

ourselves about the past can we prevent repetition of similar tragic situations in the future.

April 24 is a special day for the Armenian people. It marks the day that 200 Armenian leaders were arrested in Constantinople and murdered. This was not an isolated incident, rather, it was the beginning of a chain of persecution that had begun under the rule of Ottoman Sultan Abdul.

In just 2 years, between 1894 to 1896, 300,000 Armenians had lost their lives. This event marked the coming of years of oppression, torture and murder for the Armenian-Turkish population.

After Sultan Abdul's reign was over, a new group called the Young Turks came to power. They made pan-Turkism the national ideology, and they set out to rid Turkey of all its minority groups, mainly its Armenians. By 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been slaughtered and more than 500,000 had been exiled from their homes.

Less than a century ago, the massacre of the Armenian people was unknown to the world. To this day it is still denied by the Turkish government, just as the Nazis two decades later denied the Holocaust. Both of these atrocities could have been prevented, or at least mitigated, if the public had been aware of them. Sadly, it was only after the world learned of the Holocaust and the depths to which human beings could sink in their treatment of each other that the massacre of the Armenian population of Turkey gained attention as genocide.

As we aspire to attain universal human rights for all, we need to have a full knowledge and understanding of the truth. Although we are much more aware of human rights violations, they are still occurring to this day. From the torture of political prisoners, to the Armenian genocide, to the repression of Kurdish people by Turkey and Iraq, to the human rights issues in Kosovo, we can see ethnic cleansing is still in existence. But we can also see the worldwide concern, and we have been able to act to protect innocents.

The denial of this by the Turkish government needs to end and an open and honest acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide must be made before significant progress can be made in Turkish-Armenian relations. To prevent such crimes against humanity from recurring, we must intensify our efforts to establish a growing respect for the truth and oppose and condemn human rights violations wherever they may occur.

THE PASSING OF KENNETH PADDIO AND THE OTHER SOLDIERS WHO PASSED ON THE MV-22 OSPREY TRAGEDY APRIL 11, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD). Under a previous order of

the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the 19 remarkable and valiant Marines, who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country this past Saturday. My prayers and condolences go out to their family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

I urge all Americans to recognize the enormity of what these fallen Marines have afforded us. Our nation is blessed—providing us with a political system that guarantees each of us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are free to speak our minds. We are free to practice our faiths. We are free to travel this great land and be with whomever we choose. These precious gifts of freedom have not come free. They have endured through the blood of American heroes and heroines.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality." This quote clearly describes these heroes who risked their lives this past weekend so that our great nation's military readiness remains strong and intact.

These Marines were conducting a standard training mission in support of Operational Evaluation when they MV 22 Osprey aircraft crashed near a municipal airport in Marana, Arizona. These Marines conducted this standard evaluation to ensure that this aircraft was suitable for operation by the Marine Corps.

Fittingly, these 19 soldiers symbolize the commitment and dedication that all of our military forces have displayed throughout history in protecting this great democracy. Whether it be peacekeeping missions abroad or training exercises on American soil, members of our Armed Forces risk their lives to ensure that our democracy is preserved. From the early heroes of the Revolutionary War to those who are currently enlisted in our Armed Forces, millions of Americans have sacrificed their lives to preserve our precious freedom and to meet our commitments to allies around the globe. As a nation, we mourn their loss and we are privileged to enjoy the benefits of the ultimate sacrifice that these men and women in our Armed Forces have made on our behalf.

In addition, I pay additional tribute to Private Kenneth O. Paddio, a resident of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, and one of the 19 soldiers onboard this fatal military operation. After graduating High School a year ago, Private Paddio moved to the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas to be close to his beloved mother Ella. Truly a remarkable young man, his family and loved ones recall that Kenneth was a "quiet, independent and determined young man who joined the Marines to better himself." On behalf of the 18th Congressional District, we mourn your loss and pay tribute to your heroism.

In closing, I again offer all of the families my deepest sympathy. I hope that in time, you are comforted by the legacy of accomplishments that your loved ones have left behind. May God bless you all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HERMAN B. WELLS, LIVING LEGEND OF INDIANA HISTORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, last month Indiana lost a favorite son of great distinction, a living legend of Indiana history. I rise to acquaint the larger world with Dr. Herman B. Wells of Indiana University who died at the age of 97.

The standard details of his life mark great attainment: Economics professor, then Dean of the Business School, he became President of the University in 1937, and served until 1962. Then, retiring not at all, he continued his service as Chancellor of the University until his death. Were that all there was, he would be worthy of great honor.

But there was more, marking his true greatness: he gave himself to the University and to its many thousands of students, leading learning and leading change in important ways. He protected controversial research; he developed a world-class school of music; he used his personal power to roll back racial discrimination at the campus; he helped the school to integrate its basketball team; and, friend and counselor to generations of students, with his counsel he helped make Indiana and the Nation a better place.

In our loss of Herman Wells, Indiana has lost a towering figure of American higher education.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE AND VETERANS HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor men who bravely served the United States in our most trying times as a Nation. Today marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. submarine force. Will Rogers once said, "We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. Today we applaud the heroes and we honor fellow submariners who remain on eternal patrol. May we never forget them and their brave deeds." Those are the words of Mr. Rogers.

The thoughts of Will Rogers live with us today. During the most serious challenges our Nation has faced, the men of the submarine service did their jobs above and beyond the call of duty. They were essential to creating victory in war and remain essential to keeping America strong in peace. War fought under the sea developed its own physics and harsh realities completely different from the experiences of any soldier who came before them. These men