

one of the most appalling violations of human rights in all of human history—as today marks the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

I want to commend my colleagues JOHN PORTER of Illinois and FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, the coauthors of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, for sponsoring this special order.

The great Armenian massacre which took place between 1915 to 1916, shocked public opinion in the United States and Western Europe. As Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the former U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, stated:

I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915.

Mr. Speaker, in reality, this atrocity lasted over an 8-year period from 1915 to 1923. During this time, the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic policy of eliminating its Christian Armenian population.

As a Greek-American, I have always felt a special kinship for the Armenian people. My Greek ancestors like those of Armenian descent, have also suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire, and as my colleagues may know, I hold a special order every year to celebrate Greek independence from over 400 years of Turkish oppression.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have cosponsored House Concurrent Resolution 47, which honors the memory of the victims of the Armenian genocide.

I have also joined my colleagues in sending a letter to President Clinton expressing disappointment in the fact that he used the word “massacres” rather than the word “genocide” to describe this systematic annihilation of 1.5 million Armenians. In my opinion this distinction is more than a matter of semantics; it is rather the difference between a random series of atrocities and a systematic, ethnically based policy of extermination.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that we take a moment to reflect upon the hardships endured by the Armenians. In the face of adversity the Armenian people have persevered. The survivors of the genocide and their descendants have made great contributions to every country in which they have settled—including the United States, where Armenians have made their mark in business, the professions, and our cultural life. Commemorate seems the wrong word to use, Mr. Speaker, but it is fitting and right that we mark this dark event today. For it is only through focusing on it that we hold out hope for the future that no such event will occur again.

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COMMEMORATING THE EIGHTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Michigan [Mr. BONIOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey, FRANK PALLONE, and the gentleman from Illinois, JOHN PORTER, for taking out this commemorative of the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Mr. Speaker, beginning on the night of April 24 in 1915, the religious and intellectual leaders of the Armenian community of Constantinople were taken from their beds, imprisoned, tortured, and killed.

In the days that followed, the remaining males over 15 years of age were gathered in cities, towns, and villages throughout Ottoman Turkey, roped together, marched to nearby uninhabited areas, and killed.

Innocent women and children were forced to march through barren wastelands—urged on by whips and clubs—denied food and water.

And when they dared to step out of line, they were repeatedly attacked, robbed, raped, and ultimately killed.

When all was said and done, 1½ million Armenians lay dead, and a homeland which had stood for 3,000 years was nearly completely depopulated.

Mr. Speaker, we come to the floor this evening to remember the victims—and the survivors—of the Armenian genocide.

As we come to this floor, we do so with the knowledge that all of us have a responsibility to remember the victims, to speak out and to make sure that tragedies like this are never allowed to happen again.

That's one of the reasons why some of us have introduced a resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 47, sponsored by over 150 of our colleagues to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide.

Now more than ever, those of us who embrace democracy have a responsibility to speak out for all those who live under tyranny.

Because sadly, the world does not seem to have learned the lessons of the past.

We have seen bloodshed this decade in places like Bosnia and Nagorno Karabakh.

American leadership has helped to bring about a chance for peace in Bosnia.

Now we must do the same in Nagorno Karabakh.

For most Americans, Nagorno Karabakh is not a place that registers on the radar screen, for it is not a CNN war.

But it is a place where 100,000 people have been killed or wounded over the past 7 years, and 1 million others have been left homeless.

Mr. Speaker, we're all hopeful that this terrible tragedy ends soon. We're all hopeful that the case-fire in place for 2 years continues to hold while work continues to bring about a lasting peace.

People are slowly starting to return to their homes.

In recent months, our administration, the Russian government, the OSCE Minsk Group, Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Armenia have all begun efforts to resolve the conflict.

But our efforts must be intensified, and the integrity and security of the Armenians in Nagorno Karabakh must be guaranteed as we move forward.

We must also continue to speak out against the refusal of Turkey to allow humanitarian aid to flow into Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, we now have a provision in law, section 562, that cuts off aid to any country, that restricts the transport or delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance.

It is utterly unconscionable to me that a country who is an ally of ours, who is a member of NATO, and who accepts U.S. aid, would think it has the right to block U.S. humanitarian assistance.

The third largest recipient of U.S. assistance must know that section 562 will be enforced and the aid will stop unless it ends its blockade of Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, we must pause today and say “Never again.”

We can forget that in 1939, another leader used the Armenian genocide as justification for his own genocide.

This leader said, and I quote:

I have given orders to my death units to exterminate without mercy or pity, men, women, and children belonging to the Polish-speaking race. After all,

Adolf Hitler asked, who today remembers the extermination of the Armenians?

Mr. Speaker, it is up to all of us to remember.

For centuries, the Armenian people have shown great courage and great strength.

The least we can do is match their courage with our commitment.

Because in the end, we are their voices and we must do all we can to remember.

Because if we don't, nobody else will.

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ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RADANOVICH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Turkish Empire committed a terrible genocide against Armenians. In a systematic and deliberate campaign to eliminate the Armenian people and erase their culture and history of 3,000 years the Turks committed this atrocity. As a result, over one-half million Armenians were massacred. The Armenian genocide is a historical fact, and has been recognized by academics and historians all over the world. The documentary evidence is irrefutable and beyond question. Unfortunately, the Turkish Government is still persisting in their denial that the genocide took place.

