

volunteers work to relieve the physical, emotional and spiritual pain experienced by the patient and family. Volunteers provide direct patient and family services, including companionship and support, transportation, assistance with chores and errands, and pastoral and bereavement care. Volunteers visit patients and families in their homes and hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and residences for people with AIDS. These volunteers offer a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on during a family's most challenging times.

Other volunteers work behind the scenes, serving on the Board of Directors, assisting in fundraising and public education efforts, and with administrative tasks. In 1994, 100 active volunteers donated more than 12,000 hours of public service, valued at over \$250,000. But one cannot put a price tag on this dedicated service—these efforts are priceless, and Hospice could not operate as successfully as it does without its volunteers.

It is with great pride and pleasure that I commend the volunteers of Hospice Care for their many hours of difficult and dedicated service.●

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the 81 years since the tragedy of the Armenian genocide unfolded. Today we pause to remember the victims of this great tragedy and to pay our respects to the survivors.

Indeed it is important that we take this occasion to educate ourselves about the events that constituted the Armenian genocide, and to resolve never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on humanity. Respect for the memories of the Armenians who were martyred in this great tragedy demands that humanity never forget this day. It also represents an opportunity for people of goodwill to honestly confront the past and move to genuine reconciliation.

We are also pleased that after centuries of oppression, the Armenian people are again now free and independent. The Republic of Armenia is proof that the Armenian spirit is alive and vibrant and, despite enormous outside pressures, is making progress and flourishing. As Armenia struggles to reenter the society of nations, it is instructive for us to recognize the sacrifices of the victims of the genocide.

The anniversary of this tragedy holds special meaning to Armenians everywhere and, in spite of a history of many hardships, difficulties and adversity faced by the Armenian people, the community has strengthened its resolve to survive and prosper. Armenian-Americans are one of the best examples of an indomitable human spirit. The contribution of the Armenian community to the cultural, social, economic, and political landscape of America is a source of great strength and vitality in our Nation. Americans

of Armenian origin have kept alive, and not let tragedy shatter, the rich faith and traditions of Armenian civilization.

As we recall the Armenian genocide, it is important to recognize that it was the culmination of an abhorrent pattern of persecution against the Armenian community living in the Ottoman Empire. During the period 1894-1896, and again in 1909, tens of thousands of Armenians lost their lives. On April 24, 1915, 300 Armenian intellectuals, religious and political leaders, and professionals were rounded up by Ottoman authorities and taken to remote parts of Anatolia from where they never returned. At least 250,000 Armenians who loyally served in the Ottoman army were expelled and forced into labor battalions where executions and starvation were common. Men, women, and children were deported from their villages and obliged to march for weeks in the Syrian desert where a majority of them lost their lives.

The unfortunate campaign against this community earlier in this century resulted in widespread deportations and death. More than 1.5 million innocent men, women, and children, out of a total of 2.5 million Armenians living within the Ottoman Empire, lost their lives. Entire families were destroyed, and thousands of survivors were scattered around the world. In fact, contemporaneous newspaper accounts in the United States describing these atrocities inspired Americans to contribute \$113 million in humanitarian assistance from 1915 to 1930 to help the survivors. Americans eventually adopted 132,000 Armenian orphans into this country.

One of the most prominent and reliable accounts of the Armenian genocide is provided by the distinguished United States ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time, Henry Morgenthau. In an article published in the Red Cross magazine in 1918, Morgenthau described the wide-scale and systematic attempts by the Ottomans to crush the Armenian community as, "the Greatest Horror in History." Abram Elkus, Morgenthau's successor, also cabled the State Department that the Young Turks policy against the Armenians was an "unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality of treatment hardly surpassed even in Turkish history."

Both the German and Austrian ambassadors, apprehensive about the attacks against the Armenians, conveyed their concerns directly to the Ottoman leadership. In July of 1915, Hans Von Wangenheim, the German Ambassador to the Ottomans, advised his own government to distance itself from the Ottoman leadership for what he viewed as a campaign to rid "the Armenian race in the Turkish empire."

