

CONGRATULATING JOSEPH J. CARMODY AS HE IS AWARDED THE W. FRANCIS SWINGLE AWARD BY THE GREATER PITTSSTON FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Judge Joseph J. Carmody as he is awarded the W. Francis Swingle Award by the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick at their annual banquet on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2005.

W. Francis Swingle, a lifelong Pittstonian, was a professor of English at King's College and tirelessly aided the community and encouraged college students to give back to society. To that end, Judge Carmody has proven himself a worthy recipient of this award.

Judge Carmody is a lifelong resident of Greater Pittston and a former Past President of the Friendly Sons. He was elected to serve as the West Side District Justice in 2004.

Judge Carmody has been an attorney in the area for more than 27 years. In his career, he has served as First Assistant District Attorney of Luzerne County and Solicitor to the Wyoming Area School District and several municipalities. He is a member of St. Mary of Assumption Church and a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He has served on numerous boards, including St. Michael's School for Boys and the Fox Hill Country Club.

Judge Carmody is the son of Jule Carmody of West Pittston and the late Joseph Carmody. He is married to the former Catherine Sowa, and the couple has five children: Joseph, Christopher, Matthew, Sara and Michael.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Judge Joseph J. Carmody as he receives the W. Francis Swingle Award from the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick.

SALUTING THE GRAND OPENING OF THE TRI-STATE Warbird MUSEUM IN CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the grand opening on May 20, 2005 of the extraordinary new Tri-State Warbird Museum in Clermont County, Ohio.

The museum, based at the Clermont County Airport, will showcase the history of fighter planes in World War II and Vietnam. Housed in a new 20,000 square foot state of the art facility, the museum features an exhibit area for historic artifacts; a library of reference books; a classroom; a professional restoration shop for the preservation and restoration of original historic aircraft; and a storage area for specialized tools and parts.

Historic aircraft are invaluable to understanding our nation's history, and examples of

these planes are few in number and in danger of being lost forever. With the museum's painstaking preservation efforts, they will come to life for everyone to learn from and enjoy. Thanks to this museum, the importance of these airplanes to our enduring freedom and the sacrifice of those involved—from engineers to mechanics to the pilots—will never be lost.

The Tri-State Warbird Museum's unique building has resulted from the hard work and expertise of man volunteers and supporters. In 2003, a group of volunteers, led by business leader David O' Maley, formed to preserve the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Museum President Paul Redlich, a pilot and professional technician with more than twenty years of historic aviation expertise, closed his business and moved his family to Cincinnati to run the museum. The facility also boasts two professional technicians committed to Warbird painstaking restoration and maintenance: Greg Muir and Nathan Dalrymple.

The museum also boasts an advisory board composed of a broad group of area citizens who have unique talents and experience in aviation and history. Members of the advisory board include: Neil Armstrong; Howard Becker; Jim Bushman; Jack Brown; Joe Campanella; Mark Clark; Richard Cross; Tad Lawrence; Dr. Francis LeRoy; Phil Myers; Buck Niehoff; David O'Maley; Jim Orr; Scott Robertson; Hal Shevers; Dudley Taft; and Oliver Waddell. Of particular note is the extraordinary commitment of the advisory board members and the museum's capital campaign committee, which resulted in the museum's entire cost being funded by private donations.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in Southern Ohio congratulate the many professionals and volunteers who have helped to make this wonderful new museum a reality.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL PAUL BARRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding contributions of SSG Michael Paul Barrera, and to acknowledge the renaming of Veterans Elementary School as SSG Michael P. Barrera Veterans Elementary.

After enlisting in the Army in December of 1995 at the age of 18, he completed his basic training in Fort Knox, KY. Michael was always passionate about his job and strove to be the best.

His commanding officers recognized him with such commendations and achievement awards as a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

On April 9 of 2003 Michael was sent to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division from Fort Hood, TX, in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom." During a routine trip for food as Michael and his crew were returning to camp, an improvised explosive device that had been buried in the sand was set off by remote control as the tank rolled over it. As a result of his injuries, Michael passed away on October 28, 2003, at the age of 26.

