

years of the Ottoman Empire. I extend my sincere sympathy to the survivors and their descendants for the hardships they suffered. Our hearts go out to Armenians around the world, including the Armenian-American community, as they mourn the loss of those innocent lives.

However, Armenians deserve not only our sympathy, but our support as well. Although Armenia has made great strides to become an independent and democratic state, many challenges remain. As Armenia, moves towards forging a lasting peace in the region, it is critical that there be an honest accounting of all those who died and why they died.

Taking a moment here today, is the least we can do to honor the victims of that terrible time, but it is essential nonetheless. If there is to be any hope of preventing future acts of such inhumanity, the senseless acts of violence inflicted upon Armenians must be properly recognized.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE ON THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF CENTRAL MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize an institution in northwestern Ohio. Central Mutual Insurance Company has a history as great and rich as Ohio itself.

The "Van Wert County Mutual Fire Insurance Company" was formed on April 5, 1876, the start of what was to become today's Central Insurance Companies. Twelve days later Central Mutual was incorporated and has been providing insurance for automobiles, homes, and businesses through independent agents in 15 states with regional offices in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas and Van Wert. Central Mutual's family is made up of Central Insurance Companies, the All-American Insurance Company, Central Insurex, and CMI Lloyds, located in Dallas, TX.

Soon after its founding, Central Insurance began to operate through independent agents rather than having salesmen sell directly to the public, which was revolutionary at the time. The first agency to meet the call was the Purmort Brothers Insurance Agency, also in Van Wert, which has been continually representing Central Insurance for its entire 125 years. Quickly the Central Insurance Company began to grow and by 1883, they expanded their operations outside of their home state. Since then, they have spread across the country, opening offices while still retaining the important values that guided them to success in the late 1800's.

In today's extremely competitive market, customer service is the key to success. Central Mutual epitomizes that commitment. An insurance policy is simply a promise to pay for covered losses that occur to a policyholder's assets. For the last 125 years, their primary commitment to policyholders has been to ensure that adequate funds are available to fulfill these promises.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize this company for all of its contributions to Ohio, in-

cluding its Fire Museum, which preserves a vital piece of American history. In addition, I want to wish all of the Central Mutual Insurance Company family the best. You are an example for Ohio and the country.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BETTY TIMES

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty Times. Betty Times was a truly unique individual whose record of dedicated community service is an inspiration. Her leadership has meant so much to the many agencies she supported as well as the individuals whose lives she touched.

Her work included the Marin City-USA Project, Sausalito School Board, Marin General Hospital Board, Marin Education Fund, the Marin City Community Development Corporation, the National Women's Political Caucus, and many others. She became the first African-American to head a county department when she was named to direct the newly formed Citizens Service Office in 1978. She has been honored by the Marin Women's Hall of Fame, the county Human Rights Commission (the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award), and the Marin County Grass Roots Leadership Network.

Mr. Speaker, we honor Betty Times for her strength, good humor, wit, and integrity as well as her leadership. The Marin community will be the poorer for her loss.

CONGRATULATING THE ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF FRESNO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Armenian Community School of Fresno on celebrating their 24th year of existence at their annual banquet.

The Armenian Community School of Fresno was opened with 24 students on September 12, 1977. This was the first community-wide Armenian day school in Fresno. Through generous donations from the Hovannissian and Sahatdjian Families, as well as other individuals and organizations, the school was able to move from the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church Sunday School room to its present location on September 8, 1980.

The essence of the Armenian Community School is to emphasize serious study, to educate on social responsibility, and to lay the foundation for strong, healthy, moral, ethical, and spiritual values.

The student body has grown to over 120 students. Many features have been added to the education program such as the Fresno County Science Fair, Outdoor Education Camps, a solid Physical Education program, and a Student Council. The students receive a bilingual curriculum, which helps them become

model Armenian-American citizens with a strong appreciation and knowledge of their heritage and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Armenian Community School of Fresno on the occasion of their 24th year anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Armenian Community School of Fresno many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JEANNE STINE, FORMER MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TROY, MICHIGAN

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, 2001, the City of Troy, Michigan will pay tribute at a dinner in honor of their former Mayor, Jeanne Stine. She recently left that post she had held since 1992.

During Mayor Stine's tenure, the City of Troy witnessed remarkable growth and prosperity, whether measured by the total market value of its property, the growth in employment, or most vitally, the quality of life for Troy's citizens. The ground was recently broken for construction of a community center, including a new gymnasium, conference center, computer room, exercise facilities, and a senior citizen dining room. The annual Troy Daze festival prospered under her tutelage. There, I have spent many happy hours with Mayor Stine at the festival, watching her as she proudly spoke to the annual ceremonies swearing in new citizens and touring the many booths of a wide variety of Troy's public service groups.

Beginning with her first service to Troy's citizens when elected to the City Council in 1976, Jeanne Stine has worked tirelessly for her community. She serves as the Immediate Past President of the Michigan Association of Mayors and Vice President of the Michigan Municipal League. She also serves on the Board of Directors of a number of organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club of Troy, Arab American Chaldean Council and the Troy Community Coalition.

Mayor Stine received her BS and RA from Wayne State University. She worked as an educator and school counselor in the neighboring community of Clawson for 33 years.

Troy is a far more enjoyable, hospitable and cohesive community today because of Jeanne Stine. No matter was too small for her attention, and I was privileged to participate with her in some of her incessant efforts to better life for Troy's citizens, whether improving the post office, modernization of its highways, or the encouragement of the uniquely successful Troy Community Coalition and its anti-drug program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking my friend, Jeanne Stine, for her years of public service and in wishing her good health and happiness in the years ahead.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the Armenian-American community to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, one of the darkest chapters of world history.

