

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

know many of the executives and employees at R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. They are all extremely dedicated, hard working, creative, and proud of their work. An organization is only as good as its people; and the workers at Reynolds are second to none, and it shows in the final product.

Congratulations to Reynolds and its employees for winning this award. You've always been at the top of my list. Keep up the good work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, during the week of March 26, 2001, I was absent from the House due to a death in my family. Although I received the appropriate leave of absence from the House, I want my colleagues and constituents of the 2nd District of Wisconsin to know how I intended to vote on the rollcall votes that I missed.

Rollcall vote 62: I would have voted "No".

Rollcall vote 63: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 64: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 65: I would have voted "No".

Rollcall vote 66: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 67: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 68: I would have voted "No".

Rollcall vote 69: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 70: I would have voted "No".

Rollcall vote 71: I would have voted "No".

Rollcall vote 72: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 73: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 74: I would have voted "Aye".

Rollcall vote 75: I would have voted "No".

CONGRATULATING FRESNO AREA CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER (FACT)

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fresno Area Congregations Together (FACT) for their service to the community of Fresno. They recently celebrated their 2nd Annual Awards Banquet.

FACT has played a vital role in the community of Fresno since 1997. FACT's mission is to develop neighborhood leaders, while improving the quality of life in areas throughout the city. FACT members fulfill their obligation to seek social justice, dignified relationships, and healthier communities in a meaningful, hands-on manner. The 10 congregations/organizations that form FACT are: Anabaptist Community Action, First Mexican Baptist, Grace Lutheran, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. Alphonsus, St. Helen's, St. John's Cathedral, San Antonio Maria Claret, and San Ygnacio Episcopal Mission.

FACT uses a systematic approach to addressing community concerns. Congregational committee's meet with neighborhood residents

to listen to their memories, concerns, pressures, sources of pain, and hopes for a better tomorrow. After community concerns are identified, research is conducted to learn about causes and possible solutions to the concerns. The concerns are then brought to the attention of the public official responsible for facilitating positive results.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate FACT for their exemplary community service in the city of Fresno. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing FACT many more years of continued success.

HONORING LIGHTHOUSE OF OAKLAND COUNTY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honor to recognize one of the crowning jewels of my district. On April 26, government and community leaders will gather in Pontiac, Michigan to formally unveil the new program headquarters of Lighthouse of Oakland County, the Robert and Mary Flint Campus of Caring. This wonderful facility, named after its two primary benefactors, was completely constructed with the selfless donations of time, materials, and money from hundreds of individuals who realize the significant impact Lighthouse has made in the community.

Lighthouse of Oakland County began in 1972 as an ecumenical ministry at Pontiac's St. Vincent de Paul Church, designed to assist low-income families and senior citizens in need. Nearly 30 years later, it remains committed to these ideals, providing a full range of human services to help lift the less fortunate from poverty to independence and self-sufficiency. With an army of volunteers and charitable donors, Lighthouse provides service through three subsidiaries Lighthouse Emergency Services, Lighthouse PATH, and Lighthouse Community Development.

With branches in Pontiac and nearby Clarkston, Lighthouse Emergency Services responds to families and seniors with an immediate need for food, medicine, transportation, or temporary shelter. Last year, the two branches assisted more than 76,000 people, many of whom are among Oakland County's working poor.

Lighthouse Pontiac Area Transitional Housing, or PATH began in 1991 and provides a safe, structured environment for 24 women and their children referred by homeless shelters. PATH offers counseling, job training, child care, and instruction in parenting and life skills. With an 84% success rate, many women have gone to become independent and productive members of society.

In 1992, Lighthouse Community Development initiated a neighborhood revitalization program whose goal was to increase affordable housing for low-income families. Through the efforts of community volunteerism and donations, a cluster of vacant and abandoned houses was transformed into the Unity Park housing development. Community Development continues to renovate and repair homes,

build new single family housing, maintain neighborhood yards, and also provides financial management training.

Lighthouse's value has been recognized by many, as evidenced by its many collaborations with churches, community programs, and businesses. They have received numerous rewards and citations and serve as one of Michigan's best managed non-profit groups.

Mr. Speaker, I am exceptionally proud to have Lighthouse of Oakland County in my district, and I am grateful for people like Robert and Mary Flint, the Lighthouse staff, and its Executive Director, Noreen Keating. With the new facility, the Campus of Caring will provide programs for computer training center, business and banking, senior independence, and life skills, among others. Through their work, many disadvantaged citizens will indeed reach their full potential. I ask my colleagues in the 107th Congress to please join me in congratulating Lighthouse.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM LEEDY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a friend and lifelong resident of my 34th Congressional District in Norwalk, California. Mr. Jim Leedy recently passed away and I am proud to honor him for his devout community service in organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Blind Association and the Rancho San Antonio Boys Home.

Jim was born in Los Angeles in 1935 and educated in the Los Angeles Public Schools. He married his high school sweetheart Kathleen in 1956 and was drafted into the Army in 1958, spending his time in Korea. After an honorable discharge, he and his wife bought a home in Norwalk, where they lived for forty wonderful and memorable years and raised two children, Jim and Theresa.

Jim was a truck driver by trade, however most of his life was spent helping others in various capacities. He became active in the Knights of Columbus in 1972 and was preparing to become a 4th degree Knight when he passed away. Under the leadership of Jim as Community Director, the Norwalk Knights of Columbus won-top honors in Community Service at the State convention in 1977. Since then, Jim has remained very active and involved in many different service areas of the Knights of Columbus, as well as the VFW. During the last two years of his life, Jim served as Family Director for the Knights of Columbus under two different Grand Knights. Even when he was not holding a specific office, Jim constantly worked on programs to better the community, organizing and raising funds for numerous charitable organizations.

Jim was also actively involved in St. Linus Church and gave much of his time to helping others. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, Jim would use his truck to pick up and deliver food baskets to the needy. He also picked up and delivered wreaths and trees for Christmas and palms during the