

members Hirant Gulian & Leon Nigogosian, and all the other dedicated volunteers who made it possible for us to be here today to remember our losses, celebrate our survivors and commit to a future without Genocide.

I am here today to talk about the future Armenian Genocide Museum and memorial. When complete, this complex in our nation's capital just two blocks from the White House will be the first ever Museum and Memorial about the Armenian Genocide anywhere in the Diaspora.

On behalf of the Armenian National Institute, I am pleased to outline our vision for what will be in the not too distant future a state of the art museum and memorial complex dedicated to Armenian Genocide remembrance, research and education, as well as serving as another powerful voice for Genocide prevention.

Washington is justifiably renown for the quality of its museums, and we have set as our standard to match the best that our nation's capital has to offer. Therefore, we warmly welcome the solidarity and support of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, whose superb exhibits and programs have inspired and empowered millions.

In all candor, we have just begun our work. The acquisition of this marquee property in the heart of Washington, DC has served as the catalyst to undertake a comprehensive, multi-year planning, design and development process. We are currently reviewing proposals from competitive teams or architects, museum designers and property developers to recommend the best space utilization option for the properties we have acquired. We are aware that only the best professional talent will suffice for our purposes.

The Armenian National Institute accepts the privilege and responsibility of creating a physical complex second to none and of creating exhibits and programs that will be as inspirational and empowering as those in the Holocaust Memorial Museum and other leading interactive museums around the world.

ANI is also aware of the special responsibility of completing the first ever Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial outside Armenia. Fully recognizing that the entire community will wish to engage, ANI will seek the active participation of our incredibly diverse Armenian Diaspora and ancestral homeland. This is, after all, a presentation about all Armenians for humankind. No organization would have the right to present the modern Armenian saga without first seeking out the resources and perspectives of the entire community.

The museum and memorial complex will be a permanent place for generations of visitors that will be made possible by all Armenians, joined by others of good will who appreciate its universal moral implications.

Our project is timely. Those who would deny the Armenian Genocide are now limited to Turkish officials and those beyond Turkey who invoke political and economic rationales for their support.

In the academic arena, the uncontested fact of the Armenian Genocide has been overwhelmingly affirmed. Similarly, in secondary schools and universities throughout the western world, students of Holocaust and Genocide studies routinely examine the case of the Armenian Genocide to learn its specific and universal lessons.

Nevertheless, the struggle continues between remembrance and denial—and remembrance and indifference.

It is our hope that this center will serve as the nexus to broaden awareness of the Armenian Genocide throughout the academic and educational communities whose focus is human rights, the responsibility of majorities towards minorities, and the horrific consequences for peoples and groups at risk in the absence of safeguards.

But it is also our hope that this place will provide public officials with a greater degree of moral conviction, courage and vision so that they summarily reject the incessant threats that emanate from Turkish officials to sever diplomatic and economic relations when any government dares to affirm the Armenian Genocide. The public officials with you today have demonstrated by their presence and other official actions that they reject Turkey's denials and threats.

Ladies and gentlemen . . .
Through this facility, we will remind the world of Hitler's chilling cynicism on humankind's predilection to forget.

Through this facility, we will enthusiastically support collaborative work between turks and Armenians. We have seen in this great country the redemptive value of facing history squarely, and we will promote a dialogue to secure the same benefits for our two peoples.

Through this facility we will promote international condemnation of and action against any government of people that attempts to do what was done to our people at the beginning of the last century.

We must succeed in this unprecedented effort in the name of our martyred millions, in tribute to those who survived and established new Armenian communities throughout the world, and in honor of countless non-Armenians who protested this crime against humanity and who saved tens of thousands from oblivion.

Finally ladies and gentlemen, we will succeed not only to remember the past but also to enhance the security of the people of Armenian and Karabagh—and to help insure that the world never forgets the cataclysmic price of indifference and inaction.

We look forward to this historic challenge and we welcome all who wish to join us. Thank you in advance for your generous support.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian genocide is a painful subject to discuss for me and others. We must never forget, though, what happened, and never cease speaking out. We must overcome the denials and the indifference, and keep alive the memory and truth of what happened to the Armenian people in the past, as we work to see in this tragic history that it never be repeated.

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

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I also rise here this evening to speak of one of the great horrors of our century, and that is the Armenian genocide. As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I once again join a large number of colleagues in recognizing the great tragedy of the Armenian people.

As we all know and has been stated here several times tonight, this geno-

cide occurred in 1915 when the Ottoman Empire began to force Armenians from their homeland, and it lasted until 1923. These 8 years saw the deaths of 1.5 million innocent victims and 500,000 exiled survivors.

Despite the tremendous magnitude of the genocide, the world stood by as families were torn asunder and millions of lives were taken. Therefore, today, as we stand in recognition of the victims of this Armenian genocide, we also stand in recognition of the guilt of complicity of all nations that turned away when faced with this great tragedy.

There is no doubt that calling events by their rightful name, genocide, is an important element of this recognition of responsibility.

Had we heeded the lessons that emerged from the massacre, perhaps we could have avoided other great tragedies in this century. In quietly letting the sorrow of the Armenian people go unresolved, however, we allow their tragedy to repeat itself over and over again in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, in Rwanda in the 1990s, and elsewhere throughout the world.

Today, as we once again honor the victims of the Armenian genocide, on behalf of the Sixth District of Massachusetts, I also honor the commitment and perseverance of Armenian-Americans who have tirelessly struggled to ensure that the great sorrow of their people becomes known to all people.

As we in Congress continue to confront issues of international peace and security, we would do well to remember this message: never forget.

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

(Mr. BERMAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the Armenia caucus for bringing us together to honor the memory of the greatest tragedy of Armenian history. This tragedy holds a valuable historical lesson for all of us.

I myself in California growing up got to know several Armenian families. One man, one elderly man in one of the families that I knew, he was the sole survivor of the Armenian genocide. So the lessons are not just for those that were directly involved; it is for all of