

RECOGNIZING WORKERS'
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, today, on Workers' Memorial Day, we honor the 54 Oregonians and the millions around the world who have died on the job since last year. These men and women were more than just workers. They were fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, friends and co-workers.

On this 18th anniversary of the first Workers' Memorial Day in 1989, it is important not only to remember these people who gave the ultimate sacrifice, but to recognize the challenges and dangers facing employees in the workplace. We have made great strides as a Nation to address the issue of workplace safety. The Occupational Safety and Health Act, passed on April 28, 1971, has made a huge impact on workplace conditions. But we can, and we must, do better.

There is always hope for the future and our communities, our legislators and our businesses must work together to keep workplace safety a highest priority. I acknowledge these brave Oregonians, and look forward to this list growing ever shorter.

Justo Aguirre, Kurt Bell Heavy, Steven Brandt, Michael Breaux, Daniel Buckley, Brook Campbell, Gordon Cecil, Curtis Claffin, Howard Culver, David DeLacy, Loren Duncan, Thomas Ellsberg, Marty Erickson, Blake Foster, Robert Friedman, Dale Funk, Angel Gonzalez Cacho, Jason Gorman, Matthew Gregg, Rory Hanebrink, Mark Hauser, Harold Hawkins, David Henning, Lawrence Hoffman, Mark Howard, William Jobin, David Johnston, Christopher Jones, Brett Kulkarni, William Lanus, Paul Linck, Terry Little, Donald McCready, William McFarlane, Candace Mein, Bryant Myers, Kristine Okins, Ernest Oleman, Howard Pearsall, Mark Richardson, Gary Richey, Juan Rios, Vernon Robbins, Kevin Roberts, David Rossiter, Robert Smith, Gen Stewart, Joseph Sutton, Terry Sutton, Ronald Theus, Bobbi Thompson, Brian Tiller, Leobardo Velazquez, and Eric Yung.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LT. COL.
JOHN MEIERDIERCK

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel John Henry "Hank" Meierdierck, who passed away, in Las Vegas on March 21, 2006, at the age of 84.

Hank was born April 13, 1921, in Newark, New Jersey, the son of John Henry Meierdierck and Ida Getto Meierdierck. Hank married Mildred Marie Giles in 1943. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II and remained in the U.S. Air Force after the war, amassing over 7,000 flying hours in more than 50 different aircraft. Hank retired from the USAF as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1964. He then went to work for the CIA at headquarters, Langley, VA. He did a signifi-

cant number of the original experimental flight tests on the U-2 airplane and the SR-71 airplane at the Nevada Test Site. Because of this work he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Then later, in 2005, Hank was awarded the Agency Seal Medallion from the Central Intelligence Agency for his leadership in developing the U-2. He was also authorized to wear the Air Medal, the European Area Medal with three Battle Stars, the World War II Victory Medal; the American Medal; the Air Force Reserve Medal; the AFOUA Medal; the Korean War Medal; and the AFLSA Medal with four Brass Oak Leaf Clusters.

Hank and his wife moved to Las Vegas, in 1970. They traveled extensively to wherever the fish are biting or the sun is shining. Hank considered himself a very good fisherman, and would want to be remembered as much for that as his military career. In retirement, Hank was a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and was very active and served as president of the Roadrunners Internationale, an affiliation of employees who were previously associated with the U-2 and SR-71 programs at Area 51. He was also honorary chairman of the Heroes of the Cold War Memorial and organized many military unit reunions. Hank is survived by his wife, Millie; two daughters, Gail and Victoria; one son, Jay; and 5 grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH,
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my colleagues and with my constituents in solemn recognition of Yom Hashoah, a special day on which we mourn the millions of Jews who perished at the hands of Nazi Germany and remember the horrific tragedy of the Holocaust.

This day commemorates the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto, in April of 1943, and the selfless bravery of hundreds of everyday men and women who fought courageously against a troop of thousands of Nazi soldiers. This day fomented the resistance movement in ghettos throughout Europe, and it is the inspiration for the National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance each year in the United States.

