

efforts to achieve—finally—genocide recognition for the Armenian people.

Ninety-one years ago, the Ottoman Turks began their systematic effort to eradicate the Armenian people. From 1915 until 1923, 1.5 million Armenians were tortured and killed; men were separated from their families and murdered; women and children were forced to march across the Syrian desert without water, food, or possessions; many died of hunger or thirst or were killed when they lagged behind during the forced marches into the desert.

The brutality of the genocide was atrocious. But the inhumanity continues today because the Turkish Government refuses to acknowledge the massacres as genocide. The wounds cannot heal until the Armenian people receive recognition.

The Armenian genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century. But as we have seen, it was not the last. As we know, if we ignore injustice, we are likely to see it repeated. In his justification for the Holocaust, Adolf Hitler said, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" And today, we see ongoing atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan, with innocent civilians being murdered. In the 108th Congress, I cosponsored a resolution declaring that the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide.

I am currently a cosponsor of a resolution calling the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the record of the United States relating to the Armenian genocide and the consequences of the failure to realize a just resolution. And I have signed onto a letter urging President Bush to honor the historic leadership of the United States in defending human rights and to properly characterize the atrocities against the Armenian people as genocide in his April 24th statement.

Every year, we move closer to recognition of the Armenian genocide. But every year, we wonder how long it will take the Government of Turkey to acknowledge the genocide.

We need genocide recognition to honor those 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives and to honor the survivors who are still with us today. We need recognition to send a message to the 8 to 10 million Armenians worldwide that they have not been forgotten. We need genocide recognition to remind the world that crimes against humanity are crimes against us all. And we need genocide recognition because it is the right thing to do.

By acknowledging this genocide for what it is, I hope that we are able to help create a more just and humane world.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on behalf of the Armenian population of Rhode Island and Armenians around the world, I want to recognize the 91st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Ninety-one years ago today, April 24, the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire summoned and executed over 200 Armenian community leaders. By 1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were murdered, and another one half million were exiled, affecting the lives of every Armenian in Asia Minor.

Author John Minassian, a survivor of the 1915 Armenian genocide, tells of his experience. "These fine people were now being made into refugees only because they had clung to their ancient beliefs and the faith of their ancestors. They marched proudly under a yoke of hatred, prejudice and bigotry, their morale high, their spirit as yet unbroken. They knew that their only 'crime' was being Armenian."

The Armenian genocide was condemned at the time by representatives of the British, French, Russian, German, and Austrian Governments, both foes and allies of the Ottoman Empire.

Today, as a cosponsor of S. Res. 320, I call on the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide documented in the record of the United States relating to the Armenian genocide.

Armenian soldiers have supported Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the Polish-led multinational division in south-central Iraq. Working as truck drivers, bomb detonators, and doctors, Armenia has not allowed others to be left helpless as they were nearly a century ago. The United States is proud to have Armenia as an ally in the rebuilding and reconstruction of Iraq.

So as history does not repeat itself, we must study and remember the events of our past. In instances such as the Armenian genocide, all nations must educate their youth in the hatred, the wrongdoing, and the oppression to deter future atrocities against humanity. Not more that two decades after the Armenian genocide, Hitler said to his generals on the eve of sending his death squads into Poland, "Go, kill without mercy . . . who today remembers the annihilation of the Armenians." We remember the Armenians.

Menk panav chenk mornar. We will never forget.

KHMER NEW YEAR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on behalf of my fellow Rhode Islanders, I wish to recognize the 2550th anniversary of the Buddha, the Khmer New Year.

This cultural celebration highlights the rich heritage of Cambodian Americans, while recognizing contemporary Khmerian accomplishments. Ancient dance, music, and religious traditions of the Cambodian community are the focus of the holiday.

The festivity, celebrated in the reprieve between the harvest and the weeks referred to as the "rainy season," is an occasion for Cambodian Americans to pass their customs to fu-

ture generations while simultaneously allowing all Cambodians to share their culture with other Americans.

