

SENSE OF HOUSE ESTABLISHING A
NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS
APPRECIATION DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H. Res. 49, supporting the establishment of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

As the son of a rural letter carrier, I understand the hard work and sacrifice of our nation's letter carriers. Letter carriers deliver billions of pieces of mail to millions of homes and businesses each year. Working six days a week, letter carriers fulfill a great need in this country.

Inscribed at the New York City General Post Office is the United States Postal Services' unofficial motto: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Our nation's letter carriers are entrusted to carry out a vital service, and they do so with dignity. Many carriers, like my father, serve the same communities for their entire career. These carriers develop invaluable relationships with their customers and become an important part of their community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the establishment of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR GELFAND

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she and her family celebrate her 90th birthday.

Eleanor Gelfand, the daughter of immigrants from Hungary, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 2, 1918. She grew up along with her two siblings in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland during the great depression. Her parents, Zigmund and Mary Adler, worked as a union baker and a homemaker and were active in the Glenville community. Their activism and ability to work with fellow community members on social issues during a time of economic strife instilled a strong sense of social consciousness in their young children.

Mrs. Gelfand attended Glenville High School and later went on to earn her degree in cosmetology, becoming a licensed beautician. She continued to work in local salons until World War II. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, she married Ernest Gelfand who was drafted into the Navy after U.S. involvement in the war. Mrs. Gelfand left her career as a beautician and began working at the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland making airplanes for the war. Shortly after her husband returned from serving his country in the war, they started a family and she stayed home to raise their 3 children. In 1969, she returned to her first career in cosmetology, where she would continue to work until her retirement in 1980. She and her husband were active together in the

Jewish War Veterans Post 44. She continues to work closely with them by raising money to help other veterans in the community. Just as her parents instilled strong values of social activism in her, she too continues to serve as an example to her 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she celebrates her 90th birthday party. May her story and continued activism in the Greater Cleveland community serve as an example for all of us to follow.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire during World War I represents a major tragedy of the modern age. Carried out between 1915 and 1923, the Armenian Genocide was a systematic and deliberate campaign by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to destroy its Armenian minority. While there is no consensus as to how many Armenians lost their lives, there is general agreement among western scholars that between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Armenians died and that nearly all Armenians were exiled from their homeland.

The date of the onset of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day that Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Istanbul. These Armenian political, religious, educational, and intellectual leaders were arrested, deported, and mercilessly put to death. Over the next few years, many Armenians were murdered outright or were deported via forced marches under such agonizing conditions that they died from exhaustion or starvation before they reached their destination.

At that time, the word "genocide" had not yet been coined. Nonetheless, many governments decried the mass murder of the Armenians as extermination of a people, a crime against humanity, and the murder of a nation.

We must honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again. We must recognize and condemn the atrocities that took place against the Armenian people. The time has come to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and give the Armenian people the respect and recognition they deserve.

KOREAN FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Eighth District of Washington State, which is the most trade dependent state in the Nation. We have a growing and vibrant economy based on technology and small business. Opening new global markets gives these businesses incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and ultimately employ more American workers.

The Korean Free Trade Agreement will benefit Washington State. We cannot afford to lose South Korea as a trade partner; in Washington State, one in three jobs relies on trade. In these uncertain economic times, we need to open markets, not reduce them. Congress must act now to preserve our trade relations and preserve American jobs. I respectfully submit the following article from the Seattle Times for the record:

[From the Seattle Times]

KOREAN FREE-TRADE PACT IMPORTANT FOR
WASHINGTON

(By Kathleen Connors)

Two years ago, government and business leaders from across the state welcomed U.S. and Korean officials to Seattle for a week of trade negotiations. Seattle was chosen for a reason: Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the country, and there are already strong ties between Washington state and Korea.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is now signed and awaits congressional consideration. Last week, President Bush welcomed to Washington, D.C., for the first time, newly elected South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who brought with him an important present: an agreement to fully reopen the Korean market to U.S. beef.

South Korea had been the third-largest export market for U.S. beef until 2003, when U.S. producers were effectively shut out of the market. Washington state exported \$50 million of beef products to Korea that year, so the resumption of exports beginning in May will be a welcome boon to local producers.

Lee's visit comes at a time when American trade policy is again at a crossroads. Our continued ability to open foreign markets and expand trade opportunities through trade agreements is seriously at risk.

There has been a long debate about the impact of trade on America's economy. Despite political challenges, presidents of both parties—supported by Congress—have consistently promoted trade.

Despite 95 percent of America's potential customers being outside our borders, the era of trade cooperation may be over. Trade has become a presidential campaign issue, with candidates suggesting they would consider pulling the United States out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. And congressional leaders are threatening to defeat all pending trade agreements, including agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea.

Does the Korea agreement matter? It does for Washington state. The Korea agreement is part of a broader Asia-Pacific strategy for Washington, and Asian nations welcome their relationship with the state. In 2007, Korea was Washington's fifth-largest export