

but has a friend who went through boot camp with Hammond.

Now comes the funeral. We'll all meet—his sister from Texas, his brother from Detroit, the comrade-in-arms from Indiana, the teacher from Fort Worth, the woman and boot camp pal from Michigan, the journalist from Gloucester County.

Maybe then I'll find a clue to this incredible mystery, to the charisma of this remarkable hero who died never knowing how much he'd affect lives of family, friends and complete strangers.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. TYREE WEIDER

### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Tyree Weider who is celebrating her 10th anniversary as President of Los Angeles Valley College. She is a remarkable woman whose accomplishments are extraordinary.

Dr. Weider was raised in South Central Los Angeles. She attended local public schools and began her career path as a student at Compton Community College. She completed her Bachelor's degree in sociology at California State University Northridge and earned a Master's degree in Educational Psychology. A few years later, she received her Doctorate degree in Higher Education Administration from the University of California Los Angeles.

Early in her career, Dr. Weider worked as an Employment Counselor for the State Employment Service in Compton, South Central Los Angeles, and Pacoima. She also worked as a therapist in adult outpatient mental health. She then moved to Los Angeles Mission College to serve as Dean of Student Affairs and was later appointed Dean of Academic Affairs. She was then selected as the Director of Educational Programs for the Los Angeles Community College District. In 1989, she began working at Los Angeles Valley College as the Vice President of Academic Affairs. In 1995, Dr. Weider became the President of the College.

Since becoming President, Dr. Weider has taken significant steps to revitalize the campus to benefit students and the community at large. Under her guidance, the college has begun developing plans for the construction of five new educational buildings and major renovations to several campus facilities. Dr. Weider has also forged innovative partnerships with various businesses and organizations in the community to provide students an opportunity to perform community outreach and become involved in public service.

Over the years, Dr. Weider has proven to be a tireless leader for numerous community-based agencies and organizations. For example, she is currently a member of the California Community College CEO Board of Directors and a member of the advisory committee of the Auto Club of Southern California. She has also served on the Board of Directors for Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Universal City Tomorrow, the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, Catholic Healthcare West and Temple Ahavat Shalom.

Dr. Weider's hard work and leadership deserves acknowledgement. Recently she re-

ceived the 2004 Pioneer Women Award. In March 2002, she was recognized as one of the most outstanding residents in the San Fernando Valley. In 1998, the Speaker of the Assembly bestowed upon her the San Fernando Valley's Woman of the Year Award. Her achievements are legion and recognition is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and congratulating Dr. Weider for all of her wonderful accomplishments and her unyielding commitment to education and public service.

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 89th anniversary of one of history's most terrible tragedies, the Armenian Genocide.

On April 24, 1915, 300 Armenian leaders, intellectuals and professionals were rounded up in Constantinople, deported and killed, under orders from the Young Turk government. This was the beginning of a campaign of terror resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians and the deportation of more than 500,000.

The government of the Ottoman Empire justified this policy by claiming it was necessary to suppress revolts being launched by Armenians as a consequence of the ongoing military operations of World War I. This assertion was patently denied by survivors and witnesses. United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau reported at that time, "Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Not content with perpetrating this atrocity, the Young Turks denied a genocide had taken place. Generations have since been raised denying this tragedy. Such denials are refuted by the archival documents and first-hand accounts found in such recent scholarly works as Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris* and Samantha Power's *A Problem From Hell*. Director Atom Egoyan presented the horror of the siege of Van in his film *Ararat*, which was based, in part, on the memoirs of Clarence Ussher, an American physician and missionary working in Turkey at the time.

In Detroit and its surrounding suburbs live one of the largest Armenian-American communities in the United States, many of whom are the children and grandchildren of survivors or actual survivors themselves. This weekend, I will be attending a commemoration ceremony at St. John's Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan, in which some of these individuals will be in attendance. To those who suggest that this ruthless genocide of a people and culture did not happen, I ask, what further testimony could the world possibly want?

Mr. Speaker, for myself and my constituents, I rise today to urge those who deny this genocide to accept it as fact. Only then can

we move forward and stop these atrocities from repeating themselves over and over again.

#### H.R. 1799—THE GUARDSMEN AND RESERVISTS FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2003

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 22, 2004*

Ms. SANCHEZ of California. I would like to express my strong support for H.R. 1799, the Guardsmen and Reservists Financial Relief Act of 2003. This bill would allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans during the period that a military reservist or national guardsman is called to active duty for an extended period.

It is now more important than ever to work to mitigate the financial hardship we are placing on our reservists. At the outset of Operation Iraqi Freedom, both the White House and Department of Defense spoke of swiftly achieving victory in Iraq and bringing our servicemembers home within a few short months.

Despite the valorous efforts of our military personnel, it is clear that we are facing a very different picture. According to DOD, stabilizing and ultimately winning the peace in Iraq will require the mobilization of at least 100,000 to 150,000 reserve component personnel annually for the next several years. Reserve component personnel comprise nearly 40 percent of our current force, whereas they only comprised 2.0 percent of the initial force used in the invasion.

In light of the tragic upsurge in violence over the last month, 20,000 soldiers recently learned that their year-long deployments to Iraq had been extended for an additional 3 months. Nearly one-fourth are reservists.

It is apparent that our success in Iraq and Afghanistan, and in the broader war on terrorism, is dependent on the continued commitment of our reservists. And I don't think we are doing enough right now to ensure that they are being adequately compensated for their sacrifice.

According to GAO, nearly 41 percent of reservists are impacted by a pay discrepancy between his or her military and civilian salary. This is taking its toll. Not only are families racking up credit card debt, falling behind on bills, and losing businesses, but many are grappling with not re-enlisting when their service is up.

And the fear of financial hardship may be hurting recruiting efforts. In 2003, every active and reserve component achieved its recruiting goals except the Army National Guard, which fell short of its recruiting goal by 7,798 (12.6 percent).

We must begin to alleviate the financial burden on reservists, and I believe this bill is an important step in the right direction. However, it is not enough. Simply allowing our reservists to raid their retirement is not the answer.

We must provide better re-enlistment bonuses, we must secure the extension of TRICARE benefits, we must secure the continuation of hazardous duty pay and family separation allowance, and we must continue to push for pay raises for our military families.