

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, on April 24, we commemorated the 86th anniversary of one of the most harrowing events in modern day history—the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. From 1915 to 1923, over one and a half million Armenians were killed by Turks in inter-communal warfare.

Hundreds of Armenian leaders, writers and professionals in Constantinople were rounded up, deported and killed. Five thousand of the poorest Armenians were butchered in the streets and in their homes. Men, women and children were driven into the desert between Jerablus and Deir ez-Zor to die of starvation, disease and exposure. In 1915, the New York Times reported that families were burned alive in wooden houses or chained together and drowned in Lake Van.

To this day, the human rights abuses and atrocities that were committed against the Armenians by the Turks remain disturbing and continue to have a tremendous impact on the stability of this region.

During a campaign speech in February 2000, President Bush stated, "The Armenians were subjected to a genocidal campaign that defies comprehension and commands all decent people to remember and acknowledge the facts and lessons of an awful crime in a century of bloody crimes against humanity. If elected President, I would ensure that our nation properly recognizes the tragic suffering of the Armenian people."

It is important to remind the President of his pledge. As a Member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, I joined my colleagues in signing a letter to President Bush addressing the need to uphold his promise to recognize the Armenian Genocide as what it was—genocide. We cannot let this statement become an empty campaign promise.

Mr. Speaker, the Congress of the United States remembers the Armenians. It is time for the world to deal honestly with this senseless genocide and redress this tragedy. I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning the genocide and honor the memory of 1.5 million innocent victims.

HONORING L. COOK JEWELRY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, for 73 years Coloradans have celebrated special events and occasions by buying that special piece of jewelry from L. Cook Jewelry on Main Street in Grand Junction. After 26 years of running the store, the Dan and Connie Rosenthal are retiring, leaving scores of memories and a legacy of service behind. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their years of service to the community and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

"Main Street is losing one of its highest-quality stores," said former state Senator Till-

man Bishop of the oldest business on Main Street. "It's really an institution to our community. I've been buying gifts from there since even before we moved here from Denver. There's a lot of history there. It was always a great gathering place."

Dan and Connie are closing the store as they feel the tug of retirement's strings. Dan has been in the store every Christmas season of his life. Both of them look forward to getting out and enjoying life together and with their daughter. "It's very sad to saying goodbye, but we're going out on top," said Mr. Rosenthal. "We are really going to miss all of our customers."

Much of L. Cook's success has come from the same kind of relationships for 73 years. Tillie recalls spending time in the store discussing fishing and hunting with Dan's father. "People would gather here all day long to discuss their hunting and fishing war stories," said Tillie.

Mr. Speaker, although the community is losing a fine jeweler and a good friend, Dan and Connie have earned well the right to slow down a little bit, a move that will turn give them more time to spend with each other and their daughter. As they do, I want to wish them all the best in the future and say thanks for the service to our community.

Dan and Connie, yours was a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO BILL GEORGE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bill George, an extraordinary American and one of our nation's most respected business leaders on the occasion of his retirement as CEO of Medtronic Inc.

I have had the privilege of knowing Bill George and working with him. In fact, were it not for his leadership, the landmark FDA Reform bill which became law in 1997 would not have been the successful effort it was.

As Chief Executive Officer of one of the world's leading medical technology companies, Bill George has displayed remarkable leadership and unparalleled vision. During his tenure, Medtronic has revolutionized its mission, transforming from a manufacturer of pacemakers to a diversified medical technology company with scientific, manufacturing, education, and sales facilities in 120 countries worldwide. Bill George plotted the course that has taken the company from revenues of \$750 million to more than \$5 billion, meeting analysts' earnings expectations time and again. The company now employs 25,000 people and has consistently won the praise of investors, analysts and employees. Medtronic has been ranked by Fortune Magazine as one of the "Best Companies to Work for in America," and first among its "Most Admired Companies."

Through its Foundation, Medtronic has also fulfilled its mission to restoring people to full lives through full health. Under Bill George's stewardship, the Medtronic Foundation has been recognized by Business Ethics Magazine for its demonstrated leadership in ethics and social responsibility. The Foundation has reached out to patient groups in exceptional

ways, last year alone, offering \$12 million in grants to non-profit organizations in communities worldwide.