Michael joined a long list of family members in service. In light of his outstanding service,

he was appointed Sergeant by the young age of 20. He sought to make a career in the Army, aspiring to become an ROTC instructor.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to have this opportunity to recognize the bravery and dedication of SSG Michael Paul Barrera.

ANTHONY BARSAMIAN SPEAKS ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last month, Anthony Barsamian, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Armenian Assembly of America, made an eloquent speech at the "International Refuge, Relief and Recognition Tribute" hosted by the Armenian-American community in California. Mr. Barsamian eloquently stressed the importance to all of us of remembering that "the history of genocide must remain inviolable and periodically affirmed regardless of political discomfort or cost so that we may learn its lessons."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is a grave error that this Congress has not been allowed to vote on a resolution affirming this important point with regard to the terrible history of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenians. We cannot allow current foreign policy considerations to override our obligation in this critical area. Anthony Barsamian cogently and forcefully reminds us why such an omission is unacceptable, and I ask that his moving, thoughtful remarks be printed here.

ASSEMBLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIRMAN ANTHONY BARSAMIAN'S REMARKS AT THE "INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE, RELIEF AND RECOGNITION TRIBUTE"—FEBRUARY 24, 2005

Your Eminence, Reverend clergy, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This remembrance and recognition highlights two issues of critical importance to the horrific recurrence of Genocide and the apparent impotence of the world to stop this crime against us all.

First, the history of genocide must remain inviolable and periodically affirmed regardless of political discomfort or cost so that we may learn its lessons.

Second, the actions of 3rd parties are vital to raising awareness about the crime as soon as it becomes known, to taking resolute steps to end the genocidal process, to bring to account the perpetrators, to provide comfort to the survivors, and to forever remember all instances of genocide.

This is why the Armenian Assembly joined with the AGBU and the Diocese to remember those nations and organizations that took action while the Armenian Genocide was being carried out and subsequently. Armenians remain deeply indebted to all who refused the easy path of indifference and inaction. You saved lives, you affirmed the truth, and you bore witness so that the world would be better equipped to act on the meaning of "Never Again".

As is evident today, the Republic of Turkey refuses to accept the judgment of history that the Ottoman Turkish government committed genocide against its Armenian minority. Instead, Turkey attempts to impose its revisionism on a civilized world that knows better, but occasionally succumbs to Turkish demands and intimidation by refraining from affirming the truth. Nations

who had initially committed to participate in this recognition commemoration withdrew in the face of such Turkish pressure. This solves nothing. The dead are not honored for their sacrifice. The actions of the righteous are not recalled. And ironically, the descendants of the victimizers are not allowed to come to terms with the truth.

Nevertheless, we pause today as we begin this 90th commemorative year to give thanks to all nations and organizations that came to our aid—but particularly to those that attended today despite the Turkish government's campaign to stop you.

For Turkey's state sponsored denial effort, having this event is a defeat. This is a good day for the truth. As Armenian-Americans, we recall with special appreciation the leading role of the United States in attempting to prevent the Armenian Genocide and in aiding those that survived. As Armenian-Americans, we look to the United States to continue this proud chapter of American history by reaffirming the facts of this most calamitous chapter of Armenian history. There is an inevitability to universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, and America has not and will not be an exception.

A case in point is the recently concluded visit of U.S. Ambassador to Armenia John Evans with major Armenian-American communities across the country. In his public commentaries, Ambassador Evans repeatedly employed the words "Armenian Genocide" to properly characterize the attempted annihilation of our people by Ottoman Turkey.

This is in keeping with President Reagan's proclamation of April 22, 1981 where he stated in part, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other people—the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten". . .

And also with the thrust of President Bush's 2001 to 2004 April 24 messages that set forth the textbook definition of genocide without using the word. Ambassador Evans completed the thought.

The Ambassador's characterization also is in keeping with the public declarations of over 120 renowned Holocaust and Genocide scholars regarding "the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide".

Further, Ambassador Evans' characterization conforms to the summary conclusion of the International Center for Transitional Justice on the use of the term Armenian Genocide. ICTJ stated that "the Events, viewed collectively, can thus be said to include all of the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Convention, and legal scholars as well as historians, politicians, journalists and other people would be justified in continuing to so describe them."

