

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ED MOODY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, this Thursday evening in Franklin, Tennessee, our community will gather to honor an extraordinary American. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ed Moody as he receives the Community Service Award from Williamson Christian College.

Ed Moody was born and raised in Kingston Springs, Tennessee. After serving in the Pacific Theater in World War II, he joined his brother in a tire re-treading business on Main Street in Franklin. That business would eventually relocate to Columbia Avenue and become an institution in our community, Moody's Tire & Auto Service.

Not content with running a business and raising a family, Ed embraced Rotary International and its motto of "service above self." In his 56 years of membership, Ed Moody has been a living example of Rotary's principles of encouraging service, promoting ethical conduct, applying the ideal of service in personal, business, and community life, and advancing understanding, goodwill and peace.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Ed Moody and congratulating him and his family on this occasion. We would all do well to follow his example of leaving a small piece of the world better than we found it.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire set out on a campaign to exterminate the Armenian people. Between 1915 and 1923, the numbers were horrific. One and a half million Armenians were murdered and 500,000 deported from their homelands. At the end of these eight years, the Armenian population of Anatolia and Western Armenia was virtually eliminated, becoming one of the 20th century's darkest chapters.

While acknowledging the role played by the Ottoman Empire in killing Armenians, some have laid doubt to the claim of genocide, citing the subsequent deportation of the survivors as merely a movement of a people from one land to another. Henry Morgenthau, the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913–1916, saw it much differently. In his memoirs, Morgenthau recalls that the Turks, "never had the slightest idea of reestablishing the Armenians in (a) new country" knowing that "the great majority of those would . . . either die of thirst and starvation, or be murdered by the wild Mohammedan desert tribes."

I recall Morgenthau's words here because he saw first hand the atrocities wrought on the Armenians, and he had been told by Turks that they understood quite well that they had handed down a death sentence to the Armenian people. The Turks not only knew of what they were doing, but spoke quite freely of it. Eighty years later, however, many are still unwilling to recognize the killing for what it was: genocide.

The U.S. has long been a global leader in promoting human rights around the world. On the issue of the Armenian genocide, however, we lag behind. The French, Swiss, Swedish, Germans, and even the Russian governments recognize the Armenian genocide properly. As a global leader in human rights, it is imperative for the U.S. to stand on principle and recognize the annihilation of the Armenians.

However, it is no less important today to recognize the Armenian genocide for what it is. The deafening silence that came in its wake set the stage for a century that saw genocides occur in Europe, Africa, and Asia. While the Armenian genocide was the first of the 20th century, the blind eye cast to the slaughter of Armenians was a point used by Hitler who asked his joint chiefs of staff, "Who . . . speaks today of the [their] annihilation?"

To the critics who say that we should not dwell on history, I say it's much harder to get tomorrow right if we get yesterday wrong. The world's strength to oppose killing today is made greater by accountability, for actions present, but also past. It's weakened by denial of accountability of past acts. Not recognizing the Armenian genocide, as such, does just that.

THE OCCASION OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Today, April 24th, is the 93rd anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th Century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia,

and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

EARTH DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Earth Day.

On Earth Day, we celebrate the limitless gifts of our natural world—the incredible life-giving forces that sustain us through every single day of the year. It is all too easy to take the air we breathe, the water we drink, the earth we walk for granted. Today, we pause to recognize what precious gifts these are.

We need this reminder now more than ever. Our environment is fragile, threatened by global climate change, exploding demand for resources, and other serious challenges. Our future depends upon how we respond. Congress, the President, and every nation on the globe must commit to charting a new course toward sustainable and earth-renewing lives.

Earth Day reminds us that we must act to protect our environment not just out of obligation or self-preservation, but because it is simply the right thing to do for the next generation. We owe our children and grandchildren our strongest efforts to clean up pollution, preserve our wild spaces, and reduce the human footprint on our globe.

As Americans, we also owe a unique debt to Planet Earth. Our nation is responsible for 25% of the world's energy consumption—far more than our fair share. If we continue consuming at this rate as nations like India and China increase their resource demands, our planet will change forever in ways that will seriously impact all of our lives.

The United States must lead the urgent effort to find a different path. We must find ways

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