

optimism how people nationwide went to the polls and cast their vote for the next President of Togo. From what I saw, a position which was supported by 160 ECOWAS (Economic Countries of West African States) observers and hundreds of independent observers, the election appeared to be "credible." Again, in my view, the election was a success overall, and I will be filing a complete report on my observations of the election in the near future. I would also like to thank the United States State Department for all of their help and support. Certainly, when a citizen of the United States leaves our country's borders, the Department of State takes over as the guardian and protector of U.S. citizens. Oftentimes, they do not get the credit they deserve for their hard work, dedication and service to our nation. I would like to particularly thank the United States Ambassador to Togo, Charles H. Twining, and United States Ambassador to Benin, Wayne Neill, as well as their staffs for all of their attention and assistance to me while I was in Africa.

Again, I was unintentionally detained out of the country while serving as an Election Observer for the Presidential Election in Togo. The airport in the capital, Lome, was closed, and the borders out of the country were sealed.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF STEVE FOSTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Steve Foster, who teaches at Smithson Valley Middle School in the Comal Independent School District.

"In order to understand where you are going, you must first understand where you have been." This proverb teaches us a great lesson; we must understand the heritage and history of our nation before we can begin to understand ourselves. American history teachers help our nation's children get a better understanding of who they are by letting them know where they came from. Steve Foster teaches eighth-grade American History and is a great example of a teacher who finds new and innovative ways to engage students in learning about their nation's history. By captivating students about their own history, Mr. Foster lets his students get a better understanding of themselves. He describes the environment promoted in his classroom as one where "all students can learn about history while they learn to develop." Through his great commitment to his students, Mr. Foster has reached out to students not only as a teacher but also as a friend.

Steve Foster received his Bachelor's degree from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. He has taught at Valley Middle School for eight years now and has been an irreplaceable asset to the school and the community. It is with great honor that I recognize him for his commitment.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS SOCIAL SECURITY AND LATINOS FORUM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 25, 2005, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus organized a Social Security and Latinos Forum to address the Bush Administration's disturbing proposal to privatize Social Security. This forum was very important because as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Health Task Force and Democratic Chair of the Women's Caucus, I believe we must discuss the impact of the proposed privatization to our Latino community.

The President's privatization plan will not help Latino families and will especially hurt Latinas in the future. Right now, Social Security gives people with lower earnings a greater return on what they pay into Social Security. Latinas will be especially hurt by the Bush Administration's plan because they are more likely to be employed in lower-wage jobs and have fewer years in the workforce. Latinas are already facing disproportionate pay gaps—they earn only 55 cents for every dollar that men earn, which is much less than national wage gap which averages 76 cents per dollar earned by a man. As a result, Latinas are less likely to have pensions or retirement savings to supplement their Social Security checks and money to invest in risky private accounts.

Let's look at the facts: About 46 percent of older Latinas depend entirely on Social Security in retirement; only 33 percent of Latinas have retirement income from savings or assets; and 60 percent of Latinas over the age of 65 would live in poverty without Social Security. If the President's plan to privatize Social Security moves forward, young Latinas in their 20s and 30s will see their benefits cut by at least 30 percent.

I am also very worried about how Latina mothers will be affected by the privatization plan. Latina moms rely heavily on their Social Security monthly benefits to provide for their families, especially if their husbands become injured or die. Latinas have higher rates of disability, and, consequently, are more likely to receive benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance Program. The work injury rate for Latinas in 2000 was 16.7 percent compared to 11 percent overall. In 2003, the rate of fatalities for Latino workers was 13 percent higher than the rate for all workers. Many Latinas rely on disability and survivor checks to keep their families fed and clothed.

Congress needs to start talking about real solutions for Social Security that will help hardworking Latino families. We have and will continue to save, strengthen, and secure Social Security for our community. Once again, I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for organizing on the Social Security and Latinos Forum.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one and a half million Armenians who perished in the Armenian Genocide that began 90 years ago on April 24, 1915. This is a sacred obligation that we undertake each April—to ensure that future generations of Americans remember the first genocide of the 20th century and to ensure that the men, women and children who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire are not lost to history.

