

when we once again commemorate the Genocide of the Armenians, I hope their descendants will be living in peace with their neighbors, building a democratic, prosperous country that will be a light unto the world.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the ninetieth anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On the night of April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire arrested over 200 Armenian community leaders in Constantinople, thereby marking only the beginning of the horrendous Armenian Genocide to come.

On the eve of World War I, an estimated two million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. Well over a million were deported and hundreds of thousands were simply killed. Between 1915 and 1918, the Ottoman Empire conducted other atrocities against Armenians which also included abduction, torture, massacre and starvation. Armenians living in Armenia and Anatolia were forcibly moved to Syria, where they were left in the desert to die of hunger and thirst. In addition, there were systematic murders; women and children were abducted from their homes and abused. It has been estimated that one and half million Armenians died as a result of this genocide from 1915 to 1923. By 1923 the entire landmass of Asia Minor and historic West Armenia had been expunged of its Armenian population.

On this important anniversary, it is a lasting lesson to people everywhere that genocide must not only be opposed by all nations, but that it must be universally recognized as a crime against humanity—no matter where it occurs or against whom it is carried out.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, during which one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile. Despite overwhelming documentation, the Turkish government has refused to admit or apologize for these atrocious acts, or even acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

As Americans, we must guarantee that our foreign policy reflects our values of justice, equality and responsibility. These values should apply in all of our international interactions, including those with Turkey, a NATO ally. Turkey wishes to increase its global profile through accession to organizations such as the European Union. However, if Turkey wishes to gain the world's respect, it must earn it. It must demonstrate its commitment to peace and democracy in the region. It must reopen its borders, end its blockade of Armenia, and encourage Azerbaijan to end its aggressive rhetoric. And most importantly, it must accept responsibility for past injustices through an unconditional recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Only then can Turkey begin to come to terms with its history. Only then can Armenians seek justice from the Turkish government for the losses of so much and so many.

Last month, I was honored to lead a conference session for Rhode Island students in which we discussed the genocide and what steps our government should take to recognize that tragedy appropriately. I think practically every student present that morning was amazed that, despite overwhelming evidence and widespread support, Congress has not yet passed the genocide resolution. It is time for Congress and the White House to speak with one voice and ensure that our national ideals

are reflected in our foreign policy. Consequently, I joined many of my colleagues in asking the President to recognize the Armenian Genocide in unambiguous terms, and I will again cosponsor the Genocide Resolution when it is reintroduced in the coming weeks.

As an ardent supporter of Rhode Island's Armenian-American community throughout my public service career, I am proud to join my colleagues to today in honoring the victims of the genocide by paying tribute to their memory, showing compassion for those who have suffered from such prejudice, and never forgetting the pain that they have endured.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, for the past nine years, I have come to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to honor and remember the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the 20th Century.

This year marks the 90th Anniversary of these heinous acts, which drove so many survivors to the distant shores of the United States. Those of us in central Massachusetts have learned the story of the Armenian Genocide from our friends, neighbors and colleagues who are direct survivors, or the children and grandchildren of those survivors.

I have been privileged to participate in many of the annual remembrances of the Armenian Genocide held in Worcester, Massachusetts, at the Armenian Church of Our Savior, one of the oldest Armenian churches and congregations in America.

But I feel more privileged to have worked with the Armenian community in Worcester to educate the community, and especially young people and college students, about not only the Armenian Genocide, but about other contemporary and even current genocides that are taking place around the world. I am especially grateful that I will be able to collaborate with them in the future on events that will focus on the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

May we all live to see and celebrate the day when we commemorate the Armenian Genocide in a world where genocides no longer take place against any people.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order on the Armenian genocide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING ATHENS, TEXAS, MAYOR JERRY KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional leadership, character, and outstanding achievements of my dear friend, Mayor Jerry King of Athens, Texas. After an

unprecedented five terms in office and 10 years of exceptional service, Mayor King has decided to step down as mayor. His decision is truly a loss to the citizens of Athens, Texas.

