

MESSAGE OF PRIME MINISTER  
ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915

**HON. STEVE CHABOT**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the attention of my colleagues to a statement made by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in which he noted the importance of April 24th to Armenian communities around the world, and expressed his condolences to the descendants of those Armenians who died in the violence nearly a century ago. The Prime Minister renewed Turkey's offer to participate in a joint historical commission, where Turkish, Armenian, and international scholars would come together to document those terrible events.

In his weekly parliamentary address to his party's legislators on April 23rd, Prime Minister Erdoğan stated Turkey's willingness to "confront" the historical events, and again called upon Armenia and the Armenian diaspora to join this effort.

I believe a process in which both parties are active participants will enable Turkey and Armenia to resolve many of the issues of conflict between them, and will allow them to move deeper into the 21st Century while building a constructive relationship, as neighbors should.

I hope my colleagues will join me in encouraging all parties to engage in the process.

The statement issued by Prime Minister Erdoğan follows:

THE MESSAGE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, RECEP TAYYIP ERDOĞAN ON THE EVENTS OF 1915.

The 24th of April carries a particular significance for our Armenian citizens and for all Armenians around the world, and provides a valuable opportunity to share opinions freely on a historical matter.

It is indisputable that the last years of the Ottoman Empire were a difficult period, full of suffering for Turkish, Kurdish, Arab, Armenian and millions of other Ottoman citizens, regardless of their religion or ethnic origin.

Any conscientious, fair and humanistic approach to these issues requires an understanding of all the sufferings endured in this period, without discriminating as to religion or ethnicity.

Certainly, neither constructing hierarchies of pain nor comparing and contrasting suffering carries any meaning for those who experienced this pain themselves.

As a Turkish proverb goes, "fire burns the place where it falls."

It is a duty of humanity to acknowledge that Armenians remember the suffering experienced in that period, just like every other citizen of the Ottoman Empire.

In Turkey, expressing different opinions and thoughts freely on the events of 1915 is the requirement of a pluralistic perspective as well as of a culture of democracy and modernity.

Some may perceive this climate of freedom in Turkey as an opportunity to express accusatory, offensive and even provocative assertions and allegations.

Even so, if this will enable us to better understand historical issues with their legal aspects and to transform resentment to friendship again, it is natural to approach different discourses with empathy and tolerance and expect a similar attitude from all sides.

The Republic of Turkey will continue to approach every idea with dignity in line with the universal values of law.

Nevertheless, using the events of 1915 as an excuse for hostility against Turkey and turning this issue into a matter of political conflict is inadmissible.

The incidents of the First World War are our shared pain. To evaluate this painful period of history through a perspective of just memory is a humane and scholarly responsibility.

Millions of people of all religions and ethnicities lost their lives in the First World War. Having experienced events which had inhumane consequences—such as relocation—during the First World War, should not prevent Turks and Armenians from establishing compassion and mutually humane attitudes among towards one another.

In today's world, deriving enmity from history and creating new antagonisms are neither acceptable nor useful for building a common future.

The spirit of the age necessitates dialogue despite differences, understanding by hearing others, evaluating means for compromise, denouncing hatred, and praising respect and tolerance.

With this understanding, we, as the Turkish Republic, have called for the establishment of a joint historical commission in order to study the events of 1915 in a scholarly manner. This call remains valid. Scholarly research to be carried out by Turkish, Armenian and international historians would play a significant role in shedding light on the events of 1915 and an accurate understanding of history.

It is with this understanding that we have opened our archives to all researchers. Today, hundreds of thousands of documents in our archives are at the service of historians.

Looking to the future with confidence, Turkey has always supported scholarly and comprehensive studies for an accurate understanding of history. The people of Anatolia, who lived together for centuries regardless of their different ethnic and religious origins, have established common values in every field from art to diplomacy, from state administration to commerce. Today they continue to have the same ability to create a new future.

It is our hope and belief that the peoples of an ancient and unique geography, who share similar customs and manners will be able to talk to each other about the past with maturity and to remember together their losses in a decent manner. And it is with this hope and belief that we wish that the Armenians who lost their lives in the context of the early twentieth century rest in peace, and we convey our condolences to their grandchildren.

