

Genocide of 1915–1923. We are familiar with these events. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children were driven from their homes, starved, beaten, and shot. Government-orchestrated intimidation, government-sponsored deportations, and government-perpetrated slaughter are the hallmarks of the Armenian Genocide. They are also the hallmarks of other genocides with which we are all too familiar.

The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of its kind, but it was not the last. It has served as a model of the Holocaust in Europe, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, and religiously motivated atrocities in Sudan. We look regretfully and sorrowfully at the slaughter of so many in these cases, as well we should. These events demonstrate man's inherent sinfulness and the evil that comes so easily. No one denies the events in Europe, Asia, and Africa happened. Anyone rejecting these mass slaughters is themselves rejected. And yet, many suffer some kind of incredulity when it comes to the Armenian Genocide. We demand the perpetrators of these other genocides are made to account for their actions, but not the Armenian Genocide.

Photographs and eye witness accounts point overwhelmingly and undoubtedly to the massacre of over one million human beings, but no one has ever been held accountable. Ninety years after these events, the perpetrators are no longer living. In this world, they can no longer be held responsible for their actions. Their heirs, however, should be made to acknowledge the deeds of their fathers. But they are not.

Modern Turkey has made Armenian Genocide denial into an article of faith. Genocide denial is taught in schools, and is supported by the government. Anyone who deviates from the official line is considered a traitor. Indeed, the government of Turkey works feverishly to prevent any government from recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Recognition by the legislative bodies of France, Italy, Switzerland, and Russia has been met with harsh criticism from the Turkish government.

In 2000, only intense lobbying and ruthless pressure from Turkey prevented this House from recognizing the Armenian Genocide. It is shameful that the United States House of Representatives refuses to reaffirm the Armenian Genocide. Official American records on the Armenian Genocide are considered to be the most extensive in the world, and yet we refuse to reaffirm what already has been acknowledged to be the first genocide of the Twentieth Century. In past eras, American officials, including US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau and President Ronald Reagan, boldly declared the savage butchery in eastern Anatolia and the Caucasus to be genocide.

By allowing Turkey to deny its past actions, we take a step backwards. By not reaffirming the events of ninety years ago, we do not live up to the ideals of our country. I reaffirm the Armenian Genocide in the House of Representatives. I know that it happened. I remember.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KIMBERLY BRANN, BARNES MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Kimberly Brann, Barnes Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Kimberly Brann graduated from Southwest Texas State University, receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance.

She has ten years of experience working in the business world. Ms. Brann worked in both commercial banking in San Antonio and investment banking in New York before becoming a teacher. Her unique and practical perspective helps to prepare our students for acquiring the skills they need for success.

Kimberly Brann has spent the last eight years teaching. She currently works at Seguin Independent School District, teaching math at Barnes Middle School. Having formerly taught fourth grade in the same district, she has watched some of her former students grow up through middle school.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Kimberly Brann. Her passion for education helps to insure that our students receive excellent and practical training that will help them succeed in the future.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CADDELL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of North Alabama's most influential leaders, Mr. John Caddell. Mr. Caddell, who will turn 95 on Saturday, is a popular lawyer in Decatur, Alabama who has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

Still active in his law firm of Harris, Caddell, and Shanks, Mr. Caddell has always found time to share his thoughts on important community issues. He has been recognized for his leadership and commitment by the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Academy of Honor, and the University of Alabama.

Mr. Caddell is a board member and volunteer for many community organizations. He has served as a trustee for the University of Alabama system, First National Bank of Decatur, the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee, and the Decatur General Hospital Foundation amongst others. He is also an elder and a Deacon for the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Caddell's family and friends in Decatur are gathering today to celebrate his 95th birthday with a surprise party. I rise, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to thank him for everything he has done for the area and wish him a happy, healthy 95th year.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, which is taking place this week, April 17 to 23, 2005.

Despite remarkable advances in cancer research, prevention, and treatment, minority groups disproportionately fall victim to cancer. In honor of this year's National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, we must make a strong commitment to support public health programs dedicated not only to improving awareness in communities of color but to finding a cure for cancer and guaranteeing access to quality health care.

Minority populations have higher chances of developing life-threatening diseases like cancer, and poorer chances of early diagnosis, optimal treatment, and survival. Minorities face significant barriers to accessing health care, including the lack of adequate health insurance; unequal access to research, clinical trials, and treatment; and cultural and linguistic barriers. This unequal treatment is an unacceptable form of discrimination. We must eliminate health disparities affecting minorities by breaking down the barriers to access to quality health care.

Minority health disparities affect all Americans. While minorities make up only about one-third of the U.S. population, they represent more than half of uninsured Americans. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, by the year 2050 nearly 1 in 2 Americans will be a member of a racial or ethnic minority. It is critical that we act now to eliminate health disparities and to reduce the number of uninsured Americans. The cost of inaction will mean more preventable illnesses and deaths, higher health care costs, and lost productivity.

As we recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, I hope that we will also work to expand public outreach and education efforts, accelerate medical research, and strengthen Medicaid and other public health programs.

Finally, we must also make a commitment to provide access to affordable, comprehensive and quality health care for all Americans, regardless of their race, gender, income or geographic location. As the only industrialized nation in the world that does not guarantee access to health care as a right, it is time for a change.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of strengthening Social Security through ownership and saving.

Right now, we have an opportunity to let Americans own a piece of their retirement savings by strengthening Social Security through voluntary personal accounts.