

A. Emptying wastebaskets in an office building after school in Lemmon, South Dakota when I was 10 years old. Moved on to a lawn mowing and snow shoveling business when I was 12.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend Paul Besselievre for his years of dedicated and distinguished service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Besselievre a pleasant retirement and many more years of continued success.

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#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained in Hawaii on official business during which two rollcall votes were taken. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 85, Motion to Instruct Conferees on the FY 2002 Budget Resolution, "Yes".

Rollcall No. 86, Motion to Suspend the Rules on HR 428 concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, "Yes".

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#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

### HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 86th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, in hopes that we will work to ensure that our country's foreign policy reflects a respect for human rights, and renounces ethnic cleansing and genocide. This Special Order brings forth an opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians that lost their lives as a result of this tragic event.

As we arrive at this anniversary once again, the United States should now more than ever promote healing with Turkey and the Armenian community in this nation and abroad. By acknowledging the great tragedy of the Armenian Genocide, we would be doing something today that is right for the wrong endured by Armenians 86 years ago. Although we are conscience of the current crisis in the Middle East and value our relationship with Turkey, it does not diminish the need to recognize what Armenians experienced during the early 20th Century. There are many people across the world who will agree that this is a highly sensitive and serious issue to discuss. But in order for us to correct the errors of the past we must never forget they took place by officially recognizing the Armenian Genocide and standing up against such atrocities.

On this April 24th, 2001, we remember and mourn the loss of all the Armenians killed from 1915 to 1923. But we also look forward to the day when we will see peace and stability real-

ized by not tolerating acts of severe cruelty and injustice. Unfortunately, genocide is not yet a vestige of the past. In more recent years we have witnessed ethnic killings in Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Kosovo. We must continue on with a commitment to prevent such assaults on humanity from occurring again. There are many Armenians living in California today who form a strong and vibrant part of the State's community. The strength they have displayed in overcoming the suffering is an example to us all.

Surrounded by countries still hostile to them, to this day the Armenian struggle continues. Our nation must work to prevent further aggression and assure Armenians throughout the world that they can live free of threats to their existence and property. Now with an independent Armenian state, the United States has an opportunity to contribute to a true memorial of the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy.

Mr. Speaker, as we remember and honor the dead, we also honor the living. Out of the ashes of their history, Armenians all over the world have clung to their identity and have prospered in new communities. For my part, I will vigorously fight to help improve the lives of Armenians in the United States and abroad.

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#### TRIBUTE TO DR. THOMAS STARZL

### HON. JOHN E. PETERSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of the truly great Americans of the 20th century, Dr. Thomas Starzl, the renowned "Father of Transplantation."

Dr. Starzl turned 75-years old on March 11th, and his former students, colleagues, patients and others are gathering in Pittsburgh in late April for the dedication of a portrait to hang alongside other University of Pittsburgh medical research luminaries such as Dr. Jonas Salk, who discovered the polio vaccine. Dr. Starzl's pioneering work on organ transplantation is no less important to our society.

One considered to be mere science fiction, the reality of organ transplantation is today often taken for granted. For years throughout his early career, Dr. Starzl tirelessly experimented with transplantation in the face of adversity and the skepticism of his colleagues and academics. But he succeeded, and because of his work thousands of lives are saved each year by organ transplant surgery.

It was 20-years ago this year that Dr. Starzl performed the first liver transplant in Pittsburgh. Since that time, more than 11,300 transplants have been performed in what is now the UPMC Health System, making Pittsburgh the busiest transplant center in the world. Even though he retired from surgery in 1991, his work and dedication to the field of transplantation continues and is unmatched.

Now as we proceed into a new century, his work continues. Just because he's now emeritus does not mean he will be idle. He still contributes on a daily basis (just a few years ago he was named the most cited in clinical

medicine) and he will provide leadership and vision to the program that bears his name.

Few in their lifetimes have pioneered and developed a field of medicine and seen it flourish, as has Dr. Starzl. And expect more from him—there are breakthroughs around the corner.

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#### COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, every year on April 24 we commemorate the Armenian genocide. Between 1915 and 1923, in what is called the first genocide of this century, more than one million Armenians perished and 500,000 survivors were exiled from their homes in Ottoman Turkey. We mark this unspeakable tragedy each year on that date so that we can examine what occurred and honor the memory of the victims. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the massacre of the Armenians was not the last genocide of the 20th Century. In designing his "final solution to the Jewish problem" Adolf Hitler reflected, "Who today remembers the Armenians?" Decades later, the cries of these victims echoed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

We must remember, Mr. Speaker, but we must also learn from this event and ultimately act on that knowledge to prevent such indescribable horror from ever occurring again. There are those who deny that there was an Armenian genocide. Mr. Speaker, Yehuda Bauer, historian of Yad Vashem, has said that "to deny a genocide . . . is a denial of truth." We must speak the truth, and that is what we do here in this House today.

As we honor the memory of those who perished, we marvel at the strength of the survivors and the generations which have followed. In the diaspora, the Armenian people have prospered and flourished throughout the world. The creation of the independent state of Armenia in 1991 not only provided the Armenian people with a homeland, but is a beacon of hope for the future. It is our hope, Mr. Speaker, that Armenia will thrive and prosper and continue to fortify its democracy.

It is also our hope, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan will redouble their efforts to find a solution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh. I commend our government for bringing the parties together in Florida recently for renewed negotiations, and I hope that this intensified effort will result in an agreement that will ensure lasting peace for all the people of the region.

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#### TRIBUTE TO MR. RICHARD CHRISTMAS

### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mr.