This day has special significance for Jews, the main target of Nazi atrocities. I have many constituents who are Holocaust survivors, and many more who lost friends, relatives and loved ones. We mourn their loss, and honor their memory and the memory of the 6 million Jews whose lives were so cruelly, wantonly and prematurely ended. We will never forget them, and what happened to them.

At the same time, we must recognize that the same forces that brought about the Holocaust continue to exist in the world today. We have seen it in Kosovo and Rwanda, we continue to see it in Darfur. Let us therefore honor the innocent victims by recommitting ourselves to fighting ignorance, bigotry, hatred and, perhaps most important, "inaction by people of good will."

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Matry's and Heroes' Remembrance Day, which memorializes the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis during their campaign of genocide in World War II. We mourn the innocent lives lost and vibrant communities destroyed while the world shamefully stood silent, and honor those heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto who faced certain death when they refused to submit to the Nazi's planned extermination of their community.

To this day, Mr. Speaker, many European countries have failed to right the past wrongs of the Holocaust by failing to adequately redress the wrongful confiscation of property by the Nazi and communist regimes. These seizures took place over decades; they were part of the modus operandi of repressive, totalitarian regimes; and they affected millions of people. The passage of time, border changes, and population shifts are only a few of the things that make the wrongful property seizures of the past such difficult problems to address today.

While I recognize that many obstacles stand in the way of righting these past wrongs, I do not believe that these challenges make property restitution or compensation impossible. On the contrary, I believe much more should have been done—and can still be done now—while our elderly Holocaust survivors are still living.

Today I also want to sound the alarm about a disturbing trend that Jews face today: a rising tide of anti-Semitism throughout the world.

I serve as the Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, CSCE, commonly known as the Helsinki Commission. In 2004 I traveled as part of the U.S. Delegation, with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, to attend a special conference in Berlin addressing anti-Semitism, held under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, OSCE. The OSCE is a 55-nation regional security organization which promotes democracy and human rights in Europe, Central Asia, and North America.

Before traveling to Berlin, I made a point to visit Auschwitz for the first time. I was shocked and stunned to see how efficient the Nazi operation was: they wanted to maximize the number of individuals that could be killed.

Seeing the remains of that factory of intolerance, hate and death, it reaffirmed how we must continually stress the importance of advancing understanding throughout the OSCE region and the entire world. We must tirelessly work to build understanding and respect between different communities to prevent future acts of prejudice and injustice.

At the Berlin Conference, I had the privilege of participating as a member of the U.S. delegation, and I gave the official U.S. statement in the session on tolerance. The meeting ended with the issuance of the Berlin Declaration of Action.

The Berlin Declaration laid out a number of specific steps for states to take to combat the rising tide of anti-Semitism, including: striving

to ensure that their legal systems foster a safe environment free from anti-Semitic harassment, violence or discrimination; promoting educational programs; promoting remembrance of the Holocaust, and the importance of respecting all ethnic and religious groups; combating hate crimes, which can be fueled by racist and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet; encouraging and supporting international organizations and NGO's; and encouraging the development of best practices between law enforcement and educational institutions.

As we commemorate Yom Hashoah, let us honor the memory of those who perished in the Holocaust by pledging to fight intolerance, hate crimes, and violence in our community and around the world. We shall never be silent again.

RECOGNIZING DR. CAROL A. CARTWRIGHT, PRESIDENT OF KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Carol A. Cartwright, President of Kent State University. President Cartwright will be leaving from her position after serving the Kent State University for 15 notable years.

President Cartwright's commitment to community outreach and economic development extends throughout northeastern Ohio. President Cartwright has a vision to work cooperatively with the surrounding communities to unite academic, public health, business, and community groups for common goals and betterment.

