

In March 1945, the Woodstock Journal called for business, industrial and professional leaders to form "a real live-wire chamber of commerce." Since that time, northern Illinois has experienced phenomenal growth, in no small part due to the activity of its business community.

At the Woodstock Chamber's organizational meeting, a representative from the Illinois State Chamber of Commerce told members that "The Chamber of Commerce is a voice of business, industry and agriculture." That description holds true today, with the Chamber working to ensure a favorable business climate and promoting the area's economic and social progress. Throughout the years, members of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry have participated in various community activities, from honoring 4-H Club members and welcoming home World War II veterans in the 1940s to food drives and telethons today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry for their substantial and increasing influence on the economic growth and development of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois. The Chamber's first 60 years have seen great advancement. Let us congratulate them on their part of that achievement and look forward to the next 60 years.

COMMEMORATING PEACE CORPS
44TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MATEO
VOLUNTEERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Peace Corps' 44th anniversary. Since 1961, over 178,000 Peace Corps volunteers in 138 countries have counseled teenagers and adults in HIV/AIDS education and prevention, guided entrepreneurs in the basic skills of small business development, worked with women to expand their access to credit, conducted curriculum development training for teachers, helped to bridge the divide between those who can afford access to technology and those who cannot, and effectively completed many other notable development projects.

Among this legion of volunteers are twenty residents of my congressional district in San Mateo County, California. They are Corrine Basanez, James Choy, Emily Doan, Michael Henley, Brian Jungwiwattanapo, Andrew Kerfoot, Adam Ko, Joshua Kroot, Cynthia Lai, Anna Lee, Matthew Lewis, Andrew Lind, Theresa Nagan, Joshua Nagler, Aida Navarro, Michael O'Donnell, Michelle Pena, Doreen Peterson, Dino Saldajeno, and Victoria Wilson. I commend all of them for their dedication, commitment, and service to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this body in the 108th Congress passed with overwhelming bipartisan support the Peace Corps Expansion Act of 2003 and the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004. Unfortun-

nately, our colleagues in the other body were not as successful in considering companion legislation. Notwithstanding this fact, the needs of Peace Corps Volunteers and the Peace Corps as an agency remain pressing. Consequently, I look forward to working with my friend and colleague Chairman HYDE as well as other Members to reintroduce authorizing legislation that will strengthen Peace Corps' ability to fulfill its congressionally mandated mission of conducting diplomacy through development. I am also committed to ensuring that Peace Corps Volunteers, as our best ambassadors in remote villages throughout the globe and particularly in countries with significant Muslim populations, reflect the diversity of our great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I again salute the many thousands of Peace Corps Volunteers who have dedicated on average two years of their lives to proudly continuing the arduous yet vastly rewarding work of the nearly 180,000 volunteers that have come before them. I am proud to represent twenty of these extraordinary individuals who are currently separated from their families, friends, and neighbors in the pursuit of service to country and others.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO
JAMES GALES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Mr. James Gales of Jefferson County, Mississippi, born May 18, 1922. Mr. Gales attended the Jefferson County Training School until sixth grade.

In 1940, Mr. Gales began public work as a construction worker for Shepp Time Construction Company and helped build the Natchez Trace. Following his work at Shepp Time Construction he went on to work for the WPA and construct many of the streets in Jefferson County. In addition, he assisted in erecting the Jefferson County Jail in 1942. He later went on to work for the Illinois Central Railroad.

In February 1944 he volunteered for the United States Army and started his service at Camp Shelby and later to Fort Bennitt, Georgia. After basic training he worked in the bat-

alion headquarters breaking down rations, supplies, for four companies in the Services. In 1946, Mr. Gales attended Alcorn A & M College and later worked for the International Paper Company, working there until 1984.

Mr. Gales was very active in the civil rights movement and joined the NAACP in 1954. Through his commitment and activism in the civil rights movement, he played significant role in electing Jefferson County's first black mayor since Reconstruction, Charles Evers, as well as five city aldermen.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BEND
ROTARY AND THE CENTENNIAL
ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary commitment to service, community, and humanitarianism displayed by the members of Rotary International as the organization celebrates its 100th anniversary this month.