First of all, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan and the gentleman from New Jersey for their leadership as co-chairmen of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

Today marks the 86th year of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian people were subjected to deportation, expropriation, torture, massacre, starvation, and abduction. April 24, 1915 is recognized the world over as the day the Ottoman Turks rounded and killed hundreds of Armenian leaders in Constantinople. Thousands more were murdered in public. This began an eight year long campaign 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.

From 1915 to 1923, in a short eight years, the Ottoman Turks systematically and deliberately slaughtered over 1.5 million Armenians in their homeland. In a short eight years, in the blink of any eye, a 2,500 year-old civilization—the first Christian nation in the world—was almost wiped out.

Because of modern-day Turkey's attempt to disavow the Armenian Genocide and dispute the historical records, we must continue to affirm the Armenian Genocide. We must continue to commemorate the victims and the survivors as a matter of conscience and as a matter of faith. I believe we must have faith that efforts to do so will make a difference and will help keep the memories alive despite the Turkish government's attempt to rewrite history. I believe we must have faith to work together in the hopes of preventing any type genocide from ever occurring again.

As I said two years ago in this chamber and on this floor, we cannot, should not and will not forget the Armenian Genocide. As a matter of conscience, we should all stand together to speak out to remember the victims. While the Armenians have suffered through such tragic horrors, it would be an even greater tragedy if we forget. We will remember and honor their memories in the hopes for a better tomorrow.

IN HONOR OF THE KALINA
SINGING SOCIETY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to the Kalina Singing

Society of my Congressional district on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Founded in Buffalo, New York on March 1, 1901, the Kalina Singing Society is a women's chorus founded under the auspices of the Polish Singing Circle and a member of the Polish Singers' Alliance of America. For the past 100 years, it has proudly promoted American and Polish culture through song, and has garnered a fine reputation as an outstanding performance group.

Throughout its rich history, and still today, the Kalina Singing Society has promoted the Arts, as well as our City's rich cultural heritage. They have performed countless concerts, operettas, recitals, guest appearances, joint concerts, and holiday offerings, and have participated in national competition.

The Kalina Singing Society has continued to exhibit a strong and dedicated commitment to the Polish-American community, the City of Buffalo, and to the spirit of community service and volunteerism that has always been the hallmark of our Western New York community.

Mr. Speaker, today I join with the group's membership, and indeed, our entire Western New York community, to honor the Kalina Singing Society on this historic anniversary. On behalf of the Thirtieth Congressional district of the State of New York, I want to formally extend my enthusiastic commendation, and offer my personal best wishes for the Kalina's second century.

RECOGNIZING PAULINE BLAYNEY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pauline Blayney for being named "Silent Servant" of the year 2001 by the Fowler Chamber of Commerce.

Pauline was born in Fresno and has been a Fowler resident since the age of six. In 1946 she married Laurice Blayney. The couple has three children and nine grandchildren.

Pauline has been involved with several community activities in the community, including: Fowler Improvement Association, Friday Book Club, Iowa Community Club, Presbyterian Church of Fowler, Presbyterian Women of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., Edwin Blayney Senior Center, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Pauline Blayney for her "Silent Servant" of the year 2001 award presented by the Fowler Chamber of Commerce. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Pauline Blayney many more years of continued success.

HONORING COMMISSIONER JACK
BUELL FOR ACTS OF CARING

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, this week is National County Government Week. Countless

counties across the country are represented in Washington, D.C. to honor outstanding elected officials who do so much to serve their communities. As a former Lieutenant Governor of Idaho for fourteen years, I have had the privilege of working with many fine officials on the county level. One of those officials is Mr. Jack Buell.

For the past twenty years, Jack has ably represented the citizens of Benewah County, Idaho as County Commissioner. He's a Democrat. But that isn't what distinguishes Jack. A lifelong Idahoan, Jack was born in St. Maries, Idaho. He married Eleanor, his wife of 39 years, raised a family and built a successful trucking business. Through the years, he has developed affiliations that have benefited the citizens of Idaho—including, the Idaho Department of Transportation Advisory Board, the Idaho State Scaling Board, and the timber industry, in which he now serves as President of the Associated Logging Contractors, and as Chairman of the Idaho Forest Products Commission. In that last capacity, he has passionately led the timber industry at rallies throughout Idaho, Montana, and Washington with caravans of diesel trucks.

And even those mighty achievements do not explain why I honor Jack Buell today. In 1996, during heavy flooding and cleanup efforts in St. Maries, Jack selflessly donated the use of virtually every piece of heavy equipment he owned to help move homes to safety, provide escape for trapped victims, and help rebuild the flood-ravaged community. That experience, and many others, resulted in his community and peers awarding him the Idaho Association of Counties Sidney Duncombe Award.

Jack is a good friend, a solid family man and businessman, and he deserves my thanks, and thanks from fellow county officials—and Congress—for his service to communities and citizens in Idaho.

CONGRATULATING RJ REYNOLDS
TOBACCO COMPANY FOR BEING
NAMED ONE OF "THE 100 BEST
COMPANIES TO WORK FOR"

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Mr. Andy Schindler and the fine folks at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in being named to Fortune magazine's annual list of "100 Best Companies to Work For."

I have always been proud of R.J. Reynolds and its employees and I remain honored to be their Representative in Congress. Reynolds is one of North Carolina's best corporate citizens, one of its largest taxpayers, and an invaluable asset to our state. Frankly, Mr. Speaker, it's been a long time coming for Reynolds to receive this national commendation as North Carolinians have known of Reynolds' benefits for years.

During my tenure in serving the people of the Fifth District of North Carolina, I have had the pleasure of working with and getting to