Traditionally, the anniversary of the Buddha affords Cambodians a chance to give thanks, reflect, and welcome the spirit Tevada Chhnam Thmey. Also, in accordance with tradition, scores of Cambodian Americans will gather with family and friends to visit the wat, the local spiritual center, to offer food to their clergymen, pray for ancestors, give charity to the less fortunate, forgive the misdeeds of others, and thank elders for their knowledge and care.

The Khmerian New Year ceremonies and activities demonstrate that each year brings new opportunities for charity, peace, and happiness. As we commemorate this important time, let us reflect on our Nation's continued efforts to promote universal human rights and democratic principles. Let us also take this opportunity to honor the Cambodian Americans currently serving in the U.S. armed services, for their daily sacrifice in protecting our freedom.

Finally, I would like to wish all Cambodian Americans happiness, prosperity, and good health in this, the Year of the Dog.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ROGER PATRICK JOSEPH DORCY

• Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks recognizing the Reverend Roger Patrick Joseph Dorcy.

The Reverend Roger Patrick Joseph Dorcy was born to Michael and Ellen Dorcy on July 4, 1946. Named for his Aunt Patricia, Patrick Joseph Dorcy was the third youngest of 14 siblings.

Growing up in Omaha, NE, he attended Holy Cross School, Creighton Preparatory School, and Mount Michael Abbey.

From 1967 to 1969 he worked for Senator Robert F. Kennedy in New York and Washington, DC.

He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana and completed post-graduate work at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Prior to his ordination to the priesthood he was a member of the Order of St. Benedict, St. Meinrad Archabbey. It was there he took the name Roger. Brother Roger was one of the order's youngest teachers, the Archabbey architect, a paramedic, and a firefighter.

When he left the Monastery, he moved to Colorado where he taught theology and English at St. Scholastica Academy in Canon City, CO. Finally answering his call, at the age of 33, Roger Patrick Dorcy was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado, on January 29, 1980.

He served as pastor at Sacred Heart Church and campus minister at Adams State College in Alamosa, CO. He was

associate pastor at St. Leander's and Our Lady of Guadalupe Churches in Pueblo. For 12 years he was the pastor of Our Lady of the Meadows Church in Pueblo; during that time he also served as the dean of the Pueblo Deanery of the Diocese of Pueblo.

In 2003 he was appointed rector of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Diocese of Pueblo.

In addition to his parish life in Alamosa and Pueblo, he was a leader with the Southwest Liturgical Conference, the National Association of Clinical Pastoral Ministers, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, the National Catholic AIDS Network, and the Southern Colorado AIDS Project.

In 1993 he completed his sabbatical in clinical pastoral ministry at Immanuel Medical Center in his hometown of Omaha. Later, he served as Bishop Tafoya's community liaison for AIDS Ministry; as president of the Sangre De Cristo Hospice Board; and was a board member of St. Mary Corwin Medical Center since 2000.

He died on July 23, 2005, at the age of 59. The Reverend Roger Patrick Dorcy was a monk, a priest, a teacher, an actor, an architect, a healer, a leader; his vocation was dedicated to the healing of bodies and souls. On April 22, 2006, the communities of Pueblo and Colorado celebrated his legacy by naming St. Mary Corwin Medical Center's newly constructed, state-of-the-art cancer center, The Reverend Roger Patrick Dorcy Cancer Center.●

HONORING MANA DE SAN DIEGO

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a wonderful organization in my home State of California, MANA de San Diego, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

MANA de San Diego is one of 20 regional chapters throughout the United States operating under the auspices of the MANA National Latina Organization. MANA, short for hermana, or sister in Spanish, was founded in 1974 by Mexican-American women and was later expanded to include Latinas of all descent. Today, it serves as the single largest organization of Latinas in the United States. MANA provides an important voice for women at local, State, and national levels.

The San Diego Chapter of MANA, founded in 1986, has played an important role in the civic development of San Diego's large Latina community. In 2000, Latinas made up 12.5 percent of San Diego's population of more than 2.8 million. MANA de San Diego encourages its members to actively participate on boards, commissions, and with civic and educational organizations in order to improve the quality of life for all San Diegans. Each year, MANA de San Diego recognizes local women in the law, education, government, and education at a "Brindis" or toast event. The "Brindis" not only helps to raise money for the scholar-

ship program but brings together successful women and students.

