

has more than risen to the challenge. We thank him for his tireless advocacy on behalf of the electric transmission grid with WIRES and at FERC.

TRIBUTE TO ARMENIANS OF COLORADO, INC. ON ITS 40TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. JASON CROW**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Colorado's oldest and largest Armenian American organization—Armenians of Colorado, Inc. (AOC)—for their four decades of community building.

Established in 1979 by several families, Armenians of Colorado (AOC) is a nonprofit organization that has grown to serve the Front Range's vibrant Armenian American community. From teaching the Armenian language and cultural traditions to raising awareness about Armenian history, AOC has been the pillar of the Centennial State's rapidly growing, vibrant Armenian community. Its purpose is to foster a cohesive Armenian community and to further the understanding of Armenian history, culture, language, and customs within the community and to the general public.

AOC's landmark achievement, the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Memorial Garden, was established in 1982 with the planting of a blue spruce and installation of a memorial plaque in commemoration of the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide. In 2015, on the centennial anniversary of the commencement of the Armenian Genocide, AOC renovated the Colorado State Capitol Armenian Memorial Garden and installed a replica of a medieval

Armenian khachkar (cross-stone) in memory of the victims of all crimes against humanity and in tribute to Coloradans who participated in the Near East Relief's philanthropic efforts to rescue and raise 132,000 orphans of the Armenian Genocide. This khachkar memorial is a recreation of one of the 3,000 Djulfa cross-stones destroyed during the Nagorno-Karabakh War.

Because the fact is, while the Armenian genocide occurred generations ago and an ocean away, we still feel its pain. We have seen how easily the same motives that allowed the Armenian genocide to occur still happen to today. As we have learned, all too often an assault on any ethnic group or religion is an assault on all of us.

AOC has also been instrumental in partnering with the Armenian National Committee of America to establish the Sardarapat Armenian Memorial Highway in my District in 2018 to mark the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Republic and to celebrate Armenian Genocide survivors' determination to save their nation from total extinction.

On its 40th birthday, I wish AOC many more successes in its commendable mission of serving the educational and cultural needs of Colorado's vibrant Armenian American community.

IN HONOR OF ERIN TIDERMAN-GROSS AND DEIRDRE ABRAMS

**HON. RUSS FULCHER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 18, 2019*

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two wonderful teachers from

Idaho: Mrs. Erin Tiderman-Gross of Meridian, Idaho, and Mrs. Deirdre Abrams of Donnelly, Idaho who have been awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government for teachers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer studies. I am proud today to recognize the hard work of Mrs. Abrams and Mrs. Tiderman-Gross and their dedication, commitment, and passion for our students' success in the sciences.

At Rocky Mountain High School in Meridian, Idaho—my hometown—Mrs. Tiderman-Gross teaches advanced placement biology and has acted as a mentor to hundreds of students in the National Honor Society. Mrs. Tiderman-Gross is an adviser in one of the largest, most-active National Honor Society Chapters in Idaho. She has impacted countless families, students, and community members through her work, and after 24 years, continues to share her passion for biology with her students.

At Donnelly Elementary School, Mrs. Abrams has taken the world to her students through place-based learning. Mrs. Abrams has given her students hands-on educational trips to study rainbow trout populations, pollinator gardens, and cattle data to improve water quality. Her students even share their water quality data with local government agencies. Mrs. Abrams has been an educator for 23 years and continues to be a shining example of innovative teaching in the sciences.

I thank Mrs. Erin Tiderman-Gross and Mrs. Deirdre Adams for their passion and commitment to their students. This honor bestowed upon them is a testament to their dedication and I am so proud of their representation of the great State of Idaho.