

First, I hope we have the opportunity tomorrow to speak to our respective caucuses—the majority leader has to make that decision as to whether we will vote at noon tomorrow or after the caucuses. Regardless, it is quite clear that we are going to vote tomorrow. All 100 Senators have to make a decision as to what they want to do.

Mr. SESSIONS. I note that the Senator from Nevada, who is himself a superb lawyer, has represented criminals and defended them on occasion, as I have. I would point out that just because he represented a cause and advocated it, it does not necessarily mean he shared all those views, personally. I also would note, and am pleased to see, that the State of Nevada joined Alabama as *amicus curiae* in the Garrett case.

Maybe the Senator would like to once again respond. I am not entitled to the last word. If not, I will go forward with morning business.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could just ask the Senator to yield, I have learned, having served in the Senate, that the majority always gets the last word, so the last word is that of the Senator from Alabama.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today, as I do every year, to commemorate the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. It has now been 88 years since this tragic event unfolded, and after another year, the historical fact of this atrocity continues to be questioned.

April 24, 1915, marked the beginning of the Ottoman Empire's brutal and unconscionable policy of mass murder, directed against men, women and children Armenians. Over 8 years, Armenians faced starvation, deportation, and violent death at the hands of their own government. Before the genocide began, 2.5 million Armenians lived in the Ottoman Empire. One and a half million Armenians were killed and another 500,000 were driven from their homes, their property and land confiscated.

Many descendants of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide live in the United States, and some actual survivors settled in my own State of California. Overall, half a million Armenian Americans live in California, and I am proud to serve them in the Senate. The strength and importance of their community exemplifies how any

group of people can be reborn in the United States. Armenian Americans are at the forefront of the effort to keep the events of the Armenian Genocide in the public eye, but it is the duty of us all, as citizens of a nation that embodies justice, liberty, and freedom not to forget.

We must take time each year to acknowledge this act of ethnic cleansing because we cannot afford to forget. The 20th century saw too many genocides, the events in the Ottoman Empire being only the first. In Germany and Eastern Europe, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Serbia, millions of people were killed because of their race, ethnicity, or religion.

Through these tragedies, too many have remained silent. We must make clear, in the 21st century, that mass murder cannot be tolerated, will not be tolerated. We cannot afford to forget or hide events such as the Armenian Genocide, or another group in another place will experience the same persecution and the same systematic intent to destroy an entire people. This is why we must commemorate this horrific period in the history of the Armenian people each and every year.

Let us remember the Armenian Genocide. Let us ensure that those who suffered did not die in vain. Let us ensure that those who survived did not do so to watch the world forget their sufferings. We honor the living by speaking out today.●

GUADALUPE CENTER FOR DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE LIFE OF LATINO COMMUNITY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I would like to commend the Guadalupe Center Inc. for their continued commitment to improving the life of Latinos throughout Kansas City, MO.

The Guadalupe Center began as a volunteer school and well baby clinic for Mexican immigrants in Kansas City's Westside in 1919, becoming one of the Nation's first social service agencies for Latinos in the United States.

Once working out of the rectory of Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine on West 23rd Street, the Guadalupe Center now has nine buildings and has expanded to serve the entire Kansas City Metropolitan Latino community.

Today, the Center provides a number of essential services and is a leading advocate for the Latino community.

Health programs at the center include substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS education and counseling. The center's diligent work in reaching this disproportionately affected Latino population is to be congratulated and encouraged.

Also, the center has had a great deal of success with increasing employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in the Latino community. This success goes hand in hand with the center's constantly expanding education programs, which provide participants with a number of opportuni-

ties, including second language GED and job training skills.

Beyond reaching adult and young adults, the center also works to expand opportunities for children through its Plaza de Ninos preschool, which prepares young Latino children for early school success and helps them with the necessary English language skills, while providing childcare for working parents.

The Guadalupe Center's activities and services, which continue to grow in number and impact, serve as an example of the center's vision and dedication for the Latino community.

The future of Kansas City and the quality of life for its residents, especially the Latino community, depends on the decisions and the investments made today. The Guadalupe Center had taken the lead in making these strategic investments in Kansas City's urban core. Their efforts have improved the lives of the Latino community's children and families and the effects will be felt for generations to come.

I look forward to partnering with the Guadalupe Center in future investments in Kansas City's Latino community.●

CHAMPION TREE PLANTING AT THE U.S. CAPITOL

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate a wonderful Arbor Day gift that was donated to the U.S. Capitol by the Champion Tree Project and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Last Thursday, on April 24, 2003, the U.S. Capitol planted a 6-foot sapling clone of a white ash tree grown by George Washington in the late 1700s. This sapling clone is the first successful recreation of the Champion Tree Project's efforts to spawn exact genetic duplicates of each of Washington's surviving trees at Mount Vernon.

This gift is extremely special to me for two reasons. First, the Champion Tree Project is a Michigan-founded, grassroots organization that was founded by a Michiganian father and son team, David and Jared Milarch. The Milarch family has been the driving force behind this organization, and I commend them for their historic efforts to protect these important trees. In addition to working to protect historically significant trees like those on the Mount Vernon estate, the Champion Tree Project is dedicated to protecting Champion trees, which are the biggest—and often among the oldest—known members of their species in the United States. After cloning, these saplings are planted in protected sites where they can be enjoyed and studied by future generations.

Second, I was at Mount Vernon on August 1, 2001, when the Champion Tree Project collected the budwood and branches from the 13 surviving trees planted under George Washington's direction over 200 years ago. The DNA