One of the most impressive and lasting achievements of President Cartwright is Kent State's leadership in pulling together The North East Ohio Consortium for Biopreparedness, focusing on public health preparedness. The facility addresses health and safety issues through education, research and workforce development. Part of the center's overall mission is to educate the community on issues regarding public health hazards, infection control and bioterrorism preparedness. The Northeast Ohio Consortium for Biopreparedness is one of only two bio-safety laboratory training facilities in the United States recognized by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. President Cartwright's perseverance to advance biotechnology research has enabled the facility to address public health and protection concerns on a local, State and National scale. I would also like to commend President Cartwright for including the 910th Airlift Wing Command, University of Akron, Youngstown State University, Case Western Reserve, Summa Health Care System, North Eastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and various other organizations in the Consortium.

President Cartwright has also strongly supported the Washington Program in National Issues, WPNI, which gives Kent State students a real-world appreciation for life and work in the Nation's capital. Each spring semester, Kent State sends 20 of its top students to intern on Capitol Hill, Federal agencies, associations and other organizations. In

its 33rd year, the WPNI program is one to be envied by any other university in the country.

Kent State University and all of northeastern Ohio has benefited enormously from President Cartwright's vision, commitment and leadership—and she will be greatly missed.

In closing, I would like to congratulate President Cartwright on all of her astounding achievements during her 15 year tenure as President of Kent State University. I wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOUGLAS HAROLD RITCHIE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Douglas Harold Ritchie, of the Las Vegas Sun, who passed away April 1, 2006, at the age of 86.

Born February 20, 1920, in Portsmouth, England, Doug was the second eldest child of film distributor Joseph M. Ritchie and his wife, Jessica. Educated in Dublin, Ireland, Ritchie joined the British Army out of high school in the late 1930s.

During World War II, Ritchie served as a British officer and saw action on D-Day at Normandy. He later served with troops that marched into Germany and liberated prisoner of war camps. After the war he was transferred to India where he served as a Major in the British Army through the late 1940s. There he was witness to the turmoil that resulted in the separation of India and Pakistan. While shocked by the violence he witnessed between Hindus from India and Pakistani Muslims, Doug calmly maintained control. That was a trait that not only helped him in the 1st Punjab Regiment, but throughout his life.

Leaving the military in 1950 after 11 years, Doug came to Las Vegas. His brother-in-law Hank Greenspun, had purchased the Las Vegas Free Press from a group of International Typographical Union members who started the newspaper after being locked out by the Review-Journal over a wage dispute. Hank published his first issue of the Free Press on June 21, 1950, and 10 days later renamed the paper the Las Vegas Sun. In addition to serving as classified ad manager, Doug became head of Sun promotions in the 1970s and head of public relations in the 1980s.

In 1969 Doug met Brenda Ritchie and they were married in 1971. The couple would have celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on April 10.

Doug served full-time with the Sun until 1990, the year the paper entered into a joint operating agreement with the Review-Journal, which then took over the selling of classified ads for both papers. That year, Ritchie and his family moved to California, and he maintained the title of assistant to the publisher until his death.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Douglas Ritchie on the floor of the House today. He will be remembered as a mild-mannered man, dedicated to his family and the community.

COMMEMORATING THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare to people living in every corner of our globe that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide.

The tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, which are well known to all of us, should be part of the history curriculum in every Turkish and American school. On that dark April day, more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 91st anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, I join with the chorus of voices that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied and never, ever allowed to happen again.

I recently joined with my colleagues in the Caucus in urging PBS not to give a platform to the deniers of the genocide by canceling a planned broadcast of a panel which included two scholars who deny the Armenian Genocide. This panel was to follow a documentary about the Armenian Genocide which aired just last week. Representative Anthony Weiner and I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The parliaments of Canada, France and Switzerland have all passed resolutions affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The United States must do the same. I will not stop fighting until long overdue legislation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide finally passes.

Of course, an acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. Government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people. I have joined with my colleagues in requesting military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan in the FY07 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We also have requested an adequate level of economic assistance for Armenia and assistance to Nagorno-Karabakh.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian Genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.