One hundred years ago, a lawyer in Chicago, Illinois, embarked on an effort to create a professional club that captured the same friendly spirit he felt in the small towns of his youth; a club that would make service a priority, generosity a regular occurrence, and hard work a way of life. This idea was welcomed throughout the United States with clubs sprouting coast to coast within the first decade, and throughout the rest of the world with clubs forming on six continents by 1921.

Today, Rotary International is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders—individuals committed to humanitarianism, high ethical standards, and civic involvement.

I have been a proud member of Rotary since October 1987, and while my work here in Washington, D.C. keeps me from attending all the meetings of my Hood River, Oregon club, I make every attempt to go when I am home. And as I commute home to Oregon each week from our nation's capital, I am able to attend many meetings at clubs in the twenty counties throughout my sprawling district.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians in over 31,000 clubs located in 166 countries. And in the United States, there are nearly 400,000 Rotarians in more than 7,500 clubs.

The Bend Rotary, found in the heart of Oregon, is one such club. Founded in 1947, Bend Rotary is the longest running club in Bend and its members have helped establish the three other Rotary clubs that currently exist in the city—High Desert, Bend-Mt. Bachelor, and Greater Bend.

Rotary International has the motto "Service Above Self" and they adhere to "The Four Way Test" of business ethics, a philosophy

that encourages truth, fairness, goodwill and mutual benefit in all professional actions. These traits are evident in the projects Bend Rotary has supported over the years: the Alice Hatch Pre-School Playground, the Drake Park Pavilion, the Juniper Park Skating Rink and Pat's Park in Juniper Park, the Central Oregon Welcome Center Sign, the "Tree of Joy," and the Barrance Honda Mexico Water Project. In the past, Bend Rotary has donated over 280 wheel chairs to a small town in Lithuania and has also raised over \$100,000 to help refurbish a school kitchen in that country.

Currently, Bend Rotary is working in conjunction with the other Bend area clubs on the completion of Rotary Centennial Playground to be located adjacent to Bend Senior Center in Bend. In the true Rotary spirit of service for all, this park has been designed with access and amenities suitable for kids and parents with special physical needs and is compliant with ADA standards. The 350 members of the four Bend area Rotary clubs have pledged both time and money, including 16 hours of volunteer labor per Rotarian and funds in excess of \$150,000 to launch this worthwhile endeavor.

A major focus of Rotary International is the global eradication of polio, a goal that the organization hopes to meet this year. In 1985 they launched the PolioPlus program to protect children against the disease. Rotary, along with groups such as the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children Fund, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and various governments throughout the world, has achieved a 99 percent reduction in the number of polio cases worldwide.

Their work and generosity has benefited youth, seniors, the impoverished, the disabled, the disheartened, and those devastated by disease, tragedy and natural disaster. I am proud to be a Rotarian and proud of the work that Rotary clubs throughout my district do on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me to share with my colleagues the generosity and spirit of service that is exemplified by the members of Bend Rotary. May those of us in the Congress pay special attention to the motto of this organization and conduct ourselves here in a manner of "Service Before Self."

TRIBUTE TO BABETTE WISE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Babette Wise, on her dedication to substance abuse treatment and prevention in the Washington, D.C. area for nearly a quarter of a century.

As a licensed therapist and director of Georgetown University Hospital's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Clinic, Wise has worked with individuals, families, and communities struggling with addiction to alcohol and other drugs. She has helped many people throughout the

Washington region transform their lives by providing quality treatment and education.

Her treatment philosophy is based on the acknowledgement that addiction is a disease and that abstinence is the best way to manage the condition. Wise treats her patients with respect and provides a safe place for them to heal.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus on Addiction, Treatment and Recovery, I have gained a greater awareness and respect for the problems associated with addiction, and I am working to promote solutions to these problems. I believe that information, education, and awareness about chemical addiction, as well as access to treatment are the keys to combating this horrific disease.

