

graduated from San Jacinto Mountain View High School in 2004. He is survived by his mother Gloria Ayala and his father Timothy Hoover.

Pablo Cerda was also in his second season with the Forest Service. He graduated from Los Amigos High School in Santa Ana in 2001 and attended Fire Academy of Riverside Community College. He is survived by his father Pablo Cerda, Sr.

These five U.S. Forest Service firefighters on Engine Crew 57 on the San Jacinto Ranger District were dispatched early on the morning of Thursday, October 26 to fight the Esperanza fire. Taking a stand atop a ridge to protect a home, the crew and their engine were overcome when the fire raced up the slope.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a little more than a month since the loss of these brave firefighters, and their neighbors have overwhelmingly shown their support through donations and help for their families. They are sorely missed by their communities, and by the greater community of federal firefighters. I ask my colleagues to please join in sending their families our condolences, as well as our sense of deep pride for those who dedicate themselves to such selfless public service.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT"

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act. This legislation, which was also introduced in the Senate by my colleague from New Mexico Senator Bingaman, will ratify the historic San Juan River Settlement Agreement. This agreement, signed by the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, will provide for the development of a rural water system to address the water needs of numerous New Mexicans, many of them members of the Navajo Nation.

The settlement agreement, once ratified, will resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights without litigation. It will also provide a water supply for Gallup, New Mexico, and recognize authorized and existing uses of San Juan River basin water. In exchange for relinquishing some of their claims to water from the San Juan River basin, the Navajo Nation will benefit from water development projects which include the Navajo-Gallup project and the Navajo Nation Municipal pipeline. The pipeline will convey water from the Animas-La Plata project from the city of Farmington, New Mexico, to numerous Navajo communities and the city of Shiprock.

The Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and many other residents of northwestern New Mexico put a tremendous amount of work into reaching an agreement that will provide a more secure future for many vulnerable communities. I am proud to be able to contribute today to their efforts by introducing the House companion bill and starting it down the path of

Congressional approval. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation to move these important water projects forward.

REMEMBERING BILLY EARL HIBBS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to honor the life of a dear friend, Billy Earl Hibbs, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 67. Billy was a native Texan, born on September 25th, 1938, in Quitman. He graduated from Quitman High School and married his high school sweetheart, Eugenia Stroud in 1957. Eugenia and Billy had one child, Billy Earl Hibbs, Jr.

Starting with a small, three-person insurance agency, Billy grew his business into Heartland Security Insurance Group, one of the largest insurance holding companies in the Southwest. Heartland is one of the largest providers of claims services to the Federal government, including all branches of the military as well as non-military personnel injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. Despite its size, Heartland maintains its Texas roots with its headquarters in Tyler and continues to serve almost half the school districts in Texas.

The Texas Legislature recognized Billy's accomplishments in 1981 for his success in handling the John Tyler High School fire loss. In 1990, he led the passage of a bond measure to provide upgrades to the City of Tyler's infrastructure. A patron of the arts, Billy served as President of the East Texas Symphony Association and worked to relocate performances to the Cowan Center at U.T. Tyler. Billy also served as President of the Tyler Civic Theatre where he oversaw construction of the Braithwaite Theater and the opening of the Rogers Children's Theatre. As President of the Tyler Rotary Club he became a Paul Harris Fellow. Billy was a member of the Henry Bell Masonic Lodge, and a founding board member of the Better Business Bureau of Central East Texas. He served as a board member for Leadership Tyler, the Tyler Independent School District Foundation, and the Tyler Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Order of the Rose. He was a member of the Pairs and Parents Sunday School class, an usher, and a past trustee of Marvin United Methodist Church. Billy also remained active in the Independent Insurance Agents at local, state, and national levels throughout his life.

In 2004, Billy was inducted into the Junior Achievement "Business Hall of Fame," and made a member of the honor business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, at the University of Texas at Tyler. In 2005, Hibbs-Hallmark & Company was honored with the Better Business Bureau's "Torch Award" for demonstrating a commendable ethical record over the years, and recently, the Tyler Rotary Club honored Hibbs by distinguishing all present and future donors of \$1,000 as "Billy Hibbs Fellows."

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Eugenia "Jeannie" Hibbs, his son Billy E. Hibbs, Jr., and daughter-in law Tisa Weiss

Hibbs, two grandchildren Stratton Weiss Hibbs and London Elizabeth Hibbs, and two sisters Dorma Shields and Betty Cassels of Quitman, as well as other relatives.

Billy was always generous with his time and leadership, and he shared his many blessings with his community and his country. Mr. Speaker, Billy Hibbs was a valuable member of the community whose years of service will provide a legacy for many years to come.

"THE JOURNEY FOR HUMANITY"
MARCH IN WASHINGTON

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor a group of young individuals from Journey for Humanity, of which I, along with my Armenian Caucus Co-Chair, the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, had the opportunity to meet with last month. Their goal is to raise awareness and recognition of the Armenian Genocide, as well as other human rights atrocities occurring around the world today.

Last month the group arrived in Washington, having walked across the country. The 3,000-mile Journey for Humanity walk began approximately 5 months ago in Los Angeles, CA with the support of the Armenian Assembly of America. Since then, the marchers have crossed a dozen states and held rallies in eleven major U.S. cities to honor the victims and survivors of all genocidal acts and advance the cause of genocide prevention.

The group marched twenty miles a day until it reached the Nation's capital. Although the walk officially concluded, the Journey continues with hopes for a documentary and a book to archive their efforts at genocide awareness and prevention. They also have plans for a series of lectures across college campuses to promote this important human rights message.

For decades we've all heard the words "never again," yet we continue to see the same type of horrors happening today. With the death toll in the Darfur region of the Sudan nearing 400,000, these young people hope to show the importance of learning from the past and to prevent future genocides.

As descendants of genocide survivors, these young men and women carry the memory and live in the reality of the consequences of genocide. As Americans, it is our collective responsibility to inform our country about atrocious crimes against humanity, in an attempt to prevent future episodes.

I commend their courage and passion, as well as the Armenian Assembly, for their efforts in raising public awareness and affirmation of these crimes against humanity. I heartily support their endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, next Congress I, along with my Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Joe Knollenberg and my fellow Caucus colleagues ADAM SCHIFF and GEORGE RADANOVICH, plan to reintroduce a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide. The truth of the past must be told and acknowledged as a first step to genocide prevention. I encourage all Members of this body to cosponsor this important resolution.