

trail system that is fully accessible to all voters, including those living with disabilities and those for whom English is a second language.

Local jurisdictions that are currently using touch screen machines without the voter verified paper feature will have until July 1, 2006 to retrofit or replace them.

While these actions are certainly a step in the right direction, like Mr. HOLT, I believe we must accelerate our efforts to ensure that each and every touch screen system employs voter verified paper technology as soon as possible, and at the very least by the election in November.

I think the experience in my own district in Alameda County during the California primary on March 2nd, is proof enough of why the integrity and operation of these touch screen systems must be improved.

Even before the vote took place on March 2nd, we knew that Alameda County would have problems, as the Secretary of State informed us on February 13th that our machines did not meet State certification due to last minute adjustments sought by the vendor to correct several perceived flaws in the system.

But because the notice from the Secretary of State's office came so close to the election, the County felt that it had to conduct the election with the existing touch screen system, even with the modifications sought by the vendor because without these machines, as the Alameda County Registrar indicated in a letter dated February 16th to the Secretary, "there will be thousands of people unable to vote."

On February 23rd, following a similar appeal by San Diego County, which utilized the same machines, and a subsequent test of the modified system, the Secretary of State's office provided administrative approval for one-time limited use of these devices for the March primary.

The fact that the voting machines' vendor sought modifications to its product at such a late stage just prior to the primary, and the position that this vendor placed both the Secretary of State's office, and our local registrar in Alameda County is indicative of the evolving nature of touch screen systems, and provides even further proof of the necessity of a voter verified paper audit to backup the electronic systems.

Of course, that was not the end of the problem with these devices in my district. Having conditionally approved the touch screen devices for use on primary day, the Secretary of State's office strongly recommend to both Alameda and San Diego Counties, that an appropriate backup voting system should be put in place in the case of a failure in the electronic devices.

And, sure enough, fail, was just what these devices did.

Due to a number of technical issues involving the battery system of the machines and because of incorrect or insufficient troubleshooting information provided to poll workers by the vendor, many of the touch screen systems in Alameda County did not operate properly when polling places opened on March 2nd.

Thankfully the Alameda County Registrar had followed the Secretary of State's advice and provided paper provisional ballots in case the touch screen systems had failed. So, many voters who went to their polling places voted with paper ballots until the County was able to identify and correct the technical issues surrounding the touch screen systems.

However in some cases, polling places ran out of these paper provisional ballots before the electronic devices were fixed, and as a result some voters were unable to cast a ballot unless they were able to return later in the day.

In addition despite the initial problems with the touch screen systems that were overcome, several of these devices also failed for other reasons during the course of the day, further undermining their reliability.

I won't even get into the problems that San Diego County experienced with these touch screen machines but let me say this.

Despite all the problems that we experienced with the touch screen systems on March 2nd, without the existence of a voter verified paper audit trail, we still do not know if any of these touch screen machines failed to properly mark and tabulate each individuals vote once they were finally put into use.

That is why the Voter Confidence and Increased Accessibility Act of 2003 makes sense.

I applaud my colleague for introducing it, and I urge this body to pass this bill so we can ensure that the public has confidence in our election process no matter the kind of system that is in place.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FATHER
VINCENTE PAZ

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Father Vincente Paz, pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church in Grand Junction, Colorado. Father Paz has been serving Catholic Parishes of my state with great dedication for the past 28 years. His move to Grand Junction to become pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary is the latest step in a remarkable journey.

Paz, a native of Northeast England, was ordained in 1966. An encounter with a Franciscan Priest in 1975 convinced him to leave his teaching position in England to serve as Pastor of a parish in Pueblo, Colorado. Reverend Paz also served parishes in Durango and Delta before coming to Grand Junction. He continues to strive to keep his church's message relevant to an ever-changing culture and to actively involve as many community members as possible in his parish's ministry.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service of Reverend Vincente Paz in front of this body of Congress and this Nation. Over the years, he has helped to serve several communities in my state, just as he continues to do for the parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary. I sincerely thank him for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues tonight in somber remembrance of

the Armenian Genocide. Early in the 20th Century, during World War I and its aftermath, the Ottoman Empire attempted the complete liquidation of the Armenian population of Eastern Anatolia.

We must come down to the House floor tonight not only to remember this tragic event, but we must also proclaim that the Armenian Genocide is an historical fact. There are many who deny that this first genocide of the 20th Century actually took place.

The American ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in 1919 was an eyewitness. In his memoirs, he said, "When the Turkish authorities gave the order for these deportations they were merely giving the death warrant to an entire race. They understood this well and in their conversations with me made no particular attempt to conceal this fact."

He went on to describe what he saw at the Euphrates River. He said, as our eyes and ears in the Ottoman Empire, "I have by no means told the most terrible details, for a complete narration of the sadistic orgies of which they, the Armenian men and women, are victims can never be printed in an American publication. Whatever crimes the most perverted instincts of the human mind can devise, whatever refinements of persecution and injustice the most debased imagination can conceive, became the daily misfortune of the Armenian people."

We can never forget that 8 days before he invaded Poland, Adolf Hitler turned to his inner circle and said, "Who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?" The impunity with which the Turkish government acted in annihilating the Armenian people emboldened Adolf Hitler and his inner circle to carry out the Holocaust of the Jewish people.

It is time for Turkey to acknowledge this genocide, because only in that way can the Turkish government and its people rise above it. The German government has been quite forthcoming in acknowledging the Holocaust, and in doing so it has at least been respected by the peoples of the world for its honesty. Turkey should follow that example rather than trying to deny history.

It is also time—indeed it is far overdue—for our Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I again call on my colleagues to recognize the Armenian Genocide and to urge my fellow Americans to remember this tragic event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004
FRANKLIN INSTITUTE LAUREATES

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2004 Franklin Institute Laureates being honored in a gold-medal ceremony tomorrow in the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, for exemplary accomplishments in science, technology, and business.

The Franklin Institute first began recognizing achievement in science and technology in 1824—making the Franklin Institute Awards one of the most historic and long-standing science honors in the world, predating the