

nation with a population of over 10 million. For the past 15 years, she has served with distinction as the Supervisor of the Second District, representing nearly 2.5 million residents.

Indeed, Mrs. Burke has blazed a path for African-American women in public service that had its genesis during her high school years when, as a teenager, she got involved in public speaking and competitive contests, earning scholarships to the University of California-Berkeley and later to the University of California-Los Angeles.

In 1953, she was the first African-American woman to be admitted to the University of Southern California Law School since its founding in 1928. Upon graduation from Law School, inasmuch as many private law firms showed no interest in hiring women as attorneys, particularly African Americans, she opened a law practice, specializing in civil rights and laws regarding housing, immigration, eminent domain, and the licensing of residential care homes for children and adults.

Mrs. Burke was active in the Civil Rights Movement, with memberships in various local and national organizations, and served as a staff attorney on the McCone Commission that investigated the causes of the 1965 Watts Riots in Los Angeles. She became a spokesperson for the underrepresented and, through a grassroots campaign, won her first political office in 1966 as a California State Assemblywoman, a position she held for the next six years.

In 1972, Mrs. Burke was the first African-American woman, west of the Mississippi River, to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and, one year later, she was the first Member of Congress to give birth while in office. In 1978, she ran for Attorney General of California winning the Democratic nomination, but subsequently losing in the general election. The Governor of California in 1979 appointed her to a vacancy on the Fourth Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. She also was appointed by the Governor in 1982 to serve on the Board of Regents of the University of California. In 1984, Mrs. Burke was selected to serve as Vice Chairman of the U.S. Olympics Organizing Committee, before becoming the first African-American elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 1992.

Notably, Mrs. Burke served as the Vice Chair of the 1972 Democratic National Convention, and she played a significant role in the 2000 Democratic National Convention in hosting an event for hundreds of African-American elected officials nationwide.

She has received innumerable awards and honors both as an African American and as a woman, including being selected as one of Time Magazine's "America's 200 Future Leaders" in 1974, as The Los Angeles Times' "Woman of the Year" in 1996; UCLA's "Alumni of the Year" also in 1996, and UCLA's "Local Legislator of the Year" in 2008. She has served on the Boards of numerous prestigious organizations and corporations.

While these are just some of Mrs. Burke's significant accomplishments, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, the House of Representatives, and the State of California, we extend our deepest gratitude for her important contributions throughout her illustrious career. With sincere best wishes, we congratulate Mrs. Burke upon her retirement from elective office. We are pleased to join her many

co-workers, family, friends, and associates in wishing her health, happiness, and continued good fortune in her future endeavors.

In conclusion, Yvonne Brathwaite Burke's exemplary record testifies that she is a woman of indomitable compassion, courage, character, and faith. We believe that she will be remembered for the beneficial changes she made in people's lives.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam 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 once again 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 began on April 24, 1915, when 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 93rd 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.

Two years ago I 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 the airing of a documentary about the Armenian Genocide. Along with Representative ANTHONY WEINER, I led a successful effort to convince Channel Thirteen in New York City to pull the plug on these genocide deniers.

The United States must join the parliaments of Canada, France, and Switzerland in passing a resolution affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs took an important step last year in passing H. Res. 106, and I am hopeful that this resolution will make it to the Floor.

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. This year I have joined with my colleagues in requesting no military aid for Azerbaijan in the FY09 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill. We also have

requested \$70 million in economic assistance for Armenia and \$10 million for Nagorno-Karabakh.

Legislation passed in the 109th Congress and signed into law to reauthorize the Export Import Bank included important language prohibiting the Bank from funding railroad projects in the South Caucasus region that deliberately exclude Armenia.

American tax dollars should not be used to support efforts to isolate Armenia, and these provisions would prevent that by ensuring that U.S. funds are not used to support the construction of a new railway that bypasses Armenia. A railway already exists that connects the nations of Turkey, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, but because it crosses Armenia, an expensive and unnecessary new railway had been proposed. Allowing the exclusion of Armenia from important transportation routes would stymie the emergence of this region as an important east-west trade corridor.

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.

HONORING KATHRYN FLYNN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kathryn Flynn, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. She is being honored on May 2, 2008, with its 2008 Heritage Preservation Award for individual achievement from the New Mexico Cultural Properties review committee.

For the past 17 years, Kathryn has been committed to preserving the history and legacy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and its enormous impact on New Mexico and the Nation. She has labored tirelessly to locate, restore and document the undertakings of the Works Project Administration, WPA, and the Civilian Conservation Corps, CCC, in New Mexico. Functioning on shoestring budgets, Kathryn enlisted New Mexico volunteers to help in this effort and then went nationwide, state by state, to convince others to do the same. This resulted in the formation of the National New Deal Preservation Association, of which Kathryn was unanimously elected executive director, a position she holds today.

Through Kathryn's leadership, skills, talents and passion, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised in private and public funds for conserving New Deal art in New Mexico. This funding has allowed for the restoration and conservation of five Santos at the Palace of the Governor's Fine Arts Museum, seven Helmuth Naumer pastels at the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department, the Bronson Cutter bronze statue on the Santa Fe capitol grounds, seven paintings and etchings in the Taos public schools, and seven murals in the Ilfeld Auditorium at Highlands University. Conservation work is currently underway on public art works at New Mexico State University and Silver City, and numerous other preservation projects have been conducted because of Kathryn's remarkable leadership and efforts.