I applaud Babette Wise and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

PRAISING FOREIGN MINISTER OF ARMENIA, VARTAN OSKANIAN'S STATEMENT COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join my colleagues last month in commemorating the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz. On that solemn occasion, Congress remembered the heroic forces that helped bring an end to this crime against humanity, and we reminded ourselves and others to never forget the lessons of the past.

At the request of the United States, Canada, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, and Russia, the United Nations, for the first time, also observed the liberation of Auschwitz. Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vartan Oskanian, was among a select group of foreign ministers who addressed the United Nations 28th Special Session in New York.

As a people victimized by genocide under the cover of WWII, all Armenians have a special empathy for the victims, survivors and descendants of the Holocaust. As Minister Oskanian said at the UN General Assembly:

"After Auschwitz, we are all Jews, we are all Gypsies, we are all unfit, deviant and undesirable, for someone, somewhere."

As the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, I am pleased to submit the Minister's full remarks as delivered to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. By remembering all instances of man's inhumanity to man, we renew our commitment always to prevent this crime's recurrence, and therefore negate the dictum that history is condemned to repeat itself.

STATEMENT OF H. E. VARTAN OSKANIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA AT THE 28TH SPECIAL SESSION ON THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS—NEW YORK, JANUARY 24, 2005

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Dear Friends: On behalf of the people and government of Armenia, and as a descendant of genocide survivors, I feel compelled to be here today, to join other survivors and de-

scendants, of both victims and perpetrators, to take part in this commemoration. I am also duty-bound to urge us all to confront more effectively the threat of genocide anywhere, at any time, regardless of cost and political discomfort.

The liberation of Auschwitz is, indeed, cause for commemorative celebration. However, in this commemoration, with each uttering of the name Auschwitz, we are forced to reflect: to look back, look around, look deep, look at the other, but also look inward, at ourselves.

After 9/11 and reacting to the unusually high number of victims of a singular event, an editorialist proclaimed "We are all Americans". Sympathy, solidarity, anxiety, and indignation bound us together. How much more intense our feelings about Auschwitz and the singularity of its horror, its synonymy with the technology of death-making, its eerily ordinary commitment to efficiency, to pragmatic, effective, result-oriented administration.

After Auschwitz, we are all Jews, we are all Gypsies, we are all unfit, deviant and undesirable, for someone, somewhere. After Auschwitz, the conscience of man cannot remain the same. Man's inhumanity to men, to women, to children, and to the elderly, is no longer a concept in search of a name, an image, a description. Auschwitz lends its malefic aura to all the Auschwitzes of history, our collective history, both before and after.

In the 20th century alone, with its 15 genocides, the victims have their own names for places of infamy. What the French call 'les lieux infames de memoire' are everywhere. Places of horror, slaughter, of massacre, of the indiscriminate killing of all those who have belonged to a segment, a category, an ethnic group, a race or a religion. For Armenians, it is the desert of Deir-El-Zor, for Cambodians they are the killing fields, for the children of the 21st century, it is Darfur. For the Jews and Poles and for a whole generation of us growing up after The War, it is Auschwitz.

Mr. President: Just as we all were, or are, or might be victims, we all were or are or might also be guilty. It is only through the engagement of those who have seen and done the unimaginable, and who have had the dignity, the grace, the sensitivity, the decency and courage to acknowledge wrongdoing, that we may achieve the requisite collective political will and its expression.

This is not as naive, unrealistic, idealistic as some might wish to label it, perhaps in order to dismiss it. Genocide is not about individuals who act insanely, do evil, commit crimes, perpetrate irrevocable wrongs. Genocide is the undertaking of a state apparatus, which must, by definition, act coherently, pragmatically, with structure and organization.

Thus, this is not a plea to reform human beings, but an appeal to take conscious account of the role our national institutions and international institutions must play to ensure that no one can expect to enjoy impunity.

After Auschwitz one would expect that no one any longer has a right to turn a blind eye or a deaf ear. As an Armenian, I know that a blind eye, a deaf ear and a muted tongue perpetuate the wounds. It is a memory of suffering unrelieved by strong condemnation and unequivocal recognition. The catharsis that the victims deserve, which societies require in order to heal and move forward together, obligates us here at the UN, and in the international community, to be