

themselves outside of the military, plus the sudden loss of their partner in childrearing. They and their children should not be forgotten after the furled flag is handed to them at a military funeral. We deservedly call their husbands heroes for the sacrifice they made for our Nation, but their families are left to be heroes each and every lonely day thereafter. They need and merit the support and comfort from all of us, on Mother's Day and every day.

Children are sometimes, and rightly, referred to as our greatest national treasure. They are our future, the great hope for the continued success and enduring values of our Nation. But if that statement is true, then it is also true that good mothers are our Nation's greatest national resource. Without mothers dedicated every day to this monumental task, our future would be bleak indeed. Though the Senate will not be in session next week, I am proud to call attention to the coming of Mother's Day. I hope that others will join me in applauding the noble calling of motherhood, and in recognizing the hard work and love that mothers demonstrate day after day.

I would like to close with a poem by Strickland Gillilan, called "The Reading Mother," as it speaks to the simple, lasting gifts that mothers give their children.

THE READING MOTHER

I had a Mother who read to me  
Sagas of pirates who scoured the sea,  
Cutlasses clenched in their yellow teeth,  
"Blackbirds" stowed in the hold beneath.

I had a Mother who read me lays  
Of ancient and gallant and golden days;  
Stories of Marmion and Ivanhoe,  
Which every boy has a right to know.

I had a Mother who read me tales  
Of Gelert the hound from the hills of Wales,  
True to his trust till his tragic death,  
Faithfulness blent with his final breath.

I had a Mother who read me the things  
That wholesome life to the boy heart  
brings—

Stories that stir with an upward touch,  
Oh, that each mother of boys were such!

You may have tangible wealth untold;  
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.  
Richer than I you can never be—  
I had a Mother who read to me.

MR. GEORGE FUMICH, AN  
OUTSTANDING WEST VIRGINIAN

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to say goodbye to a remarkable friend, and an outstanding West Virginian, Mr. George Fumich, who passed away last week.

George Fumich was born in Pennsylvania, but he grew up in Morgantown, WV, and graduated from the West Virginia School of Law. Like so many who come to our State from elsewhere, he developed a passion for West Virginia that lasted a lifetime.

As an officer in the United States Army during World War II, he served in the Italian campaign. His division was the first to move into Rome and was instrumental in the liberation of that

magnificent city from Nazi occupation. He was later captured by the Germans in Northern Italy, but Italian partisans liberated him from his Nazi captors.

For his distinguished military service, George Fumich was awarded two Bronze Stars, a Silver Star, the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, a POW medal, and as Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war, Mr. Fumich became corporate counsel for the Christopher Coal Company, and then began a successful political career. His political accomplishments included being elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates and serving as Senator John F. Kennedy's campaign manager for northern West Virginia during the historic 1960 West Virginia Democratic primary.

After Kennedy's election, Mr. Fumich began a successful career with the Federal Government. He served as Director of the Office of Mineral Exploration at the Department of Interior, as the first Director of the Office of Coal Research at the Interior Department, and from 1975 to 1977, he was the Director of Fossil Energy at the Energy Research and Development Administration. In 1977, he was appointed Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy.

After leaving the Federal Government, he was appointed Dean of the College of Mineral and Energy Resources, and then served as president of George Fumich Associates, an energy consulting firm.

His interest in coal, his love of West Virginia, and his devotion to West Virginia University all merged. Over the years, it has been rare to attend any event at which the coal, the State, and the university converge, without seeing George Fumich. He was an enthusiastic booster of anything he set about to promote, yet he had a gentle way about him that earned the trust and respect of others.

I will miss seeing George making the rounds at coal events here in Washington. His was a remarkable career for a remarkable man. This kind, brave and honorable man had been a military officer, a politician, a POW, a dean, an administrator, an attorney, a politician, and a Federal official. But above all else, he was a loving and caring father and husband who will be deeply missed by his multitude of friends, and his wonderful family, of which he was so proud.

West Virginia University alumni have lost an energetic supporter for all things WVU. The people of Clarksburg and Morgantown have lost a good neighbor. The State of West Virginia has lost an outstanding citizen. I have lost a dear friend.

My wife Erma and I extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to his wife of 46 years, Marie Fumich, and their children and grandchildren.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

This week marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide that ultimately took the lives of one-and-a-half million Armenian men, women and children. On April 24, 1915, 200 Armenian religious, intellectual and political leaders in Constantinople were arrested by the Government of the Ottoman Empire and murdered. It was the beginning of the first genocide of the 20th century, and it continued until 1923. It was a vicious, organized crime against humanity that included murder, deportation, torture and slave labor.

The Armenian genocide was followed by a concerted effort to destroy any record of the Armenians in Asia Minor, including the destruction of religious and cultural monuments, and the changing of place names. I am saddened that there are those who would prefer to forget the Armenian genocide. To ignore it is to desecrate the memory of those who lost their lives. And such denial sends the message that genocide will be tolerated by the world.

To deny the genocide of the Armenians, or any atrocity of this scale, is to forsake the value we place on human life and the principles of liberty upon which this country is based. Those who turn a deaf ear to the Armenian genocide, knowingly or unknowingly, abet the future of genocide by failing to raise public consciousness about this tragic reality.

As we remember those whose lives were brutally taken during the Armenian genocide, we also pay tribute to the survivors, the living testimony of this historic crime, and to their families, many of whom are now Armenian-Americans. We must assure them that we, as the leaders of the democratic world, will not forget this tragedy, but rather gain the wisdom and knowledge necessary to ensure that we can prevent its repetition.

Recognizing the Armenian genocide takes on added importance in the face of the genocide occurring right now in the Darfur region of Sudan. As we pause to reflect upon this grievous example of man's inhumanity to man, let us honor the victims of the Armenian genocide and all crimes against humanity by not only acknowledging their suffering, but by acting to halt similar atrocities that are occurring now before our very eyes.

HONORING QUINCY, IL, MAYOR  
CHARLES W. SCHOLZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a friend of mine.

Chuck Scholz has three great loves in this world: his family, his faith and his community, Quincy, Illinois. On May 2,