

you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in recognizing the valuable contribution the shelter, its staff and volunteers make to Alpena County. Please join with and the people of Alpena County, Michigan in congratulating the Huron Humane Society on a job well done and best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
GEOLOGIC MAPPING REAUTHOR-
IZATION ACT OF 2008

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to be joined by the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Mr. RAHALL of West Virginia, in introducing the National Geologic Mapping Reauthorization Act of 2008, which would reauthorize the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program, a critically important initiative that was created by the Geologic Mapping Act of 1992, originally sponsored by Chairman RAHALL.

The importance of geologic maps to our society is not very well known by the general public, but it is hard to overstate. Geologic maps help us build highways, safeguard drinking water, prepare for disasters, protect wildlife, discover precious minerals, locate the fuels that power our society, and much more.

Geologic maps are particularly essential for my own home State. Californians face more geologic hazards than almost anyone else in the country. Over 25 million people live in the State's tectonically active regions near the coast, where earthquakes are only one of a multitude of geologic threats. Landslides, floods, hazardous minerals, and tsunamis are some of the other dangers that come with living in one of the most seismically active and geologically diverse states in the nation.

The STATEMAP component of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program has provided over \$2.5 million to California, matched by over \$2.6 million from the State, to create highly precise geologic maps that are being used by the California Geological Survey's Seismic Hazard Mapping Program to identify areas that are most prone to liquefaction or landslides during earthquakes. This information allows communities to require stronger building codes in areas that are more susceptible to these hazards, or to avoid them altogether.

In addition, the maps created through STATEMAP provide information about the location of California's abundant supply of oil, natural gas, and valuable minerals, and have also been used to support water management decision-making around Lake Tahoe.

California is, of course, not the only State that benefits from the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program. Since the program's inception, 49 States, plus Puerto Rico, have matched nearly \$70 million in STATEMAP funds to help produce over 7,500 new geologic maps. Despite this effort, only about 25 percent of the Nation has been mapped at a precision that provides the maximum benefits. And only 2 percent of Cali-

fornia has been mapped under the STATEMAP program.

There are two additional components to the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program: the FEDMAP component, which is run by the United States Geological Survey and carries out geologic mapping according to priorities developed by a Federal advisory committee, and the EDMAP component, which has provided millions of dollars to help train over 600 students at 131 universities across the Nation. According to the Department of the Interior, the vast majority of those students receiving EDMAP grants continued in the geosciences, indicating that this program is truly helping to train the next generation of geologists.

A reauthorization of the National Cooperative Geologic Mapping Program is necessary in order to continue to move the goals of the program forward, to build on the momentum of the previous 16 years, and to provide comprehensive geologic mapping of the entire country. The program has been reauthorized with broad bipartisan support in 1997 and 1999, and a similar bill introduced in the 109th Congress received the endorsement of the administration and passed the House on a voice vote. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and moving forward quickly toward reauthorizing this essential program.

HONORING HRANT DINK

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, this month we remember the one-year anniversary of the tragic death of Hrant Dink, a prominent Turkish-Armenian intellectual and human rights advocate. Dink fought tirelessly to engage the Turkish community in open discussions of the many injustices suffered by Armenians, beginning with the Genocide of 1915. As a mentor and a hero, his tragic death shook the lives of many around the world.

Dink's tireless efforts and strong conviction to educate the citizens of Turkey, and his writings of the Armenian Genocide led to a 6-month jail sentence in October 2005. He advocated for justice, and wrote with a conscience, all despite daily threats to his life. Hrant Dink was killed because he was a courageous journalist and continued to write his columns in hopes of getting rid of the ignorance that exists in Turkey. On the one-year anniversary of his death we remember Dink's message of liberty, civility, truth and bridge-building. In Dink's memory, I have joined my House colleagues in recognizing the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

It is my hope that Turkey will repeal the arbitrary statute, which makes it a crime to "insult Turkishness." Turkey claims to be a secular state with free elections, yet it clearly lacks the chief principle of a democratic nation: freedom of the press. The death of Hrant Dink is a tragedy that was fueled by injustice, and I strongly urge Turkey to abolish this capricious and dated statute.

I express my condolences to the family and colleagues of Hrant Dink. As we recall him in

life, and mourn his tragic death, we renew our commitment to work towards advancing the ideals and values, for which he so passionately stood.

IN TRIBUTE TO GUAM POLICE
OFFICER FRANKIE E. SMITH

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join the people of Guam in mourning the loss of one of Guam's finest in a senseless hit and run. On the night of December 30, 2007, Guam Police Officer Frankie E. Smith was on his police motorcycle responding to a 911 call for police assistance when he was fatally struck by a drunken driver. I rise to honor and pay tribute to Officer Frankie E. Smith, and all law enforcement personnel on Guam and throughout our country, who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving and protecting our communities.

Officer Frankie E. Smith, a young man of 35 years, was born on August 30, 1972, attended the public schools of Guam and graduated from the 1st Guam Community College Basic Law Enforcement Academy in 1997. He immediately began his career in service to his community in the aftermath of the devastation of Super typhoon Paka. But even before the completion of his police training, his service to his people and his country began as a citizen soldier of the United States Army and Air Force Reserves. "Smitty" wanted to become the best police officer he could be, and this motivated him to seek out and complete extensive training in various areas of law enforcement, including crime scene investigation, responding to terrorist threats, and detection of illegal substances. His desire for greater knowledge and skills was answered through intensive training with various local and Federal law enforcement agencies, including the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Officer Smith's tenacity as a police officer was instrumental in solving numerous crimes against property and violent crimes against individuals, in the apprehension and arrest of their perpetrators, and in the recovery of evidence leading to convictions. His skills and motivation as an officer of the law were recognized and commended on numerous occasions by the leadership of the Guam Police Department and the Governor of Guam. His resolve and determination to serve the public and protect our community will be sorely missed by his fellow officers and the citizens of Guam, but his memory will always serve as motivation to those who served with him and to those who will follow.

On behalf of the people of Guam I extend our sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to his wife Tishawanna Hernandez Smith, daughters, Tamara Perez and Kae'Ana Justine Smith, to his parents, Frank Borja and Teresita Fejeran Smith, and to his fellow brothers and sisters in uniform, the officers in the Guam Police Department.