

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ACTOR'S EQUITY ASSOCIATION

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Actors' Equity Association, in honor of its 90 years of contributions to the American theater.

Since 1913, Actors' Equity Association has fought for better wages, working conditions, and pension and health benefits for actors and stage managers. Equity has fostered and stimulated the art of live theater and contributed to the health of the American theatrical community. In particular, Actors' Equity plays an important role in the Broadway industry, in the heart of my district, which contributes \$4 billion annually to the economy of New York City and depends greatly on the talent and professionalism of Equity's members.

Throughout Actors' Equity's distinguished history, it has built a proud tradition of contributing to the overall good of our society and community by: fighting against segregation, blacklisting and discrimination; supporting funding for the arts; and spearheading fundraising for charities such as Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

In addition, in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York City, Equity came together with other theatrical unions to keep Broadway shows up and running, helping New York City recover.

The hard work and talent of the more than 45,000 members of Actors' Equity Association contribute to the arts and to their communities in cities and theaters across the country. Actors' Equity Association is committed to ensuring these members are treated with dignity and respect, and that the art of live theater continues to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to applaud Equity's ongoing efforts to uphold the highest artistic standards of live theater in the United States. I commend Actor's Equity for all of its good work and offer my sincerest congratulations upon reaching this milestone.

A VAST HUMAN TRAGEDY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following article for the RECORD. Surely this is evidence of a vast human tragedy.

A VAST HUMAN TRAGEDY

(By Andrew Natsios)

In a decade and a half of humanitarian work I have witnessed the aftermath of much human tragedy, including the Rwandan genocide and the killing fields of Cambodia. In June 2003, I visited Iraq's mass graves, the most recent addition to mankind's legacy of mass murder.

Rows of white bundles containing bones filled room after room. Families filed by, searching for signs of those who had disappeared, some stolen during the night, others taken in daylight. Even small children were not spared the butchery.

The graves that Saddam Hussein's henchmen dug and filled with human beings are a bitter sign that mankind still has a long way to go before every person has the basic human rights promised by all our religions and cultures—the rights of life and liberty.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told the United Nations that under Saddam Hussein, Iraq was "a murderous tyranny that lasted over 35 years." "Today we are unearthing thousands of victims in horrifying testament," Zebari said.

I walked across the sandy plains of Iraq and saw the mass graves that were just found and are beginning to yield their tragic secrets. The bones tell a story of horror and shame: arms bound together, skulls pierced from behind. Hundreds in one long trench.

Those who survived inside Iraq, and those who watched helplessly from abroad, have joined together to begin the long, painful process of accounting for the dead. British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on November 20, 2003, that as many as 400,000 Iraqis lie in these mass graves.

They are Kurds, killed because of their ethnicity. They are Shiites, killed because of their religion. They are Sunnis, killed for their political views. They are Egyptians, Kuwaitis, and Iranians, killed because their lives meant nothing to Saddam Hussein, his sons, and their followers.

As Saddam's evil regime collapsed in April and May, 2003, and his Baath Party mass murderers retreated into the shadows, Iraqis began to act on their formerly hidden grief. They searched for their loved ones rounded up over the years in campaigns of terror. They had heard rumors about shots in the night, mass burials, and vanished prisoners. Now they followed those bloody trails to the mounds of earth they suspected entombed their beloved children and parents.

The new leaders in Al Hillah, Karbala, Najaf, and a dozen other cities and towns around Iraq worked with U.S. and British forces to try and protect some of the mass graves. We hope to preserve the evidence of these crimes against humanity.

Human rights groups have formed, assisted by USAID and working with the Coalition Provisional Authority, to urge people to record the names of those being exhumed and describe the circumstances under which they were seized and slain.

Yes—people want to find the remains of their loved ones and give them a proper burial in consecrated ground. But the Iraqi people also want justice—to punish those who callously killed their fellow citizens by the busload, day after day, year after year.

Above all, if people in Iraq and around the world hope to learn from the crimes of the past, the mass graves of Iraq must be documented, reported, and never forgotten or denied.

This booklet is a small, early marker on that path.

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a resolution to acknowledge 125 years of reliable, timely, and objective science that illustrates and enhances our understanding of the Earth, and serves the important needs of individuals and communities across this great land.

The United States Geological Survey has an outstanding history of public service and scientific breakthroughs. It has been at the forefront of advances in our understanding of the Earth, its processes, and its resources. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey pioneered hydrologic techniques for gauging the impact of floods and modeling the flow of complex ground-water systems. The astronauts who landed on the Moon in 1969 were trained in geology by the USGS.

Innovative ventures with the private sector have given the world access to digital images of neighborhoods and communities in one of the largest data sets ever made available online. Modern-day understanding of the formation and location of energy and mineral resource deposits is rooted in fundamental scientific breakthroughs by USGS scientists. Their biologists revolutionized thinking about managing wildlife resources, providing a sound scientific basis that lets waterfowl conservation and recreational hunting work in tandem as adaptive management, not as conflicting interests. Advances in seismology are making early warnings of earthquakes a reality that will give the needed alert time to save lives. The future of the global community presents infinite opportunities for the science of the USGS to continue to make substantive and life-enhancing contributions to the betterment of the nation and the world.

I congratulate the United States Geological Survey on its 125th anniversary. By commemorating this date, I hope we will come to recognize the crucial services that this institution continues to provide this nation.

The United States Geological Survey is a vital Federal science agency that is headquartered in my District in Northern Virginia; however, Members should know that this agency has an important presence in every state of the union.

How has 125 years of independent science benefitted our nation? It has given us an extensive record of our land and resources, which allows us to realize and track the changes in our land, water, and wildlife. It has provided a wealth of long-term data and research, which continues to serve thousands of government agencies, companies, non-profit organizations, recreational groups, and individual Americans. And it has given us scientific expertise and understanding that we can count on to be accurate and up to date.

Since its inception, the United States Geological Survey has become the premier science organization for the nation, covering all of the natural science disciplines (biology, geography, geology, and hydrology) in every state. This expansive coverage provides us with the comprehensive information we need to tackle many complicated issues in many geographical areas.

As an unbiased science agency, the United States Geological Survey often serves the needs of the nation behind the scenes. Whether it's research on windborne dusts, mercury contamination, or West Nile Virus used to protect public health; or natural hazards assessments used to ensure public safety; or the energy and mineral resources, water and biological information, and geologic mapping and geospatial information used to serve our economy, for 125 years, the United States Geological Survey has provided the science that serves as the basis for our most important decisions.