

MARKING TWENTY YEARS SINCE  
THE START OF THE BOSNIAN  
CONFLICT

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, this month marks 20 years since the start of the tragic conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In remembrance, 11,541 red chairs lined the main street of Sarajevo during the first week of April, one for every man, woman and child killed in the beautiful Bosnian capital of Sarajevo when it was a city under siege by militant Serb forces in the surrounding suburbs and hillsides.

Like the memorial in Srebrenica commemorating the genocide three years later in which 8,000 people, mostly men and boys, were slaughtered by forces under the same overall command, the chairs were a sober reminder of how horrific and senseless the violence in Bosnia truly was. They are also a reminder of the international community's complicity in these crimes by its own inaction, when it had the means to intervene and save lives.

The result of the delayed response to aggression against Bosnia plagues the people of that country today. The realities of the conflict, including the ethnic cleansing, were accommodated by compromises in the Dayton Agreement needed to restore peace. While necessary then, today these compromises have allowed political leaders like Milorad Dodik in the entity of Republika Srpska to block at will progress on reforms needed for the county's stability, prosperity and integration. While I welcome positive developments which have taken place in Bosnia in recent months, above all the formation of a new government, it remains disappointing that movement forward is so painfully slow. The people of Bosnia, regardless of their ethnicity, certainly deserve better.

Today those responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide continue to be prosecuted at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, located in The Hague, or in the war crimes courts of the countries concerned. This effort is important and warrants international support until the last crime is prosecuted.

Justice alone, however, cannot bring closure to Bosnia's war victims. That is why I introduced a few weeks ago H.R. 4344, which among other actions supports the work of the International Commission for Missing Persons in locating and identifying persons missing as a result of conflicts and supporting the investigation of genocide and mass atrocities. It is also why I now repeat my call made last year for a permanent memorial to be established at the site of the Omarska concentration camp in northeastern Bosnia, so that the survivors of the crimes associated with the ethnic cleansing of that region of the country may also have a place to remember those lost. Such memorials also serve as bulwarks against forces which try to excuse, minimize and even deny the crimes that took place.

As Chairman or Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission for most of the 20 years since the Bosnian conflict erupted, I have chaired dozens of hearings and introduced numerous pieces of legislation which have

helped to document the atrocities, shape policy responses, and assist in post-conflict recovery. I have also visited the country on numerous occasions. I can assure the people of Bosnia that I and my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission will continue to work for their human rights and the democratic, prosperous future they deserve.

CROSS WALK COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible effort in Maine, the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry in Naples.

In a time of such need the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry has been tireless in its efforts to help its neighbors in Western Cumberland County. Twice a month they gather to help residents in the towns of Naples, Sebago, Casco, Bridgton and Harrison with free meals and food boxes. They do this not with a large budget, but with a very dedicated set of volunteers.

Maine is a state that has struggled with food insecurity and the Cross Walk Community Outreach Food Pantry is making a small step in eradicating hunger in Maine. Neighborhood efforts like this demonstrate Maine's unbreakable community bond in our fight against hunger in Maine today.

CONGRATULATING JEAN RONNING  
OF ASHLAND, WISCONSIN, ON  
BEING NAMED THE 2012 PERSON  
OF THE YEAR BY THE ASHLAND  
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. SEAN P. DUFFY**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the community accomplishments of Jean Ronning of Ashland, Wisconsin, who has been named the 2012 Person of the Year, by the Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce. Jean and her husband, Eugene, have owned and operated the Neighborly Bar for over 28 years.

Mrs. Jean Ronning is well known throughout Ashland as an active member in the community and served in many different roles including: President of the Ashland Softball League, and the Ashland Volleyball League; coordinator for events in Ashland such as the King of the Bay Snowmobile Drag Races, the Green Bay Packer Parade, the Ice Fishing Contest; and hostess for benefits at the New Day Shelter, the BRICK Food Shelf, the Ashland Snowmobile Club, and the Relay For Life Cancer Fundraiser. Additionally, Jean is the recipient of the 2010 New Day Shelter's Pasageways to Peace Award.

Overall, Jean is well known for her honorable service to aid those in need by genuinely providing emotional and financial support within the Ashland Community. Her savvy business skills, outgoing personality, and sense for

leadership have allowed her to develop a volunteer support network that helps spearhead community initiatives.

Thanks to the community contributions of outstanding citizens like Jean Ronning, Ashland is rightfully known by many as "Lake Superior's hometown". I ask that my colleagues join me today to express our appreciation for Jean's community leadership and congratulations for receiving Ashland Area Chamber of Commerce's 2012 Person of the Year award.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AMELITO  
ENRIQUEZ

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2012*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez who has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. Dr. Enriquez, a Professor of Engineering and Mathematics at Cañada College in Redwood City, California, is one of nine individuals to receive this prestigious award and he will serve as a resource for federal efforts to develop the national Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and research sector.

During his 17 years at Cañada College, Dr. Enriquez—or Dr. E as his students like to call him—has demonstrated his commitment to increased participation and success of minorities and women in science, mathematics and engineering.

He has secured over \$10 million in federal and state grants to develop programs such as COMETS, Creating Opportunities for Minorities in Engineering, Technology and Science. COMETS allows students from two-year colleges in San Mateo County to intern at the NASA Ames Research Center for a year and prepares them to be competitive once they transfer to a four-year college.

The Summer Engineering Institute is a two-week program at San Francisco State University for high school students interested in engineering and for community college students already studying engineering who hope to transfer to a four-year college to finish their degrees. The Bridge to Engineering for Veterans program helps veterans to transition from military to engineering careers.

The students of Dr. Enriquez adore him because he is making a difference in their lives. They wrote the letters of support that led to his nomination for the presidential honor. Dr. E understands the importance of encouragement and mentorship. He grew up in the Philippines with what he calls a "me-too complex." As the youngest son, he wanted to be whatever his older siblings or cousins wanted to be, but they told him he couldn't. He recalls thinking that the more people were saying that he couldn't do something, the more he wanted to do it.

Dr. Enriquez wanted to be a priest, a basketball player, but eventually found his calling when he studied Engineering at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. He earned his B.S. in Geodetic Engineering in 1984. After a six-month stint with a large company, he started his own business with friends, taught at his alma mater and then