

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.