Bill George's decision to leave the company comes at a time when Medtronic is well-poised to tackle the challenges of a new millennium, and to build upon its rapid developments in medical technology, computer technology, drug therapy and gene therapy. And there is perhaps no one better suited to launch the company's new vision than Art Collins.

Art Collins has already played an integral part in Medtronic's success. As Chief Operating Officer and former President of the Board of Directors, Art Collins has helped to expand the company's global presence. He joined Medtronic in 1992, serving as Corporate Executive Vice President and President of Medtronic International with responsibility for all Medtronic operations outside the United States. He brings a unique perspective and a creative vision to his new post.

Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of the millions of patients worldwide who have benefited from Medtronic's work in paying tribute to Bill George. He is a gifted leader, a proud American and a decent man. He's made our country better with all he's done and I shall always be grateful to know him and to have worked with him.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL SHANNON,
JR.

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend and constituent of the sixth district whose devotion to his family was paralleled only by his dedication to the labor community.

Born in New York City and raised in the Lafayette section of Jersey City, Michael J. Shannon, Jr. moved to South Amboy, New Jersey in 1968 where he continued to reside with his family.

Michael began his career working his way from shop steward to chief steward at the Maxwell House coffee plant in Hoboken. Facilitating the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union Local 56 as an organizer, business agent, and officer, Michael was ultimately elected local vice president. In addition to these services, he also served as vice president of the Monmouth-Ocean Counties Central Labor Council (AFL-CIO) and was a member of the Rutgers University Trade Union Consulting Council. Because of his dedication and commitment to the labor community, Michael is being honored with the Tenth Annual Partnership Award from the Monmouth County Workforce Investment Board. This award is being presented to recognize Michael's outstanding achievement as a leader in organized labor.

Michael was also a committed husband and father to his wife Patricia and two children, Bridget and Michael. He served our country as a corporal in the Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge in 1962. With community involvement being an important part of his life, Michael was a third degree member of the Knights of Columbus Council 426.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Michael J. Shannon, Jr. for his inexhaustible enthusiasm and many achievements in the progress of organized labor and his community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FREEDOM ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Agriculture Education Freedom Act. This bill addresses a great injustice being perpetrated by the Federal Government on those youngsters who participate in programs such as 4-H or the Future Farmers of America. Under current tax law, children are forced to pay federal income tax when they sell livestock they have raised as part of an agricultural education program. Think about this for a moment. These kids are trying to better themselves, earn some money, save some money and what does Congress do? We pick on these kids by taxing them.

It is truly amazing that with all the hand-wringing in Congress over the alleged need to further restrict liberty and grow the size of government "for the children" we would continue to tax young people who are trying to lead responsible lives and prepare for the future. Even if the serious social problems today's youth face could be solved by new federal bureaucracies and programs, it is still unfair to pick on those kids who are trying to do the right thing.

These children are not even old enough to vote, yet we are forcing them to pay taxes! What ever happened to no taxation without representation? No wonder young people are so cynical about government!

It is time we stopped taxing youngsters who are trying to earn money to go to college by selling livestock they have raised through their participation in programs such as 4-H or Future Farmers of America. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting the Agriculture Education Freedom Act.

STILL A NATION AT RISK

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today marks the eighteenth anniversary of "A Nation at Risk." The sobering report on declining student performance in American public schools was first published in 1983 by the National Commission on Excellence in Education (NCEE). Its impact on the American education empire has been tragically negligible.

Created in 1981, the NCEE was appointed by then Secretary of Education T.H. Bell and was comprised of university presidents, high school principals, teachers, a former governor, and school board members. The commission's purpose was to "help define the problems afflicting American education and to provide solutions," according to its chairman, David Pierpont Gardner.

In its report entitled "A Nation at Risk: The Imperative for Educational Reform," the NCEE noted the United States, which once enjoyed "unchallenged preeminence in commerce, industry, science and technological innovation, is being overtaken by competitors throughout the world." Eighteen years later, the United States is still a nation at risk.

