

of people due to their differences in political and religious ideology. Who can visit the Holocaust Museum and not be personally touched? By establishing and continuing a discourse, we are acknowledging the tragedies of the past and remembering those awful moments in history so they will not be repeated.

As my friend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG) says, history may not repeat itself but often it rhymes. Acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey will help to remove this decades-old barrier and allow greater cooperation and understanding between these two people.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all those Members who have come down here tonight to recognize and make sure that regardless of what Turkey does and regardless of what this Congress does, that the American people still hear a voice on behalf of the Armenians in this country and remember the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to 1923, as well as our thanking all the Armenian organizations who have worked so hard to keep this issue at the forefront of our minds to serve as an example of the brutality of man against man.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISLOSKY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

REMEMBER THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, each year I am deeply humbled when we gather in the United States House of Representatives to honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished and the 500,000 survivors who were forcibly exiled from their ancestral homes in Ottoman Turkey during the years 1915 to 1923. Some of those survivors, Mr. Speaker, are part of my own community in Worcester, Massachusetts. I had the opportunity to meet with several of them on Sunday during a special program in the historic Armenian Church of Our Savior.

It is difficult to fathom a greater evil than the massacre and willful destruction of a people. Those who deny that a holocaust took place when there are recorded accounts of the barbarity are complicit and often perpetuate a cycle of violence. This is the injustice much of the world has committed against the Armenian people.

Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor, has called denial of

genocide a double killing: The denial of genocide seeks to reshape history in order to demonize the victims and rehabilitate the perpetrators and is, in effect, the final stage of genocide. Nobel laureate and South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu in the Preface to the Encyclopedia of Genocide, which was published in 1999 by the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, writes, "It is possible that if the world had been conscious of the genocide that was committed by the Ottoman Turks against the Armenians, the first genocide of the 20th century, then perhaps humanity might have been more alert to the warning signs that were being given before Hitler's madness was unleashed on an unbelieving world."

And last year, Mr. Speaker, Israeli Minister of Education Yossi Sarid said publicly, "I will do everything in order that Israeli children learn and know more about the Armenian Genocide. Something happened that cannot be defined except as genocide; 1.5 million people disappeared. It was not negligence. It was deliberate."

And so scholars and eyewitnesses, Nobel laureates and Armenian survivors have spoken for 86 long years. And now we have entered the 21st century. After a long silence, governments are beginning to respond. They are beginning to acknowledge formally the Armenian Genocide. The European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the United Nations now recognize and reaffirm the Armenian Genocide as historical fact. In the last 5 years alone the parliaments of Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Russia and Sweden have passed resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

Last November, Pope John Paul II issued a communique condemning the Armenian Genocide as a "prologue to horrors" that would follow in the 20th century. Earlier this year, French President Jacques Chirac signed into law a bill stating that France publicly recognizes the Armenian Genocide of 1915. And authorities in Paris have voted to erect a memorial to the genocide of the Armenian people.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, France has achieved the moral leadership that the United States Congress and the White House have failed to fulfill. Last year, for the first time, the Congress moved forward on a resolution officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide, a resolution I proudly cosponsored. Unfortunately, the politics of denial and political expediency combined to thwart that effort. Bowing to pressure from the current Turkish Government, the measure was kept from coming to the House floor.

So, we begin again this year. In the House, I am an original cosponsor of a new resolution to have the United

States officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. Thirty of our States, including Massachusetts, have passed resolutions officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide. We have a new President, who pledged during his campaign that he would officially recognize the Armenian Genocide. I have joined with over 100 of my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, in sending a letter to President Bush asking that he honor his pledge. I believe in my heart that we can build on the progress made last year and perhaps this year, 2001, will be seen as the year when Congress finally debated and approved this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am blessed to represent a district that includes a vibrant Armenian American community. They have educated the broader Worcester community and indeed all of Massachusetts about the history and heritage of Armenian Americans, for out of one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century came this community, made up of survivors of the genocide and the families and children of survivors. They have created houses of worship, community centers, neighborhood activists and dedicated workers in every profession. They are the living legacy. The Armenian nation survives in Europe, and the heritage of Armenia thrives in America.

I will work with my colleagues to make sure that the United States will officially recognize the Armenian Genocide and that all of our children will learn this history and understand why it is part of America's history and culture.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, as have many of my colleagues, to commemorate and affirm the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of the 20th century.

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We have heard this repeated, and I think it is worth repeating because it is important that it is indelibly implanted in our minds. April 24, 1915, is remembered and solemnly commemorated each year by the Armenian community and people of conscience throughout the world. On that day, a group of Armenian religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople, taken to the interior of Turkey and murdered. In the 8 years that followed, 1.5 million Armenians were murdered and 500,000 were deported because of the Ottoman Empire's decision to attempt to eliminate the Armenian people living under their rule.