Regardless of their ethnic or religious origins, we pay tribute, with compassion and respect, to all Ottoman citizens who lost their lives in the same period and under similar conditions.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT (H.R. 4487)

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, due to a prior commitment in my district, I had to miss votes on May 1, 2014. On April 9, 2014, I joined my colleagues on the House Appropriations Committee in approving the Fiscal Year 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. Had I been present for the vote before the Full House, I would have voted for the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (H.R. 4487).

This appropriation bill supports the functions of the United States House of Representatives and those agencies that we rely on to best serve our constituents. Today's bill maintains level funding for Members' offices and Committee staff. While not ideal, it does not impose further reductions that would harm the ability of Congressional offices to respond to the needs of our constituents and our district. The bill also provides funding for the Library of Congress, Capitol Police, Botanical Garden, Architect of the Capitol, and Government Printing Office, which support for work of Congress and the American public. It is important that Congress ensure these agencies have the resources and funding they need to best serve our constituents and offices.

On Mr. NUGENT's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. GOSAR's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. BROWN's amendment, I would have voted "no".

On Mr. HOLT's amendment, I would have voted "yes".

THE KIDNAPPING OF GIRLS AND  
YOUNG WOMEN FROM A SCHOOL  
IN NIGERIA

**HON. AL GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with the families of the approximately 300 young women kidnapped by a radical Nigerian Islamist group. I lend my voice to the chorus of outrage and condemnation directed at this extremist group, which has forcefully separated young women from their families and devastated an entire community. There is no place in our world community for a group that displays such disregard for the tenets of Islam, human dignity, and international law.

All people and governments of good will should do all that is appropriate to assist Nigerian authorities in the safe recovery of these young women. I am heartened that Secretary Kerry has announced that a U.S. security team will be sent to Nigeria to assist in the efforts to bring these young women home to their families.

As a Member of Congress, I will continue to monitor this situation and speak out against such atrocious acts. The outcry against this gross human rights violation must not fade before these young women are recovered and all guilty parties are brought to justice.

HONORING BOB HAMMERSCHMIDT

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bob Hammerschmidt of Springfield, Missouri on receiving the 2014 Distinguished Citizen Award from the Ozarks Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The Distinguished Citizen Award was created by the Boy Scouts of America in order to

recognize noteworthy and extraordinary leadership of citizens in communities across the United States. This award is only given out every few years to honor business and community leaders who have made substantial impacts in their communities and its residents. The Distinguished Citizen Award is a very prestigious award, which Bob Hammerschmidt undoubtedly deserves.

Currently, Bob Hammerschmidt is the president of the Springfield Region of Commerce Bank. Commerce Bank is located in Springfield, but its professional reputation precedes it throughout the state of Missouri. He is also the former council president of the Ozark Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Bob's community service includes an extensive and impressive list of organizations that have benefited by his service to the communities in which he has lived over the years.

Bob Hammerschmidt exemplifies the values taught by scouting, including the scout oath and law. These qualities include service to the community, good citizenship and strong leadership. Bob Hammerschmidt's track record makes it easy to see why his peers unanimously selected him as the recipient of the Distinguished Citizen Award.

I am honored to recognize Bob Hammerschmidt for his service and leadership to the community.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes 188 through 193. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 191, 192, and 193, and "nay" on rollcall votes 188, 189, and 190.

#### LTC DENIS DESCARREAU'S PROMOTION

### HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, The United States Army, the U.S. Military medical community, and a grateful nation, are united in their support of LTC Denis Descarreux attaining the rank of Colonel.

Colonel Descarreux exemplifies the values that are near and dear to the Army: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, Personal Courage.

Denis Descarreux has always displayed an enduring work ethic and a commitment to serve others. His time in uniform is marked by distinguished service on behalf of the American people.

Dr. Denis Descarreux exemplifies one seeking and obtaining the American Dream and presents as a model Soldier, citizen, husband, and father. Colonel Descarreux has brought virtue to himself, his family, his uniform and his nation. We are assured that he will continue to be an invaluable asset to the United States Army.