Many survivors of the genocide have made the United States their new home. On April 24, 1996, Armenians all over the world will commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Commemoration activities will occur in Washington, DC, Los Angeles, and in my district in Fresno, CA. I have the honor of representing thousands of Armenians in California's Nineteenth Congressional District, and I send my sincerest condolences on this solemn occasion to all members of the Armenian community. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I intend to join my colleagues, Representatives PORTER and FRANK PALLONE, in a special order on April 24, 1996 on the floor of the House of Representatives to commemorate the genocide victims.

I am an original cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 47 which calls on Congress to officially recognize the Armenian genocide and encourages the Republic of Turkey to do the same. This legislation would call on the Government of Turkey to turn away from its denials of the Armenian genocide, and instead, to openly acknowledge this tragic chapter in its history. By doing so, the Turkish Government can help to raise the level of trust in a strategic, yet highly unstable, region of the world and facilitate the normalization of relations between Turkey and Armenia. I encourage my colleagues to vote for the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 47.

Remembering this genocide against the Armenians will help ensure that this type of tragedy is never allowed to occur again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. FRANKS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FRANKS of Connecticut addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1730

#### BRAD PELZER BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. MASCARA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to plead the case of 11-year-old Brad Pelzer from my district who needs a bone marrow transplant. Brad is suffering from CML, an adult form of leukemia.

Until early this year, Brad Pelzer was a typical 5th grader at Charleroi Elementary Center, located in my hometown of Charleroi, PA. Brad, an honor student, enjoys playing soccer, deck hockey, and using his family's computer.

But in February Brad became ill and by the end of the month he was diag-

nosed with leukemia. Now Brad and his parents, Joe and Josie Pelzer, are engaged in a desperate search for someone whose bone marrow will match Brad's.

Brad's doctors say a transplant from such a donor will offer him his best hope for beating this very serious illness.

Like hundreds of other parents faced with a similar situation, Joe and Josie are mustering every ounce of courage and hope they can. After discovering no family members were a match for Brad, they sought the help of local blood bank officials. They have organized three donor drives over the next several weeks to seek a potential donor from the local community.

As the chart reflects, the first will be held tomorrow, April 25, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at California University in California, PA. Donors should go to the performance center located in the student union.

The second will be held Saturday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the north Charleroi fire hall. The third will be held Monday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. in the first floor conference room of the Washington County Courthouse in Washington, PA.

Anyone who is 18 to 60 years old is invited to come and give blood and be tested. The reward will be so great—giving life to Brad.

It is very ironic to me that Brad's situation came to my attention at this time when the Nation is observing National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week.

His family are long-time friends of mine, his grandparents, Leroy and Susan Rotolo and Rita Pelzer, are my neighbors. They are very lovely people. Good, solid citizens. And now they must rely upon the goodness of the rest of us to help them through this very trying and difficult ordeal.

Situations like this make you reflect on the blessings that have been bestowed upon us and how important it is to reach out and be kind and helpful to our neighbors and friends.

Having children and grandchildren of my own, I know exactly how Joe and Josie feel. They are looking for an answer and the miracle might be a person who is viewing these special orders tonight. You could be the one to reach out to Brad Pelzer and help save his life.

According to material marking National Donor Awareness Week, provided by Congressman MOAKLEY, a transplant recipient himself, at any given time 43,000 Americans are awaiting a transplant. They are rich and poor. They are old and young. And they all need our help.

The amazing thing is even if you live nowhere near Charleroi, PA, you can still help Brad Pelzer, and the thousands of other youngsters in need of a bone marrow transplant. The American Red Cross has set up a 1-800 number you can call to locate the nearest blood bank where you can be tested and

added to the national bone marrow transplant registry.

Since the bone marrow transplant registry was established in the mid-1980's, over 1.6 million people have been added to the registry. Because the base of donors is growing each year, I am told that 60 percent of patients find a matched donor on their first search.

The bottom line is please attend one of the drives in my district, or call 1-800-MARROW-2, and help improve the chances for Brad.

His mom and dad, his brother, Brent, and his grandparents, are all praying that you will answer the call. Please help. Hang in there Brad—we'll find a match.

#### LYON COUNTY WANTS EPA TO HALT SUPERFUND CLEANUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House this evening to talk about the environment. Last evening, I spoke to my colleagues about education, and this has been Earth Day this week, and Earth Week. People talk about saving the environment. And last night I talked about paying more for education and getting less. Tonight I wanted to address the House and my colleagues about paying more for preserving and protecting the environment and getting less.

Just a few hours ago the House passed, I believe, the 13th or 14th continuing resolution, and that is a temporary resolution to fund the Government for one more day, and you know we have had a tremendous amount of difficulty in trying to nail down the budget and nail down the expenditures for this year that we are in, 6 months into.

What we have not been able to do on our side of the aisle is really tell the American people or convince a majority of our colleagues here that we, in fact, are paying more in education. Tonight I use as an example the environment and getting less for cleanup. And part of the contest that the Congress is engaged in is not just a question of how much more money you spend on these programs, but how you spend it: Are we protecting the environment?

One of the things that I have learned as chairman of the House Civil Service Committee is where the bodies are buried or where the public servants are working in the large bureaucracy we have, with so many people employed by the Federal Government. Particularly, my concern is Washington, DC, and then some of the regional offices, if you just take a minute and look at what part of this debate is about with EPA.

The total number of EPA employees has grown to almost 18,000 EPA employees. There are 6,000 EPA employees in Washington, DC. Now, that 6,000 is equal to about the total number of employees in EPA about a little over a