

April 24, 2001

no signs of ending her long and unbelievable career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in extending our thanks and appreciation to Betty Galler, the Guest of Honor at the Free Sons Foundation Fund's 75th Anniversary Celebration, for her 72 years of tireless community service.

IN CELEBRATION OF CRISSY
FIELD, SAN FRANCISCO

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Crissy Field stood as an idle monument to its former life as a World War I landing strip. The cracked runway and gray rubble lined San Francisco's shoreline and window to the Bay. Part of a national park within the Presidio's boundaries, it begged for renewal.

After years of effort and an unprecedented philanthropic success on behalf of the Park's Crissy Field restoration, we are now on the verge of celebrating a modern-day Crissy Field that also incorporates its history. While evidence of the landing strip is no longer visible, a rich historic marsh land has been brought back to a state that existed long before aviation.

In two weeks, on May 6, the public will be welcomed to a great celebration of the Crissy Field restoration project. Almost magically, acres of rubble have been transformed into a magnificent public gateway along the Presidio's border. A tidal marsh now exists, surrounded by native plants and a public promenade that stretches for over a mile along the beachfront.

This event, marking the completion of the restoration and the public opening, was born as a concept a few years ago under the partnership of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and the Golden Gate National Parks Association (GGNPA). In a remarkably short period of time, and in a remarkable show of support, this concept has come to life.

Under the leadership of the first GGNPA Chair, Toby Rosenblatt, and now under the continuing excellent leadership of Chair Charlene Harvey, the dream of Crissy Field will be realized. This unique public-private partnership has made it possible to turn a contaminated, abandoned airfield into a conservation prize for our national park system.

This would not have been possible without the vision of these individuals, the many contributors who followed this dream and the significant efforts of Greg Moore, Executive Director of the GGNPA, and Brian O'Neill, Superintendent of the GGNRA. Both Brian and Greg were honored this week by the National Park Foundation for their energy, innovation and enthusiasm in bringing this project to fruition. Greg Moore accepted the National Park Foundation award for "Restoration of Crissy Field" as the recipient of the 2001 National Park Partnership Award in the environmental conservation category.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

As the GGNPA Executive Director, Greg spearheaded the philanthropic drive for Crissy Field which raised \$34 million to fund this spectacular restoration of San Francisco's Bay shoreline. The gift of \$18 million from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr., Fund and the Robert and Colleen Haas Fund is the largest ever made to America's national parks. This is a phenomenal accomplishment and one of which we are very proud in our community. Congratulations to Charlene Harvey, the entire GGNPA Board, the many philanthropic participants and to Greg Moore and an excellent staff for their lasting contribution to our environment.

The Presidio and all of our Golden Gate National Parks are a source of great pride to us and we are pleased that they welcome millions of visitors each year for recreation and renewal. Congratulations to all who have been involved in this spectacular project. It is a testament to the great enthusiasm the public holds for our national parks. It is a testament to the spirit of our San Francisco community and the able leaders who brought this vision to life for us all.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, once again I join my colleagues in remembering those who suffered the tragic events of the Armenian Genocide. Each year, we join the world in commemoration of the Armenian genocide because the tragedy of lost lives through ethnic cleansing must not be forgotten.

The Armenian genocide marked the beginning of a barbaric practice in the 20th century with more than a million and a half Armenians killed and forcibly deported. As the target of persecution by the Ottoman Turks, Armenians were systematically uprooted from their homeland and eliminated. To this day, the Turkish government continues to deny that millions of Armenians were killed simply because of their ethnicity.

As an educator, I believe it is critical to emphasize the role education must play in our international community. We must ensure that we do not continue to see actions of racial intolerance or religious persecution, which has led to so many cases of ethnic cleansing. The tragedies of the past two decades including Cambodia, Rwanda and Kosovo attest to this fact. We must, therefore, continue to commit to first teaching our children tolerance.

If we refuse to acknowledge, understand, and vigorously oppose racial and religious intolerance, wherever it arises, we are doomed to repeat the same tragedies again and again.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. I also want to thank the many Armenian-American organizations throughout the nation, and in particular in California, for their tremendous work on behalf of the Armenian-American community.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE JAMES
PEAK WILDERNESS, JAMES
PEAK PROTECTION AREA AND
WILDERNESS STUDY AREA ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to protect a key part of the high alpine environment along Colorado's Continental Divide.

The 13,294-foot James Peak is the predominant feature in a 26,000 acre roadless area within the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest just north and east of Berthoud Pass. The James Peak roadless area straddles the Continental Divide within 4 counties (Gilpin, Clear Creek, Grand and Boulder). It is the largest unprotected roadless area on the Northern Front Range. The area offers outstanding recreational opportunities for hiking, skiing, fishing, and backpacking.

I have been interested in wilderness protection for the James Peak area since my election to Congress in 1998. In 1999, I introduced a bill (H.R. 2177) in the 106th Congress that would have designated about 22,000 of the James Peak roadless area as wilderness, including about 8,000 acres in Grand County. This proposal was designed to renew discussions for the appropriate management of these lands that qualify for wilderness consideration.

The bill I am introducing today—the James Peak Wilderness, James Peak Protection Area and Wilderness Study Area Act—is the product of nearly two years of subsequent discussions with county officials, interested groups, and the general public.

The previous bill had broad support. However, after its introduction, the County Commissioners of Grand County—which includes the western side of the James Peak area—expressed some concerns with the proposed wilderness designation for the lands in that county. They indicated that in their view any such legislation needed to make accommodation for any "dispersed recreation" opportunities in the area and needed to address private inholdings. The Commissioners also indicated that the Rollins Pass road should be excluded from wilderness.

I agreed to work with Grand County on these and a number of other issues. We held several discussions, including a public meeting in Grand County. After that, the Grand County Commissioners indicated that they could not "entirely support [H.R. 2177] as presented," and outlined a "James Peak Protection Area" alternative.

The Commissioners' "protection area" alternative did not spell out all details, but its essence was that instead of designation of wilderness there should be designation of a "protection area" that would include the lands in Grand County proposed for wilderness in my previous bill and also an additional 10,000 acres of national forest land. The Commissioners' proposals also would have allowed for a section of high tundra above Rollins Pass along the divide to be open to motorized and mechanized recreation (snowmobiles and mountain bikes).