Congratulations on your lifetime accomplishments and your promotion to Colonel in the United States Army.

With God's blessings.

#### TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SERGEANT LAUREN MONTOYA

### HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. Army Sergeant Lauren Montoya who was recently wounded while serving her nation in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Montoya, from Austin, Texas, attended Texas A&M University for two years prior to joining the Army in January of 2011. Texas A&M has a long history of students who have answered the call to service, and Sergeant Montoya has kept that tradition alive.

After completing basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, the Army sent Sergeant Montoya to Fort Huachuca, Arizona where she was trained in the Military Intelligence field as a Human Intelligence Collector. She was subsequently stationed at Fort Drum, New York to serve with the combat-proven 10th Mountain Division. It was there that she continued to distinguish herself as an exemplary soldier. Ms. Montoya's superiors quickly noticed her leadership ability and promoted her to Sergeant in just two short years of service.

Due to her dedication, professionalism and leadership ability, Sergeant Montoya was selected to participate in the Army's Cultural Support Team assisting a Special Forces unit conducting counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan. Her unique abilities as a Human Intelligence Collector and devotion to selfless service led to her assignment as an advisor to a Special Forces unit deployed to carry out volatile missions in Afghanistan.

In November 2013, Sergeant Montoya deployed with her Special Forces unit to Afghanistan where they spent five months conducting missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During that deployment, Sergeant Montoya's unit was attacked by an improvised explosive device while traveling from a mission in southern Afghanistan. Sergeant Montoya was injured in the attack but survived and was transported to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas to recover.

Sergeant Montoya's commitment to duty and selfless service demonstrate her caliber as a soldier, Texan and American. During the tenure of her brief military career, Sergeant Montoya earned numerous awards and decorations including the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Marksmanship Qualification Badge—Marksman with Recoilless Rifle, and a meritorious count of five Army Achievement Medals.

With the prayers and love from family and friends, Sergeant Montoya continues to recover at Brooke Army Medical Center and looks forward to the next steps in her future. Upon completion of her military service, she hopes to return to Texas A&M University and finish her degree.

Her service and sacrifice to this country cannot be measured. On behalf of a grateful

nation, I want to wish her a speedy recovery and all the blessings God may grant unto her.

#### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. On the second Saturday of May for the last twenty-two years, letter carriers and volunteers across the country help to collect food donations and deliver them to various food banks in their areas. This year, the food drive will be held on Saturday, May 10th.

In my district, donations are delivered to the North Texas Food Bank and local pantries to provide food to people in need. In Dallas County alone, 450,000 residents are food insecure, including 300,000 children. Of the 1.8 million Texas children, one in four live in food insecure households.

Hunger in Texas remains a systemic problem. With the help of food drives like the one organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers, many families are able to put nutritious meals on their tables. Last year, letter carriers collected 74.6 million pounds of food to deliver to local food pantries.

I commend the National Association of Letter Carriers for their efforts and for their commitment to help stamp out hunger nationwide. Their service is extremely valuable and we can all contribute to their efforts by donating to the food drive. More than 1,200 branches nationwide will be participating in this year's food drive activities.

Our letter carriers not only provide a valuable service each day, but also strive to supply basic necessities to those in need during their annual food drive. I urge my colleagues to support the National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ST. PAUL POLICE OFFICER JOSH LYNAUGH

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2014*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and public service of all the brave men and women in law enforcement who have given their life in the line of duty.

As we celebrate National Police Week 2014, let us take time to recognize that law enforcement officers all across America risk their lives every day to protect our families and keep our communities safe. Every peace officer serving in Minnesota, or any community across this country, knows that wearing a uniform carries a special responsibility and exceptional risk. I salute their courage, commitment, and exceptional public service.

Today marks almost a year and half since St. Paul Police Officer Josh Lynaugh suffered a fatal heart attack after an on-duty police chase in East St. Paul. This was a time of great pain and loss for his family, constituents