

globe the opportunity to renew our dedication to environmental protection. We as a nation have a shared responsibility to preserve our vast and diverse natural resources. I have a longstanding commitment to conservation and environmental protection, and I am pleased to join in today's celebration.

While we have made significant progress since the first Earth Day celebration in 1970, we must continue our efforts to improve environmental quality. It is my belief that Earth Day activities heighten awareness about actions that we can take to improve our environment, both locally and globally. Today's observation offers us the opportunity to acclaim our progress, but more importantly, it allows us to renew our commitment to the challenges facing our planet.

Earth Day festivities take place all across the country. I would like to pay special tribute to my constituents in Montgomery County, Maryland who are so active in their support of environmental causes. This is especially true during this month, with activities and programs like the Earth Day Fair in Bethesda, the various stream cleanups across the county, and the Arbor Day celebration in Derwood.

I consider environmental protection to be national priority. I pledge to work with my colleagues to ensure the preservation of our natural resources and the protection of the public's health. And this Earth Week, as we also celebrate the 435th birthday of William Shakespeare, we remember his words, "to nature none more bound." Today, as we observe Earth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to a cleaner world.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HENRY
ATKINSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to everyone whose life was touched by Mr. Henry Atkinson, who passed away earlier this week.

Henry Atkinson was one of the most dedicated men I've ever had the pleasure of knowing—dedicated to his friends, dedicated to his community, and dedicated to the students and schools he spent his career serving.

Among Henry's many achievements in 20 years on the Green Bay School Board were his oversight of the transition of junior high schools into middle schools and his work to create a drug and alcohol abuse program for the Green Bay Schools.

Henry was a small businessman who also served on the Green Bay Water Commission, the Brown County Bicentennial Committee and the Northeast Wisconsin Vocational, Technical and Adult Education District Board.

But he is most remembered by the generations of students and educators who witnessed his day-to-day efforts to make Green Bay education a rewarding and memorable experience.

Green Bay lost one of its finest community leaders this week, but he will surely live on in

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

the memories of those who gained so much from knowing him.

THE RICKY RAY RELIEF ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in strong support of funding for the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The time has come for the federal government to accept its share of the responsibility for failing to protect the nation's blood supply and failing to properly regulate the sale of blood-clotting products used by sufferers of hemophilia. As a result of the government's failure more than 8,000 people with hemophilia have been devastated by HIV/AIDS.

Mr. Speaker, the financial burden of hemophilia and HIV is overwhelming. The average cost of hemophilia therapy is nearly \$100,000 per year. If a person has an inhibitor, a condition that requires extensive treatment, therapy can exceed \$1,000,000 in a year. These costs are further compounded by the costs of HIV/AIDS care which was estimated to be \$10,000–\$50,000 annually in 1995. These staggering cost are far beyond the financial capacities of most hard working American families.

The Ricky Ray Relief Act was named for a young Florida boy who came to symbolize the tragedy that is hemophilia-associated AIDS. This legislation establishes a \$750 million trust fund from which victims of this tragedy can claim \$100,000 each as partial compensation for their physical, emotional, and financial suffering. This legislation is not about charity, but about acknowledging the government's responsibility for this tragedy.

It has taken almost 5 years for members of the hemophilia community who are living with HIV/AIDS to reach this point. The Ricky Ray Relief Act was first introduced in 1995 and was reintroduced in 1997. When it passed both the House and the Senate by unanimous consent, this bill had the support of 270 bipartisan cosponsors in the House and 61 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate. On November 12, 1998, the President signed the Ricky Ray Relief Act into law.

I was proud to be both a cosponsor and advocate of this legislature. Mr. Speaker, the time has come for the government to admit responsibility for failure to protect our nation's blood supply. We must fund the Ricky Ray Relief Act. The funding of this legislation will make a tremendous difference in the lives of many members of the hemophilia community who have faced and continue to face living with hemophilia and HIV/AIDS.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 92: To Authorize the President to Award a Gold

April 22, 1999

Medal on Behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks; rollcall 93: Condemning the Murder of Human Rights Lawyer Rosemary Nelson; rollcall 94: Education Flexibility Partnership Act Conference Report; and rollcall 95: Earthquake Hazards Reduction Authorization Act; I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 92, "yea" on rollcall 93, "yea" on rollcall 94 and "yea" on rollcall 95.

DR. CARIDAD PEREZ COMPLETES
THIRTY YEARS OF ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to pay tribute to Dr. Caridad Perez, a dear friend and an outstanding educator who had completed thirty years of excellent academic achievements.

As Principal of Edison Private School, Dr. Caridad Perez has been a positive influence in the lives of the many students with whom she actively interacts, as well as with the teachers and faculty members who seek her wisdom and experience for guidance.

It is through Dr. Caridad's leadership, hard work and dedication to improving the lives of youth that she has helped scores of students acquire not only an exceptional, solid education, but a strong sense of values and morals that will help carry each student through a lifetime of success.

On Sunday, April 25th, at the Tropicana Fontainebleu Hilton in Miami Beach, many of Dr. Caridad's grateful students and highly appreciative staff will gather for a festive luncheon accompanied by music to honor the loyal and beloved principal of Edison Private School for the praise and honor that she so earnestly deserves.

I ask that my Congressional colleagues join me in celebrating Dr. Caridad's thirty years in educational excellence.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 84th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915, a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were summarily arrested, taken to Turkey and murdered, commencing a dark and solemn period in the history of Armenians. From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire launched a systematic campaign to exterminate Armenians. In eight short years, more than 1.5 million Armenians suffered through atrocities such as deportation, forced slavery, and torture. Most were ultimately slaughtered.

And yet, despite irrefutable evidence, Turkey has refused to admit the Armenian Genocide occurred, and continues to harbor hatred