Mr. Speaker, there is no dispute that what happened to the Armenian people is genocide. Thousands of pages of documents sit in our National Archives. One of these documents is a report from the American Consul in Trebizond, Oscar Heizer. On July 28, 1915, Heizer cabled the U.S. Embassy in Constantinople to report on the massacre of 180 Armenian road workers, who were shot and stripped of their clothes before being buried in the woods.

Newspapers of the day were replete with stories about the murder of Armenians. "Appeal to Turkey to Stop Massacres" headlined the New York Times on April 28, 1915, just as the killing began. On October 7 of that year, the Times reported that 800,000 Armenians had "been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor." In mid-December of 1915, the Times spoke of a "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile."

Prominent citizens of the day, including America's Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, and Britain's Lord Bryce reported on the massacres in great detail. Morgenthau was appalled at what he would later call the "sadistic orgies" of rape, torture and murder. Lord Bryce, a former British Ambassador to the United States, worked to raise awareness of and money for the victims of what he called "the most colossal crime in the history of the world." In October 1915 the Rockefeller Foundation contributed \$30,000—a sum worth more than half a million dollars today—to a relief fund for Armenia.

Last week at the annual commemoration of the genocide here on the Hill, I had the honor to meet, Henry Morgenthau, the grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau. He is still carrying on his grandfather's mission to make America and the world aware of what happened.

The generation of Armenians with direct memory of the genocide is almost gone; their children are aging. Much of the rest of the world has moved on, reluctant to dredge up "unpleasant" memories and risk the ire of modern Turkey.

But even now, almost a century after the start of the genocide, some survivors are still with us. One of them, Ghazaros Kademian, is a constituent of mine. He is 96 now, but his mind is sharp and he remembers clearly the day when, as a six-year-old boy he and his family were forced from their house. He was from the village of Zaitoun, located southeast of present day Turkey. Kademian's father stayed behind to defend his homeland and was murdered. His mother took his hand and ran away.

Kademian and his mother had no shoes, coats, food, or money. They had to leave everything behind for the Turks. He does not remember all the details of their long journey, except it was harsh, cold, and dangerous, because they had no idea where they were going.

The boy and his mother ended their flight in Kirkuk, in what is now northern Iraq. He remembers very vividly that the first night in Kirkuk they hugged each other for warmth and slept in front of a church for protection. In the morning he woke up; but his mother did not move, she was frozen and dead. He was left alone, homeless, in a town where he did not speak the same language.

What happened to Ghazaros Kademian's family was terrible and tragic, but not uncommon. All over the Ottoman Empire Armenian children and their parents fled from their homes with only the clothes on their backs. But for those of us who care deeply about this issue, Kadman's story is a reminder that we must redouble our efforts to ensure that our nation, which has championed liberty and human rights throughout its history, is not complicit in Ankara's effort to obfuscate what happened between 1915 and 1923. Worse still, by tacitly siding with those who deny the Armenian Genocide, we have rendered hollow our commitment to "never again" let genocide occur.

Within the next few days, several of my colleagues and I will be introducing a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide. This should be an easy resolution for all of us—Republicans and Democrats—to support.

The reason that we have yet to succeed in passing a resolution honoring the murdered Armenians is simple: The government of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the genocide and has spent millions of dollars and expended countless hours of diplomatic effort to prevent us from commemorating the suffering of the Armenian people. Turkey's opposition has always centered on its assertion that acknowledging the victims of its Ottoman forebears would cause an irreparable rift between the United States and an important ally.

Last summer, during consideration of the fiscal year 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, I offered an amendment to prohibit the Government of Turkey from using U.S. foreign aid to lobby against H. Res. 193, a resolution introduced by Representatives RADANOVICH, SCHIFF and the co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, Representatives KNOLLENBERG and PALLONE, that officially recognizes the Armenian Genocide. H. Res. 193 had been cosponsored by 110 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My amendment touched off a flurry of activity by Turkey's lobbyists. According to a Foreign Agents Registration Act filing, lobbyists for the Government of Turkey made at least 32 separate contacts with U.S. Government officials over a 3-day period in an attempt to kill my amendment. These included telephone calls to the Speaker of the House, other Members, numerous congressional staff, an Assistant Secretary of Defense, National Security Council staff, the Office of the Vice President, and other State and Defense Department staff.

