

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, Reuters news recently reported that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is ready for a "political settling of accounts with history" provided that historians would prepare an unbiased study of claims that millions of Armenians were the victims of genocide under Ottoman rule during the First World War.

That accounting has already been done. A March 7, 2000 public declaration by 126 Holocaust Scholars affirmed the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide and urged Western democracies to officially recognize it.

This declaration by foremost scholars from around the world was adopted at the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Scholar's Conference on the Holocaust convening at St. Joseph University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 3–7, 2000. The petitioners, among whom was Nobel Laureate for Peace Elie Wiesel, also called upon Western democracies to urge the government and parliament of Turkey to finally come to terms with this dark chapter of Ottoman-Turkish history and to recognize the Armenian Genocide. According to this renowned gathering, Turkish acknowledgment would provide an invaluable impetus to that nation's democratization.

Monday, April 24th marked the 91st anniversary of the 1.5 million Armenian deaths and countless exiles in 1915 caused by the Ottoman Empire. President Bush commented that "it was a tragedy and should always be remembered."

In December 2005, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier announced that Turkey would be expected to recognize the event during EU accession negotiations. "This is an issue that we will raise during the negotiation process," he said. "We will have about 10 years to do so and the Turks will have about 10 years to ponder their answer."

If Turkey is prepared to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, then its leaders can proceed immediately to direct dialogue with its counterparts in Armenia to define a common vision for the future. By so doing, Turkey will begin the vital process of preparing its citizens for a more complete and honest assessment of the final acts of the Ottoman Turkish state and embracing the new opportunities available to them by gaining possible admittance into the European Union. Facing history squarely will liberate Turkey.

THE NEED FOR REAL REFORM OF
LOBBYING AND CONGRESSIONAL
PRACTICES**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, the American people have lost faith in Congress—as seen in the dismal 30 percent approval ratings. It demonstrates that our fellow citizens believe Congress no longer keeps their interests at the

forefront of its mind. Instead, they've learned that special interests get the first, and sometimes the only say, in this House.

They read in the paper about how some Members pay coach fares, but fly in luxurious corporate jets.

They've read reports about a Member who opened up defense contracts to the highest briber. And were only caught because a few, intrepid local reporters were better policemen than the gridlocked House Ethics Committee.

Because they know their elected representatives are often forced to vote on legislation that hasn't been available long enough to read.

What if, after someone signed papers on a new home, the bank inserted an extra page of regulations into the agreement? And the bank then claimed that the new homeowner's signature was proof they agreed to it? That person would be outraged, and justifiably so.

But last December, during consideration of the fiscal year 2006 defense appropriations conference report, 40 pages of text were inserted into the agreement after conferees had signed it. This text gave inappropriate immunity to makers of avian flu vaccines. It was done, quite literally, in the middle of the night. Sadly, there was no outrage from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It was business as usual under this House leadership.

Yet I must report with deep regret that the bill before us does nothing to address these issues. At best, the Majority's proposal only papers over the deep divide between Republicans and most Americans on how Congress should conduct itself.

In the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to allow Members 24 hours to read legislation before a floor vote on it. It would seem like exactly the kind of approach that our constituents want. But, the Majority rejected in Committee mark-up in addition to blocking it from coming to the floor for debate.

I also offered an amendment that would require a public vote by conferees on all conference agreements. Again, my amendment goes to the real abuses that our constituents are concerned about. But again, the Majority rejected it.

It is perhaps the ultimate irony—and the highest level of hypocrisy—that the House is debating a bill intended to increase transparency under a restrictive rule. Democrats have consistently identified abuses of power in how this Congress conducts business. And now we see those same abuses being used to prevent true reform from even being debated in public.

Mr. Speaker, the American people have reached their limit with the conduct of this House. Soon, they may take their ball and bat and go home. They'll tune us out forever. Click off C-SPAN. Walk away, disgusted by the very process that is supposed to represent them. We must enact real reform before it's too late—reform that raises the bar on both lobbyists and Members. That is not this bill, and it cannot be this bill under the straight-jacket laid down in this rule. I urge my colleagues to reject this rule, reject this bill and start over.

A TRIBUTE ALPHA PHI ALPHA
FRATERNITY ETA NU CHAPTER**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the founding of the Eta Nu Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, on the campus of East Carolina University that took place on April 3, 1971. This Fraternity is the first Black Greek organization to be chartered on a campus where the percentage of African American enrollment is less than 13 percent. Under the direction of eight men, A.A. Best, J.J. Wise, W.G. Keys, O.T. Faison, C.H.G. White, J.C. Bryant, J.P. Harrison, and A.D. Moseley Eta Nu was established on the campus of East Carolina University. Those persons first initiated into the Eta Nu Chapter were known as the Undisputed Truth. The members of this Chapter are as follows: David Franklin, Gregory Clark, Jerry Congelton, John Clark, Tony Sedgewick, Jimmy Louis, Tommy Patterson, James Mitchell, Kenneth Hammond, James Johnson, and Kenneth Wright.

Over the years the Eta Nu Chapter has excelled and raised the bar for others to follow and has maintained high standards of scholastic achievement and service to the community. Following a brief period of suspension, the Eta Nu Chapter was resurrected in fall 1999 with the initiation of four young men known as the Four Knights of Resurrection. Since returning, members of the Eta Nu Chapter have worked diligently to increase the number of opportunities available to our youth; they have engaged in relentless efforts toward the improvement of the campus and the community as a whole.

The chapter currently participates in several community service initiatives; one such measure is the Jarvis Memorial After School Program where our youth are nurtured and directed on a positive and productive path.

This Chapter of Eta Nu holds several distinguished honors. The current SGA President is a member of this chapter as well as the second African American SGA Vice-President. Further, the first, second, and third African American Homecoming Kings of ECU were members of this Chapter. The highest Fraternal GPA at ECU for the past 4 out of 5 semesters were represented by a member of the Chapter, and lastly, the founders of the Black Student Union at ECU were members of this Eta Nu Chapter.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the members of the Eta Nu Chapter at East Carolina University are committed to distinguishing themselves as the most exemplary Chapter. I ask my Colleagues to join me in wishing the members of this Chapter the very best with their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID BIBB

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

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge David Bibb, of Morgan