A responsive and fiscally responsible leader, Jerry King has always brought Athens together to achieve many worthy goals, including the opening of a new city hall that is modern and meeting the needs of the citizens of that community and the Texas Freshwater Fishery Center, which is truly a wonderful showplace facility for Athens and east Texas that helps educate numerous tourists and school children on the wonders of nature and the environment and our freshwater fish.

He has helped revitalize downtown Athens, Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a time when many small towns in rural America and rural Texas have seen a decline, they have seen their glory days pass them up, downtown Athens is vibrant, it is alive, it is well, thanks to the leadership of Jerry King. It shows that Athens' glory days are in the present and in the future, not in the past.

Mayor King has also worked to improve Athens' transportation infrastructure through the new loop that is just vital to economic development in that part of east Texas. Mayor King has led and won the support on so many different programs and projects that are important to the people of Athens. This is truly a record of accomplishment.

Undoubtedly because of it, Mayor King is recognized as a strong and visionary leader throughout all of east Texas; and elected officials throughout East Texas, including myself, have sought his advice, his counsel, his wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, he is upbeat, he is optimistic, he is forward thinking and he is a good listener; and through his efforts he has made Athens, Texas, a better place to live, to learn, to work, and to raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, Jerry King has not only demonstrated his dedication to public service through his tenure as mayor but through his volunteer service and enthusiastic involvement in community organizations as well. Jerry has always led by example. He served as the president of the Henderson County YMCA, the president of the Athens Noon Kiwanis Club, the president of the Athens Teenage Baseball Association, the vice president of the Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Athens Industrial Foundation, and the list goes on and on and on.

In his professional career, Jerry King has undertaken a noble life, that of educator. His life is one about improving education and strengthening our institutions of higher learning.

After graduating from Commerce High School, Jerry King attended Texas A&M University at Commerce, where he received a bachelor's degree in economics, a master's degree in business administration, and a doctorate in education.

He has put his education to work for the citizens of east Texas as a professor of management, business and economics at his beloved Trinity Valley Community College. Today he serves there as Dean of Occupational Instruction; and thanks to his work, young people from all over east Texas have been enlightened about business and economics, and thusly they have been empowered. They have been empowered by a great teacher that they respect and admire to go out and create the next generation of inventory software, to help found the next community bank next door.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased today to recognize my good friend Jerry King for his many years of public service as mayor and for the outstanding contributions he has made to the city of Athens. I also want to thank his wonderful and patient wife, Doshia, for the sacrifice she too has made on behalf of the people of Athens.

Although he is stepping down as mayor, Jerry King has truly made his community and country a better place. I know he will continue to do so, be it as public servant, leader, volunteer, or educator.

Mr. Speaker, the greatest compliment I can pay my friend Jerry King tonight is that when I think about my 19-month-old son, Travis, I can be proud if one day he would grow up to be just like Mayor Jerry King of Athens, Texas.

#### NO TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last week more than 150 Republicans and Democrats, Senators and House Members, business groups and labor organizations gathered on Capitol Hill to speak out against the Central American Free Trade Agreement. This group of unlikely bedfellows, if you will, spoke with one voice to deliver a unified message, no to CAFTA.

CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, expands the failed trade policies of the North American Free Trade Agreement to Central America. When I ran for Congress in 1992, the United States had a \$38 billion trade deficit. Last year, a dozen years later, the United States had a \$618 billion trade deficit: from \$38 billion to \$618 billion trade deficit.

The more you look at the face of CAFTA, the better you can see who will benefit and who will pay the price if Congress passes one more trade agreement. Trade pacts like NAFTA and CAFTA enable companies to go overseas, exploit cheap labor in the developing world, and then import their products back into the United States. That is why we have a \$618 billion trade deficit.

The Central American Free Trade Agreement should actually be called the Central American Free Labor Agreement.

Now, we know in the United States our economy over the last several decades has been a tremendous success because workers share in the wealth they create. If you work for General Motors, if you work for a hardware store, you help your employer by your labor make money, and your employer in turn allows you to share in the wealth you create. That is why the American economy is such a success story.

