

22nd Guam Legislatures. During her tenure as a Senator, she served as Chairwoman of the Committee on Ways and Means, Chairwoman of the Committee on Rules, Chairwoman of the Committee on Health, Welfare, & Ecology, and Vice Chair of the Committee on General Governmental Operations. In addition to her leadership positions in the Guam Legislature, Herminia also served on the Legislative Management Committee on the Assembly of the Legislature of the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Executive Committee of the Western Legislative Conference, and the Committee on Suggested State Legislation on the Council of State Governments. She was appointed to represent Guam in the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

Herminia contributed her time and effort to community improvement by volunteer work and service in several community organizations. She served as president of the Association of Government Accountants, the Guam Business Education Association, and the Guam Business and Professional Women's Club. She was also appointed to serve in leadership roles for the Western Business Education Association, Manukai Swim Club, Far East Swim League, Beauty World Guam, Tamuning Elementary School PTA, Guam Beauty Association, Father Duenas Memorial High School Parents Guild, American Heart Association, and Guam Memorial Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Soroptomist International, the Guam Lytico and Bodig Association and the Guam Memorial Hospital Volunteers Association.

My thoughts and prayers are with Herminia's husband, Deacon John C. Dierking, their five children, Cliff, Kurt, Steven, Anna Maria, and John Paul, their grandchildren, and the many family and friends whose lives she touched. We honor her life's work as an educator and community leader. Most of all, she will always be remembered as a gentle woman who always had a kind word and a warm smile. She lived a full life and we are grateful for her public service. We will all miss her dearly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KERN COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS UNION IAFF LOCAL 1301 ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today, to congratulate the Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 on the celebration of their 50th anniversary.

The Kern County Fire Fighters Union dates back to 1957, when the first organizing meeting was held. Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 was officially organized on March 24, 1958 with 44 charter members, including Organizing President Arthur A. Arvizu and First Elected President Lester Cheek.

The first Union office was a cardboard box inside an automobile trunk. IAFF Local 1301

bought their first building located at 230 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield, California in April of 1968. The office on Truxtun Avenue was eventually sold and the Union moved to 3615 Mt Vernon Avenue in August of 1982.

While the Union has kept pace with all phases of Kern County Fire Fighter wages, hours and working conditions, some examples of its biggest accomplishments include establishing an Educational Incentive Plan, reducing the work week from 72 hours to 56 Hours with paid holidays, and playing a major role in the signing implementation of the Joint Powers Agreement between the Kern County Fire Department and the Bakersfield City Fire Department.

In the past 50 years, their membership has grown from 44 to 529 strong while 18 presidents have played a vital role in the Union's success.

The Union continues to make every effort to work with the Board of Supervisors, department heads and staff, as well as the Chief of the Kern County Fire Department and his staff, believing that greater strides can be made with all parties working together. Members have always felt secure knowing that no matter what task lies ahead, it will be met with enthusiasm by dedicated members who believe in and live by the Union motto, "In Unity There Is Strength."

The 50th anniversary of the Kern County Fire Fighters Union, Inc. IAFF Local 1301 is a perfect opportunity to pay tribute to the men and women who risk their lives every day for the safety of our community. Often, when people are running out of buildings, away from the danger, these brave men and women are the ones running toward the flames. They are our everyday heroes and I, along with all Kern County communities, am eternally grateful for their service.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF HAYGANOUSH MARKARIAN

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 2, 2008*

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness and respect today, along with Congresswoman LYNN C. WOOLSEY, to honor Hayganoush Markarian, a resident of the San Francisco Bay Area, who passed away recently at the age of 105. Hayganoush was one of the few survivors of the Armenian Genocide of the early 20th century, so it further saddens me that she died without the government of Turkey, from where she fled, or the government of the United States, where she found refuge, officially recognizing that Genocide.

Much has been said about the facts and numbers and statistics. We know that in Turkey between 1915 and 1921, 1.5 million Armenians died—80 percent of the population. But it is women like Hayganoush who put a human face on the Armenian Genocide and remind us that we are talking about actual people whose lives were lost or whose homes and families were destroyed.

Hayganoush Markarian was born on January 24, 1902, in the historic Armenian city of

Kharpert, which suffered huge losses in the Armenian Genocide. She lived with her parents, older brother, and four sisters.

When the Turks came after her father and brother, both went into hiding—her brother dressed as a girl in order to safely cross dangerous areas and her father initially hid in the well at their home and later with Kurdish friends.

Her mother somehow saved the family from the deportations and massacres and re-united with her husband briefly after World War I, before he died as a result of the damp conditions in the wells he had hidden in for such long periods.

In 1923, the remainder of the family made their way to Syria, where Hayganoush married Markar Markarian in 1925. The Markarians later moved to Lebanon and eventually the United States. In both Syria and Lebanon, Hayganoush was an active member of the Armenian Relief Society, the oldest Armenian women's organization operating in the world.

Hayganoush resided in Oakland until her death in March of this year at the age of 105. She had prayed she would live to see the day when she and other victims of the Armenian Genocide would see the Genocide officially recognized both here and in Turkey.

Madam Speaker, although Hayganoush's prayer was not granted, she did see such a resolution pass the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives last fall. I am proud to be a cosponsor of that resolution, and I look forward to the day when the U.S. government officially recognizes the Genocide. Hayganoush Markarian's story will serve as a reminder to us of the sanctity of human life in Armenia and around the world.

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