

Sadly, there still remain those who aggressively deny or raise doubt about this chapter of history. The Republic of Turkey threatens severe diplomatic consequences to nations that officially recognize the genocide, and current Turkish law deems discussion of the genocide to be a criminal offense. Moreover, as a part of negotiations to end its seventeen-year blockade of the modern nation of Armenia, Turkey has insisted on the establishment of a new historical commission to study the events of 1915 to 1923, as if abundant scholarly evidence of genocide did not already exist.

If we are to prevent future atrocities, we must not be afraid to speak out about those that have taken place in the past. I am proud to have cosponsored H. Res. 252, which passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee on March 4, 2010. The resolution calls upon the President to ensure that the foreign policy of the United States reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity of the United States record relating to the Armenian Genocide. That vote—as well as today's somber tribute—reflects our determination to honor the memory of the genocide's victims and leads us to vow, once more, that genocide will never go unnoticed, unmentioned, or unmourned.

HONORING HELEN THOMPSON

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Commander Helen Thompson on the occasion of her retirement from the United States Navy. Commander Thompson has bravely and selflessly served our country for over 25 years, and for her service our nation is forever grateful.

Commander Thompson enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1978 following graduation from high school. One of her first assignments was on the USS *L Y Spear* where she was among the first group of women to serve in the gray ship Navy. While with the ship company she supported the operation in the Middle East during the Iranian Hostage Situation in 1980.

After five years of active duty service, Commander Thompson joined the Naval Reserve and pursued her education. Commander Thompson graduated from Winona State University in 1989 and subsequently received a commission in the Medical Service Corps. Commander Thompson furthered her education by earning a graduate degree in Information Technology Management from the Naval Postgraduate School and earned a certificate degree in the Department of Defense Chief Information Office Certification Program from the National Defense University. Her countless honors and awards include four Navy Commendation Medals, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

In addition to protecting our nation's freedoms, Commander Thompson is a wife, mother and grandmother. I know her husband, Leslie Thompson, her children, David, Leslie Rae and Barbara, and her two grandchildren David Cole II and Haileigh, are proud of her service. Further, Commander Thompson's family continues the proud tradition of service to their

country via her son, David Thompson, who is currently serving in Korea with the U.S. Army.

In closing, I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Commander Thompson for her distinguished service and outstanding commitment to our country.

IN HONOR OF ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD'S OUTSTANDING CAREER OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rose on February 3rd to pay tribute to Arthur H. Rosenfeld for his lifetime of service and leadership on energy conservation, on behalf of myself and the following members: Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, LOIS CAPPS, GRACE NAPOLITANO, LAURA RICHARDSON, LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, JACKIE SPEIER, JANE HARMAN, DORIS MATSUI, BRAD SHERMAN, HOWARD BERMAN, JOHN GARAMENDI, MICHAEL M. HONDA, BOB FILNER, and ZOE LOFGREN. I would like to submit for the RECORD a letter sent by members of the California congressional delegation to Mr. Rosenfeld on the occasion of his retirement as a member of the California Energy Commission.

Dear Art:

Please accept our good wishes on your retirement as a member of the California Energy Commission.

For over half a century, you have led the energy efficiency movement in California and nationally. As a result of your inspiration and innovative leadership, offices and homes throughout California, and the appliances our residents purchase, are more energy efficient than ever before.

Californians today use no more energy than they did three decades ago. New energy efficiency mandates you have sponsored are expected to deliver energy dividends of \$8 billion or more over the next decade.

As you have often said, "the cheapest energy is what you don't use." California's economy is more productive and efficient, our air is cleaner, and our energy industries and research centers are more dynamic because of your work.

You have changed the thinking of industry and government, and changed the habits of Californians from all walks of life in terms of how we think about and use energy on a daily basis.

These are exceptional achievements, and they are a lasting legacy of an exemplary career in public service. Your work has dramatically improved our public policy—not only in California but across the nation.

Accordingly, as members of the California Congressional delegation, we want to take public note of your work, to thank you for your unstinting public service, and to express our appreciation for all you have done to benefit our State, to promote America's energy security, and to shine a light that will help lead the way to a clean energy future for our country in the 21st century.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the citizens of Israel and all Jewish-Americans as they celebrate Israel's 62nd Independence Day.

Israel and its citizens have demonstrated tremendous resilience in the face of constant threats to their personal and national security. The United States has no stronger ally in the Middle East than Israel. The special relationship between the U.S. and Israel is rooted in our common commitment to democratic values and shared vision of establishing and maintaining a lasting peace in the region.

Israel's Independence Day should serve as an occasion to renew our commitment to the long-term security of our cherished ally and reaffirm that a strong Israel is vital to our national interest and the stability of the Middle East.

Daniel Kutner, Consul General of Israel to the Mid-Atlantic Region of the United States, will welcome supporters of Israel to the annual Independence Day Ceremony on April 26, 2010 at the Museum of Archeology and Anthropology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the citizens of Israel and all Jewish-Americans as they commemorate this extremely special milestone and expressing unwavering support for the security and stability of this shining beacon of democracy in a turbulent Middle East.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the