

COMMEMORATING THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, 96 years ago this month, the Ottoman Empire began a brutal campaign against its Armenian citizens, marking the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. At the end of this atrocity in 1923, more than 1.5 million Armenians had perished.

Once again, despite the absence of an official recognition on behalf of the American government, I stand to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. This injustice deserves recognition by the U.S. For years, a resolution affirming the U.S. position on Armenian Genocide has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and, as a member of the House Armenian Issues Caucus, I have co-sponsored that resolution.

Over two dozen countries and 43 states, including my home state of Illinois, have affirmed the Armenian Genocide, demonstrating unwavering support for this position. As I have said before, there will never be a convenient time to officially recognize the Armenian Genocide, but we must do what is right and officially declare these atrocities as genocide.

The official commemoration of the Armenian Genocide also provides an opportunity to recognize the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people. Their daily contributions to our communities are the best testament of their kindness, strength and commitment to justice and peace. As a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, I call on my colleagues in Congress and the Obama administration to join me in recognizing the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and the significant contributions of the Armenian people.

NEAL STANLEY TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Neal Stanley of western Colorado. Mr. Stanley is the director of the Great Western Oil and Gas Company, and will receive "Wildcatter of the Year" for his work in the field of natural resources.

There are few people who possess the level of experience and knowledge that Mr. Stanley provides both his company and the state of Colorado. He has spent over 35 years working in the oil and gas industry, serving on several public and private boards. Most notably, he was president of the Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States from 1999 to 2001 and Senior Vice President—Western Region for Forest Oil Corporation.

Mr. Stanley will join a long list of distinguished recipients of the "Wildcatter of the Year" award. His devotion to the oil and gas industry is proven by his exemplary career, and the expertise he has provided through decades of work. There is little doubt that he has contributed to the success and promi-

nence of the industry and all the companies he worked for.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Neal Stanley today. He has given years of service to a number of companies and the state of Colorado. He will be appropriately honored with the "Wildcatter of the Year" award and will continue to lead our country's charge into its wealth of natural resources.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MITCHELL MULAS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 2, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with both great sadness and a sense of great honor that I rise today, along with my colleague, LYNN WOOLSEY, to honor and pay tribute to Mitchell "Mitch" Mulas, of Sonoma, California, who passed away March 31, 2011 of complications following heart surgery.

It is no exaggeration to say that Mitch Mulas was an icon in Sonoma County and a role model for generations of fire fighters, teachers and students, and farmers. He represented the best in community service and in devotion to his family.

Mitch was born in 1928 in Sonoma, California, the son of an Italian immigrant father and a mother who survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He met his wife, Nilda when he was 15 and she was 13. They had their first date three years later, and three years following that, they were married. Nilda was his partner, friend and soul mate and survives him in his passing.

Mitch was a dairy farmer and a leader in the county's agricultural organizations. He joined the Farm Bureau after he graduated from high school and served as President from 1965–1967 and 1985–1986. He was inducted into the Sonoma County Farm Bureau Hall of Fame in 2002.

He took a brief hiatus from leadership positions within the Farm Bureau to serve on the Sonoma Valley Unified School Board for 12 years from 1969 to 1981. His influence stretched from the classroom to the football field, where he anchored a favorite spot in the bleachers each season. Not only did he receive the district's "Salute to Education" award but the Sonoma Valley High School Athletic Hall of Fame created the Mulas Family Recognition Award in his honor, which is presented annually to persons or businesses in the Sonoma Valley who have contributed time and resources to student athletes and coaches.

Mitch was also the "Chief," a title he wore with distinction and pride. In 1942, at the age 14, he helped his father start what later became the Shell-Vista Fire Protection District. He served first as a volunteer firefighter, was named Assistant Chief in 1955 and served in that position until he was named Chief in 1968. He served in that position until his death.

Mr. Speaker, Mitch Mulas was a farmer, educator, activist and sports enthusiast who also protected his community for 69 years as a fire fighter. But above all else, he was a devoted family man who is survived by his wife, Nilda, four children, six grandchildren and two great

grand children. An entire community mourns his passing, and it is appropriate that we honor him at this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF
MITCHELL MULAS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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