Through a variety of programs, such as the mentorship program "Hermanitas," MANA de San Diego empowers Latinas and encourages educational pursuits. The program exposes young women to arts and culture, higher education opportunities, careers, and leadership opportunities they might not otherwise experience. Hermanitas participants tour major universities in San Diego to help them visualize where they can attend school. Since 1991, MANA de San Diego has given more than \$140,000 in scholarships to Latinas. This is particularly important given that Latinas drop out of high school at a higher rate than any other group in the United States. In addition, MANA de San Diego promotes increased awareness of Latina health issues through its Annual Women's Health Fair.

Recently, MANA de San Diego partnered with Girl Scouts San Diego-Imperial Council to create the Cesar Chavez Community Service patch. The purpose was to create a patch to honor and encourage Girl Scouts to learn about Cesar Chavez. Girl Scouts throughout the Nation will be able to earn a new patch in recognition of outstanding community service. The students in the Hermanitas program worked closely with their mentors and the council to design this patch. Together, they created the rules to award the patch.

Organizations such as MANA should be recognized for the critical role they play in strengthening the Latina community in California and the United States. I salute the women of MANA de San Diego for their passionate commitment to the advancement of Latinas and tireless efforts to improve the broader San Diego Community. I wish the organization great success in the future.●

HOGAN'S HARDWARE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize Hogan's Hardware of Kadoka, SD. Hogan's Hardware has enjoyed a long and rich history in my home State.

In April of 1946, Marvis and Florence Hogan opened Hogan's Hardware for business in Kadoka. Now some 60 years later Florence, her son Baxter, daughter Randi, and her son-in-law Don are keeping the business going strong. Small businesses are the back bone of the great State of South Dakota, and I commend the Hogan's for their contributions to their community and the State.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the town of Kadoka in congratulating Hogan's Hardware and the Hogan family for their 60 years of service.●

PARKER, SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the town of Parker,

SD. Parker was recently named the 2006 Small Community of the Year in my home State.

Each town and city in South Dakota may submit an application to be considered for this prestigious honor by our Governor and the Office of Economic Development. The citizens of Parker have seen rapid economic growth in their community, with over 10 businesses opening their doors in 2005. Clearly, the efforts of the Parker Development Corporation have been successful for both the past and present growth of the town. Small businesses are the backbone of the great State of South Dakota, and I commend the citizens of Parker for their contributions to their community and the State.

It gives me great pleasure to rise in congratulating the town of Parker for being recognized as South Dakota's 2006 Small Community of the Year.●

VOLUNTARISM

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the volunteers of St. Francis Medical Center and St. Francis North Hospital in Monroe, LA. Beginning April 23 and ending April 29, this great organization will observe National Volunteer Week. Today, I would like to spend a few moments highlighting the importance of their efforts.

Sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation and Volunteer Center National Network, National Volunteer Week began in 1974. President Richard Nixon signed an executive Order establishing an annual celebration of volunteering. Every President since then has signed a proclamation promoting and recognizing National Volunteer Week during the third week of April. The theme for this year, "Inspire by Example," reflects the opportunity volunteers have to bring joy and hope to the people they serve, as well as to inspire others to serve.

National Volunteer Week allows volunteer centers, nonprofits, hospitals, faith-based organizations, and schools to recognize their own volunteers and support thousands of service projects in the community. This week, America has the pleasure of celebrating more than 64 million volunteers who use their time and talent daily to make a real difference in the lives of the children, adults, and elderly whom they serve.

I applaud the volunteers of St. Francis Medical Center and St. Francis North Hospital in Monroe for their continued service to the citizens of their community. Their hard work and dedication is something we all appreciate and celebrate as we recognize National Volunteer Week.●

BICENTENNIAL OF ST. CHARLES PARISH

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the bicentennial of St. Charles Parish. As one of the