

of HIV/AIDS prevention, but due to their experience of implementing the PEPFAR abstinence and fidelity programs they had become convinced of their efficacy.

I would strongly encourage my fellow Members to examine the growing evidence regarding the success of the ABC model in HIV/AIDS prevention. It is, fundamentally, a matter of life and death.

NINETY-SECOND COMMEMORATION
OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the first genocide of the 20th century. More than 90 years ago, the Ottoman Empire organized a campaign to exterminate 1.5 million Armenians. The world watched as this horror unfolded before them, and did nothing.

As the first genocide of the 21st century—this time in Darfur—began to take shape, the world again hesitated, this time to debate for months the definition of genocide, as thousands died and thousands more were displaced. Today, 200,000 people have been killed in Darfur and 2.5 million driven from their homes. And so, I rise Mr. Speaker not only to acknowledge and remember the horrific events that befell the Armenian people at the dawn of the last century, but also to highlight the horrific events occurring one hundred years later in Darfur at the dawn of this century.

For the past few years, as the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approached, I hoped that year would be the year a solution to the crisis would come. But, this year, instead of speaking of how the lessons of the Armenian Genocide helped unite the world around a solution for Darfur, I can only report of ongoing suffering and continued killings.

As the world pauses today to remember those who suffered and died during the Armenian Genocide, we need to ask ourselves if we have really absorbed the lessons of that tragedy—and, if we are really doing all that can be done to bring this century's genocide to an end.

ISLAND OF CYPRUS AND THE
ANNAN PLAN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring renewed attention to the continued situation on the island of Cyprus. On this date three years ago, the inhabitants of the island participated in a referendum put forward by

the United Nations under Secretary General Kofi Annan. The Annan Plan, as it is often referred to, foresaw a bi-communal, bi-zonal federation based on political equality. We recall that the Turkish Cypriots in the north of the island voted by an impressive majority in favor of the Annan Plan. Unfortunately, this support was not reciprocated by the Greek Cypriots and a comprehensive settlement was not, nor has been since, agreed to.

The Annan Plan was the product of intense negotiations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General between the Turkish Cypriots, Greek Cypriots, Turkey and Greece. It was the first plan to date to be submitted for public approval. In addition, it struck a fair compromise between the two sides on the island and was supported by both the United States and the European Union. Had it passed, it would have brought about a resolution to the longstanding separation of the island and contributed to political stability in this region of the world. Following the referendum, the Greek Cypriot side, which rejected the Annan Plan, was granted entrance into the EU. However, the Turkish Cypriot side, which accepted the settlement plan, remained outside the EU.

Soon after the referendum, the former U.N. Secretary-General, in his report to the Security Council, pointed out this injustice and stressed that the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots should be lifted given that they had voted for a settlement. In the same report, he called upon all states to eliminate the unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the people of Northern Cyprus and impeding development.

The Council of the European Union, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference all concurred in declaring the need to put right this injustice.

Although it has been three years since the international community made commitments towards this end, and despite the conviction that reducing the inequalities between the economies of the two sides would facilitate the reunification of the island, the necessary steps have not been taken regarding the removal or relaxation of the isolation. Admirably, the Turkish Cypriots have not wavered in their determination to engage in further efforts to find a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem and they welcome the initiatives carried out under the mission of good offices of the U.N. Secretary General.

More than ever before, as supporters of a comprehensive settlement on the island, I strongly believe that the removal of the isolation of the Turkish Cypriots—economic, social, and political—would be the most positive step in the quest for the resumption of political negotiations on the path to a settlement. The Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated remarkable flexibility and political maturity. They rose to the occasion when the critical moment came three years ago in mutually deciding the future of Cyprus. Acknowledging and properly responding to their constructive behavior is not only the right message to all concerned, but is also a requisite of fairness and justice.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF HE
HONORABLE JUANITA
MILLENDER-MCDONALD, MEM-
BER OF CONGRESS FROM THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 23, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my close and dear friend JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, whom I have worked with and known for many, many years. I am deeply saddened by the news of her untimely passing, and I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends, and constituents of this distinguished Member of Congress.

She came to Congress in 1996 and quickly moved up the ranks among her peers. Her commitment to excellence led her to achieve a series of political firsts, including, becoming the first African American woman to chair the Committee on House Administration, the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council; the first to hold the position of Chairwoman for two powerful California State Assembly committees in her first term, and the first African American woman to give the national Democratic response to President Bush's weekly radio address. She spoke her mind and was not easily intimidated by political pressure, regardless of from where it came.

Furthermore, in the 110th Congress, in addition to her Chairmanship, she served on eight full and sub-committees. One issue that the Congresswoman and I worked on closely together was the protection of one's fundamental and Constitutional right to vote. Our combined efforts on voting irregularities in Ohio ultimately led to the introduction of HR 4141 in 2005, which would amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002.

She believed that there are no more important responsibilities in the People's House of Representatives than ensuring that the ability to vote in free and fair elections is not compromised in any manner, which has not always been the case. She was a visionary, an advocate for justice for all Americans, and the embodiment of determination.

MILLENDER-MCDONALD was a role model and incredibly dedicated to the empowerment of woman and youth as the Founder and Executive Director of the League of African-American Women, and the Founder of the Young Advocates, a political leadership-training program for African-Americans between the ages of 18 and 35.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with a distinguished woman of strength, integrity, and dynamism. Not only will I miss her dearly, but she will also be missed by the many people that she has touched throughout her service in Congress.