But throughout the developing world, workers simply do not share in the wealth they create. Workers in Costa Rica cannot afford to buy the toys they make for Disney for their children. Workers in Vietnam at a Nike plant cannot afford to buy the shoes they make. Motorola workers in Malaysia cannot afford to buy the cell phones they make. Ford and GM workers in Mexico cannot afford to buy the cars they manufacture.

The Central American Free Labor Agreement is about access to cheap labor. The numbers do not lie. The combined purchasing power of the CAFTA nations, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the combined purchasing power of those six countries is equal to that of Columbus, Ohio, or Orlando, Florida, or Memphis, Tennessee, or the entire State of Kansas.

CAFTA supporters attempt to argue that this trade agreement will open markets for U.S. exports. They paint a picture of American workers manufacturing products for this hugely growing consumer market in Central America. But the math does not lie. The average salary of a Nicaraguan worker is \$2,300 a year, \$191 a month. Nicaraguan workers cannot afford to buy a car made in Ohio. They cannot afford to buy shoes made in Maine. They cannot afford to buy textiles or apparel made in North Carolina or Georgia. They cannot afford to buy software made in Seattle in the district of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT).

The fact is, I ask CAFTA supporters, what American-made product can a Central American worker purchase who is earning less than \$200 a month? CAFTA supporters will not answer these questions. They cannot.

The truth is that CAFTA is not about selling them American products. CAFTA is about exploiting foreign workers, about taking American jobs to Central America. It is about exploiting those foreign workers, and it means fewer jobs here.

NAFTA promised job growth in the U.S. and a thriving middle class in Mexico; but 10 years later our Nation has lost 1 million jobs, and Mexican workers' wages have remained stagnant.

CAFTA, the dysfunctional cousin of NAFTA, is more of the same: another trade agreement that ships jobs overseas, another trade agreement that ne-

glects the essential environmental standards, another trade agreement that weakens food safety standards in both countries, another trade agreement that keeps foreign workers in poverty.

The definition of madness, Mr. Speaker, is repeating the same action over and over again and expecting a different result. That is what happened: 12 years of trade agreements, 12 years of promises, 12 years of failed trade policy. Yet the insanity of it is we keep doing the same thing. We keep passing more trade agreements.

CAFTA simply does not make sense. The President signed CAFTA almost 1 year ago. Since 2001, typically when the President signs an agreement, we vote on it within 60 days. This week, on Thursday, will be the 11-month anniversary of the signing of CAFTA. House leaders said they are going to vote on it by the end of May.

Mr. Speaker, I would close by saying when the world's poorest workers can buy American products, rather than make them, then we will know that our trade policies are finally succeeding. CAFTA will not. Vote "no" on CAFTA.

#### IN SUPPORT OF LT. ILARIO PANTANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today is the Article 32 hearing for Second Lieutenant Ilario Pantano, a Marine who I have talked about at great length and who has served our Nation bravely in both gulf wars.

In an action of self-defense a year ago in Iraq, Lt. Pantano made a split-second, battlefield decision to shoot two Iraqi insurgents who refused to follow his orders to stop their movement towards him. Two-and-a-half months later, a sergeant under his command who never even saw the shooting and who was earlier demoted for his lack of leadership abilities, accused him of murder. Because of that, Lt. Pantano today faces an Article 32 hearing where a hearing officer will determine whether he will face a court marshal for two counts of premeditated murder.

Mr. Speaker, what is happening to this young man is unfair and an injustice. Lt. Pantano has served this Nation with great honor. My personal experiences with him and his family convince me that he is a dedicated family man who loves his corps and his country.

Mona Charen, a well-known journalist, puts it best when she writes: "Pantano was in the middle of a war zone, not a vacation on the Riviera. He had been dodging ambushes and booby traps for weeks. He had seen his comrades killed and maimed. Perhaps he acted too hastily in shooting those Iraqis. But a murder charge? Has the