in my State, the Jones family, whose daughter, Emma, was born with common variable immune deficiency, CVID, and hypogammaglobulinemia. Emma has no immune system and relies on IGIV infusions every month to keep her alive. Emma, 9 years old, is a patient at Duke University Medical Center, and is hoping to be a candidate for a stem cell transplant. Emma's mother, Jill, also has CVID and receives IGIV infusions. The Jones family has become active volunteers for the Immune Deficiency Foundation, to help other families facing PIDD in my home State of Illinois.

I would also like to tell you about another courageous family in my State, the Berryhills, who became foster parents to an infant that was finally diagnosed with severe combined immune deficiency, SCID, or bubble boy syndrome. Their son, who they want to adopt, would have died if Zina and Ray Berryhill did not persist in finding out why he was dying before their eyes. Their son was finally diagnosed with SCID, and the cure for him is a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately, they have not been able to find a match, due to the shortage of African Americans on the Marrow Donor List. Zina Berryhill continues to hold bone marrow drives, and keeps her son isolated, except for his frequent trips to the hospital for his IGIV infusions. The Berryhill family has also become active volunteers for the Immune Deficiency Foundation.

Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

#### FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COLUMBINE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week marks the 5-year anniversary of the tragic shooting of 12 students and one teacher at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO. The very mention of Columbine High School strikes a nerve with the American public. It reminds us of that horrendous scene of terrified children running from their assailants as SWAT teams descended on their school.

Earlier this week, students, parents and residents of Littleton gathered at Columbine High School to remember those who died and renew their commitment to address school violence. The anniversary brought back painful memories. Michael Shoels, the father of student Isaiah Shoels, who was killed in the shooting, told the Associated Press, "It's most definitely something I think about every day but, you know, we can't wallow in victimhood. Under the circumstances, we need to get out there and do something about it."

In response to this massacre, many schools have implemented security