

As a legal scholar, Professor Bassiouni's accomplishments are astounding. Several thousand judges and professors worldwide have studied under him. He is considered a world authority in the field of international criminal law. He cochaired the United Nations Committee of Experts that drafted the Convention Against Torture. He drafted this seminal document from his ninth floor office in the O'Malley Building of DePaul, right down the street from my office in Chicago.

At DePaul, Professor Bassiouni has left a lasting mark, perhaps most notably for his founding of the International Human Rights Law Institute. The IHRLI already has impacted generations of students and assisted people throughout the world.

Cherif Bassiouni has been a Nobel nominee and is a recipient of the Illinois Order of Lincoln—among many other honors. He was pivotal in the creation of the International Criminal Court. His has been a voice of reason and experience in complicated situations, including most recently his work as counsel to the Governments of Afghanistan and Iraq as they seek to establish rule of law. I hope he will continue to advise these wounded nations as they move towards peace and democracy.

I conclude by thanking Professor Bassiouni for his brilliant work and contributions not only to DePaul University but also to the lives and communities his work has helped shape. I commend him and his family and wish him an equally brilliant retirement.

IN MEMORY OF REPRESENTATIVE JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor the memory of Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, a kind-hearted woman whose remarkable life touched so many of us.

Juanita was a loving mother, and a dedicated public servant who approached her work with an upbeat attitude and can-do spirit that was an inspiration to us all.

Her passing is a tragic loss for California, the 37th Congressional District she so ably represented, and the many Members of Congress with whom she has worked over the years.

Juanita's career broke through so many barriers for women and African Americans. Her rise as the first African American woman to chair a Congressional Committee was only the latest of many firsts in her career.

In her seven terms of service in the House of Representatives, she fought valiantly for the rights of women, for the security of our Nation, and for the protection of human rights across our Nation and the world.

Juanita's efforts to reach across the aisle made her one the most effective Members of Congress, but it was her bold initiatives that embodied the courage with which she followed her convictions.

In her first year in Congress, Juanita immediately demanded the attention of the nation when she brought then-CIA director John Deutch to Watts to address a newspaper report that the CIA was using profits from domestic crack-cocaine sales to fund CIA-backed Contras in Nicaragua.

Juanita's commitment to the health of our communities has been profound, and her efforts addressed the needs not only of her constituents, but to the victims of disease around the world.

She led the charge to enact the Mother-to-Child HIV-AIDS Transmission Act that has become the foundation of President Bush's \$15 billion African AIDS initiative. For nearly a decade, Juanita coordinated the annual AIDS Walk in her district to help continue to inform the community and raise awareness of this deadly disease.

During her tenure as the Ranking Member of the Committee on House Administration, Juanita fought to ensure that every ballot that is cast is counted, and that all of the citizens of our country would know their voting rights.

Juanita has been inspiring young women since the beginning of her career as an educator in California, when she served the Los Angeles Unified School District as a career counselor and edited Images, a state textbook which encouraged young women to pursue non-traditional careers.

As the Democratic Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues, she sought to address the plight of women globally, brought together the women of Congress with the first female Supreme Court Justices to discuss issues important to women across the Nation, and sought recognition for the women in uniform who have served our country in times of war with the first annual Memorial Day Tribute to Women in the Military at the Arlington National Cemetery's Women's Memorial.

On so many issues, I have been fortunate enough to consider Juanita a valuable ally and friend, but I will especially miss her work as a leading voice on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As the Representative of a district with two of the busiest ports in the United States, Juanita was a passionate supporter of the effort to ensure that the movement of goods is safe, secure and efficient.

Through these past years, Juanita and I worked together to keep the C-17 production line from being mothballed by President Bush and furloughing hundreds of employees.

I know that Juanita's presence will be sorely missed by communities which she served so tirelessly. Today I send my sincere condolences to her husband James, her five children, her staff, and all those who knew and loved her. Together we will continue her important work.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Ninety-two years ago today, on the night of April 24, 1915, the Ottoman government launched a series of raids in which hundreds of Armenian leaders and intellectuals were arrested and subsequently deported or killed. This event marked the beginning of a systematic campaign of murder, deportation, and forced starvation, during which as many as 1.5 million Armenians perished and 500,000 were exiled by the Ottoman government.

We are obliged to remember and speak about their suffering because silence about such atrocities plants the seed for another tragedy.

On the eve of the 1939 Nazi invasion of Poland, seeking to allay the fears of his aides, Adolf Hitler said: "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

And today, the world is again witnessing genocide, one waged by a government against its own people, one involving mass murder, ethnic cleansing, and forced starvation. I am speaking, of course, about the genocide in Darfur.

Let there be no mistake. The ongoing genocide in Darfur, carried out by the Government of Sudan and its janjaweed militias, traces its roots to the silence and quiescence of the international community during previous episodes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, including the Armenian genocide.

By acknowledging and learning from the Armenian genocide, then, we become better positioned to prevent present and future atrocities.

Open discussion of the Armenian genocide serves another important purpose. It enables the descendants of those involved in the Armenian genocide—both perpetrators and victims—to mend the wounds that have not yet healed.

As recently as January of this year, a Turkish-Armenian journalist, Hrant Dink, was murdered because of his outspoken advocacy for Turkish recognition of the Armenian genocide. This incident serves as an important reminder that an open, informed, and tolerant discussion of the genocide is critical.

California is home to many of the descendants of the genocide's survivors, who immigrated to the United States and, over the course of a few decades, built strong and vibrant communities. Working closely with the Armenian-American community over my many years in public service, I know how alive and painful this issue continues to be for many Armenian Americans.

So I rise before you today and ask that you join me in acknowledging and commemorating the Armenian genocide. Together, let us send a strong message that such atrocities will never be accepted, regardless of when and where they take place.

And let us ensure that the legacy of the Armenian genocide is one of reconciliation and hope.