While Ankara's agents did not succeed in blocking adoption of the amendment by the House, it was stripped in conference and the full House never did vote on the Genocide Resolution.

In the name of Ghazaros Kademian and those no longer with us, I call upon the distinguished Speaker of the House to allow us to vote on a Genocide resolution this year. We must do it soon, for with each year the events of 1915–1923 recede a bit more into the dark of history.

HONORING CAPTAIN JAMES C.  
CRONIN, USAF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Air Force Captain James C. Cronin of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Captain Cronin, serving as navigator, and eight other Air Force servicemen were killed in the crash of a C-130 on March 31, 2005 during a night training mission in Albania. Captain Cronin was stationed at Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall, England with the 7th Special Operations Squadron of the 352nd Special Operations Group.

Upon graduation from Elk Grove High School in 1991, he joined the Air Force, graduated from Officers Training School, and became a navigator. He rose to the rank of Captain in 1998, and during his career, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service to the United States.

Captain James C. Cronin, was a young man of 32 years when he made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country. Our deepest sympathies go to his beloved family, his mother Roxanne Galli, his father, James E.T. Cronin and his brother, Christopher T. Cronin, grandparents, and other family members and many friends.

We honor the memory of U.S. Air Force Captain James C. Cronin and the dedication and bravery with which he served our Nation.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL  
MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 28, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the critical need for racial equality in health and healthcare.

America takes pride in its diversity, defining itself as a melting pot of ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. We are a Nation founded on a commitment to provide equal opportunity for all. Though we have made great strides in the last century, we have not yet accomplished that goal, particularly with regard to health care.

The health and health care problems facing minority Americans are shocking. Numerous studies have shown minorities experience far higher rates than Caucasians of suffering and death from many diseases.

Statistics from 2000 show that American Indians and Alaska Natives were 2.6 times more likely to have diagnosed diabetes compared with Caucasians; African American and Hispanic populations were each 2 times more likely.

Furthermore, African Americans are 40 percent more likely to suffer from eye disease, 4 times more likely to experience kidney failure, and almost 3 times more likely to be hospitalized for lower limb amputations, all serious diabetes-related complications.

Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death for all racial and ethnic groups in the United States. However, rates of death from diseases of the heart are 29 percent higher among African American adults than among white adults, and death rates from stroke are 40 percent higher.

Although African-Americans and Hispanics represent one-quarter of the nation's population, they represent more than half of new AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control. Among children, the disparities are even more dramatic, with African-American and Hispanic children representing more than 80 percent of pediatric AIDS cases in 2000.

There are many more statistics I could give you, which demonstrate more disparities in obesity, mental health, cancer, emergency care and kidney disease. But they all point to one fact: racial and ethnic minorities are living sicker lives and dying younger.

In fact, according to the American Journal of Public Health, over 886,000 deaths could have been prevented from 1991–2000, if African-American minorities had received the same care as White Americans. Of course this number increases when you add in other minority communities, indicating the sheer numbers of American families affected. These numbers mean that someone loses a mother, brother, father, sister, husband, wife or other loved one too early—unnecessarily.

Mr. Speaker, we have invested a great deal in medical research, and have seen huge advances in scientific knowledge and technology to develop preventative treatments and cures. However, it is clear that the benefits of our investment and knowledge are not reaching all segments of the population equally.

The dramatic differences in health among minority populations are caused by many factors, including the lack of access to quality health care. Communities of color are disproportionately represented among the ranks of the uninsured. One third of Americans are minorities, but they account for more than half of the 45 million Americans lacking health insurance.

Additionally, it has been shown that racial and ethnic minorities often receive inferior health care compared to their white counterparts. There are many contributing factors, including cultural and linguistic barriers, a lack of trust between patients and health care providers, and prejudice.

The well-known Unequal Treatment study conducted by the Institute of Medicine, shows that, given equal income, insurance, and education levels, minorities are still less likely to receive adequate health care than Caucasians. Despite all of our efforts, and however subtle or unconscious it may be, prejudice still exists within our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, one-third of Americans are minorities. As such, one-third of our citizens live with a threat of inferior health and inadequate health care. For underprivileged minorities, this amounts to a death sentence.

We are at a critical juncture. The color of your skin, or the language you speak, should not decree that you are more likely to die from