Last October, a subcommittee of the U.S. House attributed the nation's stagnant student achievement to the government's failure at prioritizing student performance and its reluctance to reward results. America's poorest children are too often trapped in schools that can't teach. Moreover, the Congressional "Education at a Crossroads" report exposed rampant waste, fraud and abuse within the U.S. Department of Education. While states and local schools are held to strict standards for use of federal funds, the Department cannot account for hundreds of millions of dollars.

Despite the NCEE's early warning that America's education system is at risk, little has changed. The government's monopoly on public school services remains unchallenged. Except for poor children in a few courageous communities, real school choice is a privilege for only the rich.

Yet while state and local schools receive billions more in federal spending, they are constrained by new burdensome regulations, unfunded mandates and paperwork requirements which divert scarce resources from classrooms. Today there are more than 760 education-related programs administered by 39 federal agencies at a cost of \$120 billion a year, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The federal government's first big offensive into local school management occurred in 1965 with the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Since that time, federal policy has consistently expanded its bearing on America's classrooms and has tied the hands of state legislators and local school board members, despite the U.S. Constitution's suggestion of state and local primacy of authority. Results have been pathetic.

For example, the federal government's most massive program, Title I, was designed to improve the academic level of poor and underserved students. Federal investments totaling \$118 billion since 1965 have left 19% of Title I schools still failing to make adequate annual achievement gains, officially classified as "in need of improvement."

In testimony before Congress, Colorado's state schools chief, Dr. William Moloney explained the government's failure: "ESEA has remained, as always, a neutral phenomena based on inputs rather than results, more on accounting than accountability, an entity always more interested in what you were rather than what you were doing."

Eternally hopeful for their children's futures, taxpayers have shown remarkable patience with the government's education monopoly. So have Republicans. Since capturing the majority in Congress, the GOP has substantially outspent Democrats pumping billions into government-owned schools. In 1983, the average expenditure per student was \$3,300, while the average today tops \$8,000. Still, American students trail their international peers considerably.

According to the 1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMMS-R), American students have not im-

proved in the areas of math and science since the first TIMMS test in 1995. The comparison included students in 38 industrialized countries. According to the Center for Education Reform, American 8th graders are outranked by 18 other nations in math and by 17 others in science.

President George W. Bush has boldly called on Congress to "leave no child behind." He outlined his desire to empower parents, emphasize local control of schools, send dollars to the classroom and improve basic academics. Incredibly, Congress has so far drafted a 900-page-thick bill, translating Bush's sensible objectives into sizable new programs, fresh mandates, scant choice, and an outrageous 11.5 percent increase in federal education spending over last year.

Before another year of dust begins to settle on "A Nation at Risk," President Bush and the Congress should reassess Washington's education spending and regulatory frenzy. Republicans should stake their majority on free-market solutions to school reform, dramatically shrink the bureaucracy, and give real decision-making power—money—to parents of school-aged children.

America's schoolchildren deserve to be treated like real Americans; like they matter. So long as Republicans look to the federal education empire to rebuild the nation's academic prominence they do nothing to distinguish themselves nor maintain the public trust. They will only become part of the problem further betraying America's children to languish in a nation at risk.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN C.U. "PEG" O'NEILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and give thanks to a Colorado resident who risked his life for our country in World War II. C.U. "Peg" O'Neill joined the U.S. Army in 1943. He became a C-47 pilot, and was stationed in England.

Peg flew 11 missions into war-torn Europe. "We could see the German anti-aircraft fire coming straight at us," said Peg in an article from the Montrose Daily Press. "We lost four planes out of our squadron of 18 planes that night." Peg's first mission began in England on June 5, 1944, were 1,000 C-47 cargo transports flew to the coast of France. The paratroopers mission on D-Day, was to disrupt German communications, secure bridges, and incite confusion, chaos and panic. This was a far cry from his days working at the Hartman Brothers Auto Dealership in Montrose.

Peg participated in the battle for Nijmegen Bridge. During the famous mission for the "bridge to far", Peg survived a mid-air collision with another allied plane trying to catch cover from anti-aircraft fire. "The Germans had opened the sea gates and had flooded the fields," said Peg of his first mission. "I had 14 men from the 101st Airborne to drop. The lightest man weighed 258 pounds in full field gear. Some of them never got out of the swamps. They were drowned."

Peg returned to the dealership after the war with several medals, and most of all, his life