The Armenian-American community will not rest until the United States formally and irrevocably reaffirms the Armenian Genocide. By so doing, we forever advance the special role of the United States in genocide prevention.

Today, we are here to honor 17 nations who have joined the movement towards universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide. You have appropriately remembered this instance of man's inhumanity to man. You have stepped forward to combat denial and revisionism. We will never forget your solidarity.

As Voltaire said, "to the living we owe respect, but to the dead we owe only the truth".

REGARDING S. 384, TO EXTEND THE NAZI WAR CRIMES AND JAPANESE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP FOR 2 YEARS

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 384, a bill extending the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for two years. This crucial legislation amends the Japanese Imperial Government Disclosure Act of 2000 to extend from four to six years the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. H.R. 842 extends by two years this worthy working group, which was originally created by Congress through Public Law 105-246 in 1998. The group is made up of government agency representatives who are directed to oversee the declassification of U.S. Government records that contain information about Nazi war crimes.

Such information includes trafficking of assets seized by the Nazis and post-war communications between U.S. Government and former Nazi officials, unless declassification would unduly violate personal privacy or harm national security or foreign policy interests. The law also allowed for expedited processing of Freedom of Information, requests made by survivors of the Holocaust.

On December 6, 2000, as part of the Intelligence Authorization Act for 2001, Congress changed the group's name to the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group. This action expanded the mission of the group to include the declassification of U.S. Government records related to World War II-era war crimes committed by the Japanese Imperial government.

Mr. Speaker, the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group is a valuable effort that informs the American people of the actions of their government while balancing the protection of legitimate national secrets.

I support this noble effort so that we can continue to confront this dark chapter in American History.

The vicious and barbaric war crimes committed by the Nazis, and the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Government during World War II, were some of the worse criminal acts of the 20th century. Both of these historical crimes against humanity must be studied and chronicled in their entirety. The acts of barbarism and genocide committed by the German Nazi and Japanese Imperial governments should never be forgotten. Therefore, it is up to the elected representatives of the American people to ensure that the United States Government complies completely with the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group and makes accessible all information that is allowable by law.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "END GRIDLOCK ACT"

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and TOM DAVIS in introducing the "End Gridlock Act." This bill is a refinement of a proposal, the "Washington Regional Transportation Act" (H.R. 2882) that I introduced last session.

Unfortunately, this region is not yet prepared to embrace last year's proposal and establish a regional transportation authority. Last year's bill called for the creation of a regional transportation authority, one that could receive a dedicated revenue source, issue bonds and be in an ideal position to coordinate land use and transportation funding decisions. I regret that the time is not ripe for this a proposal.

The defeat of the Northern Virginia transportation referendum in 2002, in my view, moved us away from real progress in solving our transportation problems. Unfortunately, poor management of the state's transportation programs and false promises by past state officials left the public distrustful that any meaningful solutions were possible.

I'd trade the price of a daily cup of coffee for real investments in transit and road improvements, something that would shave 10 minutes off my commute. I think a majority of the public share this view, but they have been skeptical and fear that the money raised would not be spent wisely or spent on projects that have their own built-in opposition and controversy.

The legislation I am introducing today does not to create a regional authority, it won't build new roadways. Instead, it focuses on making improvements to what already exists. It is a small but important first step that I hope builds the foundation for greater regional coordination and cooperation and builds public confidence for longer term solutions.

Believe me, we need better coordination and cooperation. We need to rebuild confidence. The legislation I am introducing today borrows from some of the best, simplest and most cost-effective proposals. Some of the ideas were drawn from local transportation and planning experts. They are small ticket items, but if they prove successful, maybe the consensus will be there to support a more ambitious agenda. The Washington Post highlighted some of these potential projects in a series featured last year.

These investments included building sidewalks and pedestrian and bike paths to connect communities to schools, transit centers, Metrorail stations and commercial centers. This legislation will provide grants to help localities synchronize traffic lights signals on major transportation corridors which will reduce travel time and improve capacity. The bill provides money to encourage more businesses to offer greater telework and telecommuting options. It will provide grants to give transit riders real-time information on bus and rail schedules so they can time their departures from home and work to arrive at a transit stop just when the bus pulls up. It will also fund advance technologies to allow buses to slip through interchanges before the traffic