Extensive evidence, documentation, and first hand accounts have been collected over the years regarding this dark period, much of which is held in

our own National Archives. In 1987, it was fitting that the Holocaust Council expressed its support for making the Armenian genocide part of the permanent exhibits at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In its statement, the council declared that "the fate of the Armenians should be included in any discussion of genocide in the twentieth century."

Several years ago, Elie Wiesel spoke at a Holocaust memorial service here in the Congress and expressed the importance of recognizing the Armenian genocide. He stated, "Before the planning of the final solution, Hitler asked, 'Who remembers the Armenians?' He was right. No one remembered them, as no one remembered the Jews. Rejected by everyone, they felt expelled from history."

Mr. President, we must never forget the moral lesson of the Armenian genocide and honor it by renewing our commitment to human rights and democratic principles.

COMMEMORATING THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. PELL. Mr. President, each year on this day, we solemnly join Armenians worldwide in observing the anniversary of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people between 1915 and 1923.

Eighty-one years ago today, Ottoman leaders launched a systematic campaign to eradicate the Armenian people from Ottoman Empire territory. In that year, hundreds of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were rounded up and exiled, or murdered. During the next 8 years, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were executed. Many were raped, tortured, or enslaved. In addition to those killed, an estimated 500,000 Armenians were exiled from the Ottoman Empire. Many of those exiles found their way to freedom in the United States where they and their descendants have made—and are continuing to make—a significant contribution to the cultural, political, and commercial life of this country.

Despite the many challenges they have faced over the years, the Armenian people have demonstrated a high degree of independence, resilience, and national pride. I believe the anniversary of the genocide offers an opportunity to reflect upon the challenges Armenia is facing today. In particular, Armenia continues to struggle under blockades by its neighbors, and as a result, it continues to depend heavily on humanitarian assistance. I would note that the United States has responded to Armenia's plight. Armenia receives more assistance per capita than any other Newly Independent State. I know we all look forward to the day when Armenia—a country of great human resources—will be a donor, rather than a recipient of assistance.

In fact, despite the blockades, Armenia has made significant economic

progress during the past year. Its currency has stabilized, inflation has decreased, and the economy showed a positive growth rate. Armenia is also working hard to enact the necessary legal and regulatory framework for true reform to take root.

Regrettably, a lasting diplomatic settlement to the Nagorno-Karabagh crisis also remains elusive. I hope that the memory of the Armenian genocide, as well as the continuing of the suffering of the Armenian and Azeri peoples, will spur a peaceful resolution to the dispute.

There are, in fact, some hopeful signs. For the past 2-years, a cease-fire has held in Nagorno-Karabagh. Over the weekend, President Ter Petrosian of Armenia and President Aliyev of Azerbaijan issued a joint communique agreeing that direct dialog between the parties must be intensified to facilitate an end to the conflict.

Armenia is continuing to talk with its neighbors not only about how to resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, but about the importance of economic development of the region. In fact, just this week in Luxembourg, the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia each signed bilateral cooperation agreements with the European Union.

I would note that Armenia is also engaging in a dialog with Turkey about a range of bilateral and regional issues. This is a courageous, and very practical, decision. Both countries acknowledge that it is in their interest to talk, and I believe that we should do what we can to encourage such discussions between Yerevan and Ankara.

Sadly, the legacy of the Armenian genocide has not succeeded in deterring subsequent acts of genocide in other parts of the world nor did it represent an end to the suffering of the Armenian people. However, it is only by continuing to remember and discuss the horrors which befell the Armenian and other peoples that we can hope to achieve a world where genocide is finally relegated to the realm of history books, rather than the newspaper headlines.

I hope my colleagues and leaders throughout the world will join me in commemorating the anniversary today, and thus ensure that the tragedy of the Armenian genocide will not be forgotten.●

THE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today, April 24, marks the 81st anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian genocide. I rise today to acknowledge and commemorate this terrible chapter in our history, to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

Eighty-one years ago today, one of the darkest chapters in human history began. On that day, Ottoman authorities began arresting Armenian political and religious leaders throughout Anatolia. Over the ensuing months and years, some 1.5 million Armenians were

killed at the hands of the Ottoman authorities, and hundreds of thousands more were exiled from their homes.