Richard Christmas of Lansing, Michigan. Mr. Christmas has been writing letters for over forty years to government officials in an attempt to set aside a day dedicated to space exploration. Over the years his letter writing campaign has payed great dividends. Ten Michigan cities, sixteen cities in other states, and a few states have dedicated a day, and sometimes a week for space exploration.

Mr. Christmas has always had an interest in space ever since he was a young boy. However, due to a severe accident he was forced to put his space ambitions on hold. After his recovery he started to write letters to government officials. At first there were few replies but as the United States Space Program gained momentum so did his letter-writing campaign. He has received several letters from mayors and governors commending him on his continuous effort and dedication to space exploration.

Today, Mr. Christmas wants more cities to become involved with making space exploration a national holiday. With the National Air and Space Museum's 25th anniversary around the corner, this would be a perfect time to promote Space Day across the country and I encourage my colleagues to support the efforts of my civic-minded constituent, Mr. Richard Christmas.

HONORING PAUL POLO FOR HIS  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Connecticut business leader and my dear friend, Paul Polo, who has been honored by the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven with their 12th Annual Distinguished Service Award.

Each year, the Italian American Historical Society of Greater New Haven honors members of Connecticut's Italian American community for their service and dedication. The Distinguished Service Award is a reflection of their commitment to the Society and to its mission—preserving the culture and heritage of Italian-Americans. Throughout his life, Paul has demonstrated a unique commitment to public service in both his professional and philanthropic efforts.

Paul's contributions to the Italian-American community are innumerable. For over four decades, Paul has been a member of the Order Sons of Italy in America, serving as president of the nation's largest and oldest Italian American organization for two years. Under his leadership, the organization raised millions of dollars that was contributed to education, medical research, and social awareness issues. Paul now serves as the president of the Sons of Italy Foundation, where he has again played a crucial role in fund-raising efforts on behalf of a variety of service organizations. In addition to his work on the national stage, Paul is also involved in several organizations in Connecticut. A member of the

Knights of Columbus, Elks, Mount Carmel Society, the Chamber of Commerce, and as an organizational representative of the American Society of Association Executives, Paul has dedicated much of his life to making a real difference in the lives of others.

An avid political activist, Paul has long been a figure in Washington as well as Connecticut. In 1991, Paul met with former President Bush as a representative from the Order Sons of Italy in America during an Oval Office meeting to discuss initiatives for social equality. In addition, he served on President Bush's policy round table. Former President Bill Clinton named Paul an alternate delegate to the U.S. Small Business Administration. Currently serving as the chairman of this year's Democratic National Convention and co-vice chairman of the Italian American Democratic Leadership Council—an organization which he helped to establish—Paul remains an active participant in public affairs.

As a respected business leader, volunteer, an political activist, Paul has left an indelible mark on the State of Connecticut. His commitment and dedication has gone a long way to enrich our communities and strengthen the bonds we share. It is with great pride that I rise today to join his children, Paul Jr., Daniel and Michael; grandchildren, Daniel Jr., Anthony, Philip, Nicole and Emily; family, friends, and colleagues in extending my sincere appreciation and congratulations to Paul Polo for his outstanding service to Connecticut and our great nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall vote 85, on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H. Con. Res. 83, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2002, I would have voted "nay." Rollcall vote 86, on H.R. 428, concerning the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization, I would have voted "yea."

COMMEMORATING THE 2600TH  
BIRTHDAY OF LORD MAHAVIR

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor today to praise the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Vajpayee, in declaring this year as the year of nonviolence. April 6 commemorates the 2600th birthday of the greatest prophet of Jainism, Lord Mahavir.

Jainism is a beautiful religion originating in India over two millennia ago, built on the principles of nonviolence, working on the self, and realization of multiplicity of truth through our

varying perspectives of life. Lord Mahavir worked tirelessly all his life until he reached Nirvana, and then embarked barefoot to spread his message of truth across the great nation of India.

Lord Mahavir practiced and preached environmental protection to safeguard trees, plants and animals for the living. The observation of the nonviolent practices of the Jainis was a major influence on the philosophy of the great Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. The same principles of nonviolence and respect for life were practiced more recently by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the United States, as he led the struggle for civil rights for all Americans.

Mahavir's principles are extremely important today as well. Mahavir or The Great Soul taught us liberation of soul by right knowledge, right faith and right conduct. We must all bring this into our lives to make this world a better place for our children and grandchildren.

April 6th marks the beginning of pioneering celebrations throughout the world for nonviolence, and thus I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the year 2001 as the year of nonviolence worldwide.

LETTER CARRIERS DELIVER HOPE  
TO FAMILIES IN NEED

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 25, 2001*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 12, 2001, the largest one-day food drive in the country will take place. Letter carriers from across the nation will join together and collect nonperishable food items from their customers and the supplies will be taken to food pantries for distribution. In Milwaukee, last year's food drive benefited the community by providing a total of over 376,000 pounds of donations for more than 100 local food operations.

These contributions come at a critical time when donations to food pantries traditionally fall. During the summer months, demand for food to feed school-aged children typically peaks as access to school breakfast and lunch programs is restricted. Students suffer as their parents struggle to provide well-balanced meals. It is because of this that the National Letter Carriers Food Drive is so important to the health of our communities.

This project has been made possible by the generous sponsorship and efforts of the National Association of Letter Carriers, U.S. Postal Service, AFL-CIO, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Covenant Healthcare, and Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to ask that my colleagues lend their support to the letter carriers' food drives in their own hometowns and districts. To my neighbors in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties, I ask that they look deep in their hearts and pick up a few extra nonperishable items while doing their weekly shopping. As all food collected remains in the community, these essential donations will benefit those that we work and live with.

Together we can make a difference in the fight against food shortage. May 12, 2001, the