

leadership as co-chairmen of the Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus. I would also like to salute Mr. BONIOR and Mr. RADANOVICH for their vision and initiative in introducing a resolution calling for a collection of all U.S. records relating to the Armenian genocide.

On the 84th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I rise today to join my colleagues and the Armenian-American community in honoring the memories of those who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. April 24, 1915 is recognized the world over as the day hundreds of Armenian leaders in Constantinople were rounded up and killed. Thousands more were murdered in public. This began an eight year long killing spree that claimed the lives of over 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children—half of the world's Armenian population at the time. Moreover, 500,000 Armenians were forcibly driven out of their homeland to seek refuge in other nations. By 1923 the Turks successfully eradicated nearly all traces of a 3000 year-old civilization. There were 2.1 million Armenians in Turkey before 1915, now there are only 100,000, and Armenia itself is nearly empty of Armenians. An entire civilization was forced to watch as their world disintegrated around them.

We cannot, should not and will not forget this tragic chapter in world history. It is a sad and shameful period. This moment allows us to reflect the dark side of human nature, a side we sometimes are unwilling to acknowledge, but acknowledge we must. If we do not remember, we are condemned to repeat our past mistakes.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today with the Armenian-American community to commemorate the memories of the victims of the Armenian genocide in the hopes of such a crime against humanity will never be repeated. The Turks ravaged an entire civilization. We must heed the lessons contained in this sad and shameful period, we must remember, and we must learn never to forget.

TRIBUTE TO SEVEN DEDICATED
TEACHERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated teachers from Northwest Indiana who have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for the 1998–1999 school year. These individuals, Bea Cak, Debra Clements, Jayne Gardner, Kevin Garling, Brenda Kovich, Toni Sulewski, and Denise Thrasher will be presented the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association and Horace Mann Insurance Company. This glorious event will take place at the Broadmoor County Club in Merrillville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 4, 1999. Toni Sulewski will also receive the Torch of Knowledge Award for being selected the outstanding member of this distinguished group of educators.

Bea Cak from Hanover Community School Corporation has taught for 27 years. Currently she teaches second grade half of the day, and

serves as the district elementary resource teacher at Jane Ball Elementary the other half of her workday. As a resource teacher, Bea has the responsibility of providing information and techniques to keep staff personnel updated. During monthly staff in-service sessions she shares creative K–6 activities that all teachers can utilize in their classrooms. Her colleagues know her as a dedicated teacher since she puts so much time into developing special projects for the school and her surrounding community.

Debra Clements is described by her peers as an outstanding professional and dedicated teacher. She is an English/language arts teacher at Highland High School where she has taught for 19 years. To grow professionally, Debra has been actively involved in textbook selections and handbook revisions. She strives to be approachable and communicates well with administrators, fellow teachers, students and parents. Her special inner core of education-related beliefs and opinions are well received and respected.

Within her 25 years of teaching, Jayne Gardner had the opportunity to teach in many diverse settings. Currently, she serves as an English/language arts teacher at Kahler Middle School. She utilizes her ability as a mediator to discuss and address the concerns of teachers. Through her caring attitude she exhibits a great deal of thoughtfulness towards both students and teachers. Jayne's dedication to the profession of teaching is exemplary to any new educator.

For the past 13 years, Kevin Garling has been the agriculture teacher at Lowell High School. His teaching approach is built upon the theme "Kids come first." As a sponsor of the Future Farmers of America, he has taken the club members to state and national competitions. He has created a parental group to work with the club members. Kevin's unselfishness and commitment to his students are an inspiration to all who know him.

Brenda Kovich, a national board certified teacher, has worked with academically talented students at Elliott Elementary School in Munster, Indiana, for the past 15 years. She has written and received numerous grants, including a grant from the Lilly Foundation. Brenda is a continuous source of enthusiasm for both her students and others.

Toni Sulewski from the Crown Point Community School Corporation has taught for 30 years. Dedicated to those students who have difficulty with school, she persevered to ensure an alternative school program was developed in the community. As a professional educator, she works closely with the special education staff to adapt teaching methods to the various students' learning styles. Her performance as a professional is twofold: one is her dedication to the students and their development; while the second is her dedication to fellow teachers and the safety of their environment.

Denise Thrasher teaches foreign language and literature at North Newton High School. Her commitment to students is obvious. She tutors students during lunchtime and also after school. Despite having cancer surgery and undergoing chemotherapy treatments, she has remained very active both teaching and serving on local and state school committees. Denise's energy is an incentive to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding educators on their receipt of the 1999 Crystal Apple Award. The years of hard work they have put forth in shaping the minds and futures of Northwest Indiana's young people is a true inspiration to us all.

TRIBUTE TO MS. DOROTHY
ELLSWORTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the labor career of Ms. Dorothy "Dottie" Ellsworth-Gannon. Since 1977 Ms. Ellsworth-Gannon, Assistant Director of the Legislative Department, has served the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers with distinction (IAM).

Dottie has announced her retirement effective June 1, 1999. This announcement culminates a career dedicated to advancing the interests of working men and women. She is currently a senior member of the AFL–CIO Administrative Committee, where she worked with affiliated union lobbyists to advance and protect common interests in the legislative arena.

Dottie, considered one of Washington's premier lobbyists, has demonstrated great effectiveness and sensitivity in dealing with the needs and issues that particularly affect IAM members. She has also commanded the respect of Members of Congress from both parties who had the opportunity to work with her.

On April 28, 1999, a retirement dinner will be held by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers for her dedication and outstanding performance for the past twenty-two years. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Ms. Ellsworth-Gannon for her distinguished labor career and offer her my best wishes for the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANKS FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 1999

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 29, 1999

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the State Infrastructure Banks for Schools Act of 1999. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

It is a distressing fact that across our Nation we have nineteenth century schools and libraries for twenty-first century students. In our inner-cities, rural communities, and suburban neighborhoods, children are attending schools where toilets clog, computers cannot link to the Internet, and roofs leak. Public libraries do not fare much better, often lacking adequate space to house their materials or to run after-school reading programs. And it is our kids who suffer as a result.

By now we all know that our Nation's schools require an overwhelming \$112 billion