

our initiatives," Walled Lake Western High Principal Gary Bredahl told the News.

"I hope the African-American students here can sense that we are reaching out to them to create a comfort zone to get them involved in school activities."

Experts say students often pick up their parents' feelings about other races, said Juanetta Guthrie of Wayne State University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies.

"We are not born with the mechanism to hate. It's learned, and it can be unlearned," Ms. Guthrie said.

West Bloomfield senior Brad Fayer agrees that parents play a big role in raising their children to be free of biases and bigotry.

"If you have open-minded parents they can teach their kids to also be open-minded and fair," he said. "They can also teach equality."

So school districts are taking up the challenge to help combat conflicts.

In Dearborn, fights between Arab and non-Arab students have led to the creation of the Dearborn Community Alliance to establish clearer communication between members of the community.

"I see more dialogue," Edsel Ford Principal Jeremy Hughes said. "At one time, the Arab students all sat along one wall in the cafeteria, but now I see more interaction."

But Alex Shami, the only Arab American on the Dearborn public school board, said the district still has a long way to go.

"I've lived in Dearborn for 24 years," Shami said. "There was tension between Arabs and non-Arabs in the late 1970s and then it went down in the 1980s, but it is worse than ever now. I don't like what I see because people seem to be investing more on their prejudices than ever and I am frustrated."

In West Bloomfield, school officials say implementing ethnic diversity programs is the key to heading off potential problems.

"We have ongoing programs that get several kids from different backgrounds in dialogue," said Sharkey Haddad, the district's multicultural program director. "If you don't already have a program in place, then it's merely a reaction to the problem."

MISSISSIPPIANS TO GET CHANCE TO TELL HISTORY

(By Gina Holland)

JACKSON, MISS. (AP)—Mississippi history will be told through personal accounts of everyday residents as part of a project approved by the Legislature just in time for the turn of the century.

A bill passed by the House Wednesday would put \$150,000 into a pilot project to collect interviews from residents in five areas of the state. The Senate has already approved the funding.

The University of Southern Mississippi, which has an oral history department, and the Mississippi Humanities Council would team up with community leaders on the work.

Residents will be interviewed about stories of their communities, government and civic life, and historical events.

Still pending in the Legislature is a request for \$30,000 in continuation funding for an oral history program focusing on the civil rights era.

Elbert Hilliard, executive director of the Department of Archives and History, said the project will fill gaps in historical archives.

"Most of the existing oral history collections are interviews with prominent persons, political leaders, people who have been involved in significant events," he said. "It will expand the scope of these interviews to have a comprehensive approach."

Hilliard, who expect some of the interviews to involve civil rights events, said he is hopeful the Legislature will also provide money for the civil rights project at USM.

Under the proposal approved Wednesday, one site will be chosen in each of Mississippi's congressional districts for a pilot program. People will be taught how to conduct interviews. The material will be archived and be made available on the Internet and it could be displayed in the communities.

Rep. Leonard Morris, D-Batesville, said his two teen-age children. "have no knowledge of what happened in the 1960s and 1970s."

"You don't want to dwell too much upon the negative part of it, but you also want to be able to do research on what happened and have an accurate documented source," said Morris. "How can you know where you're going if you don't have a good idea of the past?"

Sen John Horhn, D-Jackson, said he would like to see more work on the civil rights history.

"A number of the people who were involved in the movement have passed away, many of them are getting older. It's important we capture their stories," said Horhn.

The funding bill goes to the governor.

84TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the lives of 1.5 million Armenians who perished during the brutal genocide that took place on April 24, 1915. However, I also rise to celebrate the lives of those who have survived. We honor their spirit and the legacy they have provided. For it is this legacy that encourages their children and grandchildren, friends and neighbors, to remind people throughout the world of this horrific action. An action that tragically marked the century's first genocide.

According to the Archives of the Nuremberg Proceedings, Hitler instructed his SS units at a meeting in 1939 "to kill, without pity, men, women, and children" in their march against Poland, as such activities would have no long term repercussions. Who, he said, "remember now the massacres of the Armenians?"

As a Member of Congress I say with force and I say with compassion: We remember. We remember horrible violence that sent 1.5 million Armenian leaders, intellectuals, and clergy to their deaths and forever changed the lives of generations of families.

Tomorrow I will carry that same message from the floor of the House of Representatives to the Connecticut State Capitol where I will address a group of survivors and children of survivors of the Armenian genocide. Every year these Connecticut residents make a commitment to come to Hartford to remind their friends, their community leaders, and their neighbors of the solemn anniversary that is marked throughout the country on April 24.

The most disturbing part of this anniversary is that 84 years later genocide remains a part of our vocabulary. From Rwanda to Bosnia to the present day horrors of Kosovo, entire populations are being killed simply because of

their ethnicity. It has been said that we can best plan for the future by learning from the lessons of the past. Unfortunately, it appears that too many nations are trying to find their path to the future by ignoring the past.

As we commemorate this 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, I urge my House and Senate colleagues to work toward this goal: that an entire generation never experiences the horrors of genocide, either by living through it or by feeling the pain of people half way around the world.

I send my deepest prayers and thoughts to this country's Armenian-American community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GEOLOGIC MAPPING ACT

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on Earth Day, to introduce a bill to reauthorize the National Geologic Mapping Act, a cooperative program between the states and the federal government to prioritize efforts to delineate the bedrock and surficial geology of the country on a broad scale, sufficient for land-use planning, natural hazards abatement and mitigation, and mineral resource endowment estimates. This bill's antecedents are the National Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, and its reauthorization and amendment in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, my home state of Wyoming is rich in geologic wonders, thus I am well aware of the importance of having accurate geologic information in order to manage and appreciate the land around us. Geologic information in the form of maps, both as traditional hard copies as well as digital data for manipulation by computer, aid society in prudent land-use planning, waste disposal, mitigation of geologic hazards, and management of natural resources. Funding for the program is incorporated in the budget of the U.S. Geological Survey as a subset of its annual appropriation.

The main components of this bill remain the same as its precursors—with a State geologic mapping component, whose objectives are to determine the geologic framework of areas that the State geological surveys determine to be vital to the economic, social, or scientific welfare of individual States. Mapping priorities will be determined by multi-representational State panels, and shall be integrated with national priorities. Federal funding for the State components shall be matched on a one-to-one basis with non-Federal funds.

An educational component of the act is designed to train the next generation of geologic mappers—by providing for broad education in geologic mapping and field analysis through support of field studies; and to develop the academic programs that teach earth-science students the fundamental principles of geologic mapping and field analysis, and knowledge of the solid earth. These mapping investigations will be integrated into the other State geologic mapping components of the program. The reauthorization of the National Geologic Mapping Act shines as a sterling example of a cooperative partnership between the Federal government and the individual states for the benefit of society.

Mr. Speaker, geologists like to say that for them "every day is Earth Day." What better