

who bring us to 55 strong. Bella so filled the place, there must be some who cannot even tell that our numbers have grown since she left; so large was her impact that those three short terms beginning in 1970 seemed not to have ended.

After Bella left, she showed she did not need this House to have impact. While she was here though, she brought her causes to the House floor, and often made them law, from the resolution to withdraw from Vietnam introduced on her first day in the House, to her place as the first to call for the impeachment of Richard Nixon.

Make no mistake, Bella was a legislature par excellence and a procedural expert in this House. She coauthored the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act, bringing into law her lifelong crusade against the excesses of the FBI and the CIA, and the prominent battle for which she will always be remembered, of course, the Equal Rights Amendment.

Once Bella got in, they could not get her out, so they redistricted her out. Her State came within 1 percent of getting her in the Senate, however.

For many women who serve in the House, Bella's place will always be in the House and in our hearts.

If the truth be told, however, Bella, the outsider, never came fully into this House or any part of the establishment. For public officials today, this capacity not to take your official self so seriously that you lose sight of the outside causes that sent you here in the first place may be the most valuable legacy of her service in this place.

If we remember only that part of her fact legacy, all of us who serve here will serve better, and all of us who seek to be better public servants shall have found in her an important guiding principle left over from Bella's abundant life.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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REMEMBERING THE GENOCIDE OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to remember one of the most appalling events in human history, the genocide of the Armenian people.

It shames and saddens me to say that the human race is no stranger to genocide: the great purges in Russia, during which Stalin methodically killed millions of Russians; the Holocaust, in which 6 million Jews were systemati-

cally slaughtered by the Nazis; and less well known but certainly just as significant, the Armenian genocide, in which 1.5 million Armenians were exterminated by the Ottoman Turks.

I feel a special kinship to the Armenian people. As many know, I am of Greek descent and my ancestors, too, suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. In fact, this past March 25, my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN MALONEY) and I conducted a special order to celebrate Greek Independence Day.

On that day, 177 years ago, the Greeks mounted a revolution which eventually freed them from the tyranny of the Ottoman Empire. Unfortunately, the Armenians were not as fortunate as their Greek brothers and sisters. Between 1915 and 1923, one and one-half million Armenians were murdered, and hundreds of thousands were driven from their homes by the Ottoman Turks.

Today I want to acknowledge this tragedy and remember those Armenians who lost their lives. As citizens of a Nation that celebrates the strength of its diversity, we should always remember those dark moments in history where people were persecuted because they were different.

Mr. Speaker, there is an unfortunate tendency to forget these horrific tragedies and bury them in the past. However, it is only through the painful process of acknowledging and remembering that we could keep similar dark moments from happening in the future.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the co-chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, for helping us do that.

THE CENSUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to put on the RECORD my statement on the Armenian genocide on its 83rd anniversary. As we stand here on the floor now, the Armenian National Committee is hosting a meeting with Members of Congress to remember the genocide and to take action to make sure that it becomes part of the history of the world and is recognized.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), who are co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, for all of their hard work on this issue and other human rights issues.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about a very important point, and that is getting a fair and accurate census, one that counts every American.

There has been a lot of rhetoric about the Census Monitoring Board

floating around. Once again, there has been little connection between that rhetoric and reality. I hope to set the record straight by discussing the facts of the situation and not the mythology the opponents of a fair census are trying to create.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues who oppose a fair and accurate census, who repeatedly call for spending billions more to assure that the inaccuracies of the past are repeated, have criticized the President for appointing a couple of, and I use their quotes, "political hit men" to the Census Monitoring Board set up in the 1998 appropriations bill. These appointments, they claim, show that the President is really interested in politics, not in science.

The facts argue that just the opposite is true. The President has put forward a plan for the 2000 Census based on science, not politics. The opponents of that plan know they cannot win a debate on the merits, so they have tried to smear the President and the Census Bureau with innuendo.

The President appointed politicians to the Census Monitoring Board because, from the outset, it has been clear that the board was a political entity. The President appointed politicians to counter the politicians appointed by the Republicans. It is clear that, from the beginning, the new leadership intended this board to be political.

Let us look at the facts. When the board first appeared in language drafted by the Republican leadership during the negotiations over the 1998 budget, it had four Republican appointees and just two Democratic appointees. That sounds rather partisan and slanted to me. At the same time, they tried to give the board subpoena power, congressional printing authority, and a host of other functions. In fact, they designed the board to look very much like a House committee, where they could control the rules of the game. In other words, they tried to create a political entity.

We are fortunate that the President refused to accept such a blatantly partisan board. Even after the President forced the Republican leadership to accept a board that had four Republican appointees and four Democratic appointees, the Republican leadership wanted the board to operate with a quorum of four.

Mr. Speaker, I would like Members to stop and think about what that means. A quorum of four would allow the four Republican appointees to meet without including a single Democrat. Is that partisan? Does that tell us what their agenda is? I think it does.

The Republican leadership at every turn has signaled that this monitoring board is nothing but a political entity. The President has responded to these signals in the only rational way possible. When the Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate appointed board members with political rather than scientific credentials, the President did likewise.