

and to honor those who continue on the noble work of service, safety and assistance.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the men and women in blue who have paid the ultimate price in protecting the safety of others. We also join in honor and recognition of the family members whose lives were forever altered upon losing a loved one in the line of duty. We extend our deepest gratitude to all police officers, for their commitment, courage and unwavering sense of duty in their vocation of service to others. The individual and collective work of our police officers is framed by integrity, dedication and excellence, serving as a shield of security and hope for every one of us—and their courage and sacrifice will be forever honored and remembered.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PAN-PONTIAN FEDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA ON THE ANNUAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE PONTIAN GREEK VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the annual day of remembrance of the genocide of the Pontian Greek people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire that took place from 1915 to 1923, and to salute the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada for its role in preserving and passing on the vibrant history and traditions of the Pontian Greeks.

With a long and distinguished history and a proud culture, the Greek Pontians have for millennia upheld Hellenic traditions against all odds. Named after Pontus, the Greek term denoting "the sea," the Pontians trace their origins to the region of the southeastern part of the Black Sea. There, one of the first Greek cities of Pontus, Sinope, was founded in 785 B.C.

The seeds for the Pontian genocide were planted during negotiations among the European powers that led to the signing of the Treaty of Berlin in 1878. The ensuing rise of nationalism led to many revolutionary wars and independence movements within the decaying Ottoman Empire, causing Turkish leaders to become increasingly fearful that their ethnically diverse domain would begin to disintegrate.

By the turn of the 20th century, many nations within the Balkans had acquired their independence from the Turks. However, due to the politics of the era, many of these newly formed nations only consisted of a small portion of their population, as the great powers had no desire to see these new Balkan states become too strong. As a result, many Serbians, Greeks and Bulgarians still lived within the borders of the Ottoman Empire. The nations of the Balkans yearned to incorporate and unite their people who still lived under Turkish rule. This situation led to the Balkan Wars of 1912–1913, in which the members of the Balkan League joined to present a united front against their Turkish oppressors. The Ottoman armies were soundly defeated, and national borders were created and rearranged accordingly.

The reality was that many different nationalities existed within the Ottoman Empire and that their increasing desire to unite with their mother countries did indeed pose an ultimately fatal threat to the continued existence of the Ottoman Empire. In reaction, the Young Turk movement ushered in a new nationalistic and ethnocentric ideology in the Ottoman Empire. From 1916 to 1923, largely under the leadership of Kemal Ataturk, the Ottoman Empire began to practice a ferocious genocide of the Christian population within its borders.

In 1916, after the Turks had concluded their massacre of the Armenian people, the Pontians became their next victims. The Pontian Greeks were subject to massacres, atrocities, mass rapes and abductions of women and children. They were forced into starvation and sent on long marches whose true intended destination was the graveyard of history. This genocide almost resulted in the extinction of a people who had lived on Asia Minor for nearly three millennia. Between the years of 1915 and 1923, more than half of the Pontian population, or about 353,000 human beings, fell victim to what the world now knows to be genocide. These Pontians who did survive the Turkish onslaught were exiled from their ancestral homes, and many fled to Greece, Russia and the United States. It is estimated that there were about 400,000 Pontian refugees during this cataclysmic era.

Despite the death and displacement of almost 1 million Pontians, their traditions and culture still resonate across the world to this day. While forces of evil tried to obliterate an entire people, the determination and endurance of the Pontian Greeks stand as a testament to mankind's extraordinary ability to defy all odds in the hope of ultimately living in peace and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my distinguished colleagues join me in observing the annual day of remembrance of the victims of the Pontian Greek genocide, and in recognizing the Pan-Pontian Federation of the United States of America and Canada, its vital mission of preserving Pontian Greek culture and history, and its significance as a symbol of mankind's hope and endurance.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
FLOYD PATTERSON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the life and legacy of Floyd Patterson, a giant of our time. He emerged not only as a heavyweight boxing champion, but as a champion for morality and an exemplar of courage. Patterson's life achievements span throughout the world, though his most notable accomplishments are in the sport of boxing. Patterson defeated opponents in the ring and those challengers he had to overcome outside the ring, particularly the likes of poverty and social marginality.

Patterson was born January 4, 1935, in a dilapidated cabin in rural Waco, NC. He later as a small boy moved to a poor neighborhood in Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. His early years were met by challenges in school and emotional unrest. At the age of 11

he was sent to Wiltwyck School for Boys, an institution for emotionally disturbed youths in upstate New York. In a later account of Patterson, he said the school and a particular teacher, Vivien Costen, saved his life. At Wiltwyck he first discovered his interest with boxing and it was encouraged by his teachers.

In 1947 he returned to Brooklyn. At age 14 he began working out with his brothers at Gramercy gym on New York's Lower East Side. The gym was owned by the legendary Constantine "Cus" D'Amato, who later would become Patterson's manager. At age 16, Patterson won the New York Golden Gloves middleweight title at Madison Square Garden. He was successful in winning 11 amateur championships in the Golden Gloves and the Amateur Athletic Union. In 1952 at the Olympics in Helsinki he won a gold medal and later that year, at age 17, he turned pro.

In 1965, the Washington Post described him as "a quietly confident young man with a school boyish air who likes ice cream, sweet potatoes and cream-colored cars." D'Amato was protective and careful with the progression of his career. However, when Rocky Marciano retired, D'Amato navigated a channel for his young fighter to the number one contender spot. On June 8, 1956, Patterson defeated Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson even though he suffered a broken hand 2 weeks before the fight. The victory positioned him to fight for the heavyweight title. On November 30, 1956, Patterson knocked out Archie Moore in Chicago to become the youngest world heavyweight champion.

Patterson has been described as a good guy in the bad world of boxing. His fans loved him—the way he fought and his admirable personality and quiet spirit. Cus D'Amato, his trainer, called him "a kind stranger." Red Smith, the New York Times sports columnist, called him "the man of peace who loves to fight" Patterson once said of himself, "You can hit me and I won't think much of it, but you can say something and hurt me very much."

Patterson's career as a boxer has set the standard for greatness in the world of boxing. He became the first to hold the heavyweight title twice. He suffered a hard loss to Swedish boxer Ingemar Johansson at Yankee Stadium on June 26, 1959, but regained the title a year later when he knocked out Johansson in the fifth round. Patterson said that it was the most gratifying moment in his life. He successfully defended his title until he fought "Sonny" Liston in September 25, 1962 in Chicago. Overall, Patterson finished 55–8–1 with 40 knockouts. Patterson was voted into the United States Olympic Committee Hall of Fame in 1987 and he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1991.

After he retired, Patterson became a passionate advocate for the sport of boxing. At a congressional subcommittee hearing he said, "I would not like to see boxing abolished. I come from the ghetto, and boxing is a way out. It would be pitiful to abolish boxing because you would be taking away the one way out." Patterson was a member of the New York State Athletic Commission, which supervises the sport of boxing in the state and from 1995 to 1998 he chaired the Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of Floyd Patterson, an American hero.