

HONORING PROFESSOR M. CHERIF BASSIOUNI

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as reports come in detailing the events in Kosovo, the "ethnic cleansing" and terror that has forced over a million people from their homes, sadness fills our hearts. Less than two weeks ago I traveled to the Balkans and visited a refugee camp, filled with thousands of people, that had been an empty field just weeks before. We are often so immersed in the accounts of those survivors who have lived through the suffering that we forget about the men and women who have dedicated their lives to ease this pain, and to bringing those who abuse human rights to justice.

Today, I rise to recognize M. Cherif Bassiouni of Chicago, Illinois for his selflessness and dedication to bringing those who commit crimes against humanity to justice. Professor Bassiouni, facing great personal risk and many obstacles, has visited many war-torn sections of Bosnia and Croatia, documenting the atrocities and crimes that have been committed there. His 3,500 pages of analysis, backed by 300 hours of videotape and 65,000 documents served as the foundation for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Professor Bassiouni has also played a key role in the UN Convention against Torture.

Professor Bassiouni has often been a powerful voice insisting that violators of human rights be brought to justice. Professor Bassiouni is a Professor of Law and President of the International Human Rights Law Institute at DePaul University in Chicago. The global impact of his work, dating back to 1964, has led to the creation of the International Criminal Court. A citizen of both the United States and Egypt, Professor Bassiouni is known and respected around the world for his accomplishments. He is the President of the Association Internationale de Droit Penal and President of the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Science.

Professor Bassiouni has accomplished a great deal in his effort to see that human rights are respected. In 1977, Bassiouni co-chaired the committee that drafted the U.N. Convention Against Torture. He was appointed the independent expert by the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to draft the statute establishing international jurisdiction over the implementation of the Apartheid Convention of 1981. Bassiouni was the Chairman of the U.N. Commission investigating international humanitarian law violations in the former Yugoslavia, work that led to the Ad-Hoc Tribunal on the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague. His many accomplishments led to his election in 1995 as Vice-Chairman of the U.N. General Assembly Committee for the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

For his work leading to the establishment of the International Criminal

Court, and for his dedication to protecting human rights, Professor Bassiouni has been nominated for the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize. The nominating organization, the International and Scientific Professional Advisory Council of the UN has said that Professor Bassiouni was the "single most driving force behind the global decision to establish the International Criminal Court." This court prosecutes and brings to justice internationally, those who have committed crimes against humanity. His accomplishments in this field have caused Professor Bassiouni to be known as the "father of the International Criminal Court."

Professor Bassiouni has been a great asset to the people of all nations. It was his dedication and perseverance, in the face of great odds, that helped create an institution that holds accountable those who choose to commit human rights abuses. The vision of Professor Bassiouni has culminated in a system that ensures that those who commit crimes against humanity do not go unpunished.

Mr. President, M. Cherif Bassiouni has made an important difference in the battle against human rights abuses. It is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to his extraordinary work and to congratulate him on his Nobel Peace Prize nomination. •

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS MANSHIP, SR.

• Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, Louisiana is today mourning the loss of a giant in the news media, Douglas Manship, Sr., the chairman emeritus of the Baton Rouge Advocate and the founder of WBRZ-TV in Baton Rouge.

Douglas Manship devoted nearly all of his 80 years to providing the citizens of Louisiana with timely, objective and thorough coverage of the day-to-day events of our state. In the process, he and his family have always set the standard for excellence in news reporting in Louisiana, winning dozens of statewide, regional and national journalism awards.

For most of this century, the Manship name has been synonymous with journalism in Louisiana. In fact, the school of mass communications at our state's flagship institution of higher learning, Louisiana State University, bears the Manship name and has already trained a generation of young journalists to follow the example of journalistic excellence set by Douglas Manship and his family.

Those of us who knew Douglas Manship knew him as someone totally committed to his community and just as dedicated to the daily dissemination of fair and objective news. In almost every way, Douglas Manship was what a journalist should be. He believed that a public given the facts on a particular issue would invariably make the right decision. And he fought tirelessly through his newspaper to throw open the closed doors of public bodies all

over Louisiana so that citizens could become better informed about the important business that was being conducted in their behalf.

Of course, Douglas Manship's imminent fairness and objectivity didn't stop him from expressing his opinion and using his newspaper to champion a cause when he believed his state and his community could do better. In the early 1960s, long before other southern media leaders recognized the need for racial integration, Douglas Manship used his position at WBRZ-TV to bring Baton Rouge community leaders together to discuss ways to peacefully achieve racial integration. WBRZ's courageous advocacy on behalf of desegregation resulted in threats of violence against Manship and his station. But he never backed down. And I believe that Baton Rouge made great strides because of principled leaders like Douglas Manship who put the well-being of his community ahead of his economic interests.

Nothing distinguished Douglas Manship more than the strength of his character and his strong sense, as he put it, of who he was. "If there is any attribute that I have that has any meaning," he once said, "it is that I know exactly who I am. That's where you get into trouble . . . when you think you are something you are not. I believe that after all these years I have learned who I am, what my limitations are."

Mr. President, today we remember Douglas Manship as a principled community leader, a courageous and fair-minded journalist and a loving father and husband. I know that I join with the entire journalistic community of my state in saying that his presence and leadership will be sorely missed. •

HONORING THE ARMENIAN VICTIMS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the memory of the 1.5 million ethnic Armenians that were systematically murdered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire from 1915-1923. The 84th anniversary of the beginning of this brutal annihilation was marked on April 24.

During this nine year period, another 250,000 ethnic Armenians were forced to flee their homes to escape the certain death that awaited them at the hands of a government-sanctioned force determined to extinguish their existence. A total of 1.75 million ethnic Armenians were either slaughtered or forced to flee, leaving fewer than 80,000 in what is present-day Turkey.

I have come to the floor to commemorate this horrific chapter in human history each year I have been a member of this body, both to honor those who died and to remind the American people of the chilling capacity for violence that, unfortunately, still exists in the world. It is all too clear from the current ethnically and religiously motivated conflicts in such