On this 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide, let us renew our commitment never to forget the horror and barbarism of this event. We must remember, we must speak out, and we must teach the next generation about the systematic persecution and murder of millions of Armenians by the Ottoman Government. I know that I am joined by every one of my colleagues, by the Armenian American community, and by people across the United States in commemorating the genocide and paying tribute to the victims of this crime against humanity.

As Americans, we are blessed with freedom and security, but that blessing brings with it an important responsibility. We must never allow oppression and persecution to pass without condemnation. By commemorating the Armenian genocide, we renew our commitment always to fight for human dignity and freedom, and we send out a message that the world can never allow genocide to be perpetrated again.

Even as we remember the tragedy and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all across the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. My State of California is fortunate to be home to a community of Armenian-Americans a half a million strong. They are a strong and vibrant community whose members participate in every aspect of civic life, and California is the richer for their presence.

The strength and perseverance of the Armenian people is a triumph of the human spirit, which refuses to cede victory to evil. The best retort to the perpetrators of oppression and destruction is rebirth, renewal, and rebuilding. Armenians throughout the world have done just that, and today they do it in their homeland as well. A free and independent Armenia stands today as a living monument to the resilience of a people. I am proud that the United States, through our friendship and assistance, is contributing to the rebuilding and renewal of Armenia.

Let us never forget the victims of the Armenian genocide; let their deaths not be in vain. We must remember their tragedy to ensure that such crimes can never be repeated. And as we remember Armenia's dark past, we can take some consolation in the knowledge that its future is bright with possibility.●

GENOCIDE REMEMBERED

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 81st anniversary of the Armenian genocide that took place during the final years of the Ottoman Empire. From 1915 to 1923, some 1,500,000 persons of Armenian ancestry are reported to have died at the hands of their Ottoman rulers, through a deliberate policy of deportation,

confiscation of property, slave labor, and murder.

Although we now recognize this policy as genocide, no such word existed at the time of its commission. The American Ambassador to the Sublime Porte, New Yorker Henry Morgenthau, described the Ottoman atrocities as a "campaign of race extermination." A chilling prologue, if you will, to the twentieth century.

The word "genocide" comes from the Greek *genos* (clan or breed) and the Latin *caedere* (to kill). It was coined in 1944 by Raphael Lemkin, a Polish Jew who emigrated to the United States in 1941.

In the early 1930's, after studying the slaughter of the Armenians, Lemkin began a campaign to outlaw the crime now known as genocide. He took his case before the Legal Council of the League of Nations in 1933 but the learned jurists would not heed him. Finally—after the Nazi Holocaust shook the conscience of the world—the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide on December 9, 1948. The first human rights treaty of the new world body was finally ratified by the United States in 1988. Raphael Lemkin's legacy.

During the Days of Remembrance Commemoration in 1981, Elie Wiesel stated:

Before the planning of the Final Solution, Hitler asked, "Who remembers the Armenians?" He was right. No one remembered them, as no one remembered the Jews. Rejected by everyone, they felt expelled from history.

Mr. President, today the United States Senate pauses to remember the Armenian victims of genocide. But remembrance alone is not enough. Remembrance must be the first step toward justice and, ultimately, toward prevention of future atrocities.

On December 13, 1995, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 44, concerning the deployment of United States Armed Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The resolution affirmed that the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina had "suffered egregious violations of the international law of war including * * * the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide." To redress and punish these crimes, the United Nations established the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The United States must continue to support the work of the Tribunal and insist on cooperation with the Tribunal as mandated by the Dayton Accords.

The horrors of this century—beginning with the Armenian genocide—gave birth to a new vocabulary of inhumanity. As this genocidal century draws to a close, let us remember these events, mourn the victims, and strengthen our resolve that such outrages never again be perpetrated against the human race.

I thank the Chair and I ask that the text of Ambassador Henry