

was a clean election under Florida law. The Democratic National Committee cannot deny that certification of that legal election.

Sadly, one of the byproducts of all this is that in listening to what the latest Gallup poll says, one-half of all the Democrats in the United States think all of this fracas is hurting the party—one-half of all the Democrats in the country. When you combine that latest Gallup Poll with the fact that months ago a poll in Florida showed that 22 percent of Independent Florida voters, 22 percent of Independents in Florida, would be less likely to vote for the Democratic nominee in November because of the way that Florida is being treated by the Democratic National Committee: Democratic National Committee, you better wake up. We have a problem on our hands.

What we ought to be doing is looking at November. As the old colloquialism says, we better watch out or we are going to be cutting off our nose to spite our face.

EQUAL PAY

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it is hard for me to understand how the Senate cannot support equal pay for equal work, the same for women as for men. That happened yesterday, on a vote of 56 in favor of proceeding to the bill on equal pay for equal work and 43 against. I do not understand that.

What is worse is my wife and many other spouses of Senators cannot understand that. I assure you, they are letting their husbands and spouses know how they feel—that they cannot understand how the Senate cannot proceed to a bill for equal pay for equal work for women.

I hope the next time we try to move to a bill for which we have to hit the 60-vote threshold to get over the filibuster to get to the bill—we need 4 more votes—I hope somewhere over there we are going to be able to get them when we bring up equal pay for equal work for women.

I yield the floor.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today, on the 93rd anniversary of the onset of the Armenian genocide, to honor the victims of this terrible tragedy and to reiterate my unwavering support for the United States Government to officially recognize as genocide the series of atrocities carried out against the Armenian population by the Ottoman Empire beginning on April 24, 1915.

It truly saddens me that after 93 years, the United States has failed to acknowledge the Armenian genocide

for what it was. Between 1915 and 1923, the Ottoman Empire forcibly deported around 2 million Armenians, of whom 1.5 million men, women, and children were killed. Those fortunate enough to survive the massacres, forced marches, and deliberate starvation, were ejected from their homeland.

In response to reports of these horrific events, U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau, Sr. explicitly condemned the policy of the Government of the Ottoman Empire as “a campaign of race extermination.” Moreover, Ambassador Morgenthau was praised by U.S. Secretary of State Robert Lansing for his efforts “to stop Armenian persecution.”

Perhaps more significant to the Chamber in which I stand today was the passage of S. Con. Res. 12 on February 9, 1916. This prescient piece of legislation not only acknowledged that a colossal tragedy had ensued in the midst of the Great War, but also resolved that the President of the United States “designate a day on which the citizens of this country may give expression to their sympathy by contributing funds now being raised for the relief of the Armenians,” who, at that time, were enduring “starvation, disease, and untold suffering” at the hands of the Ottoman leadership.

Less than 4 years later, while the Armenian genocide continued, the Senate would also pass S. Res. 359, which stated, in part, that recent congressional testimony “clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered.”

I say to my friends in the Senate, given how our esteemed colleagues of the past reflected on this terrible tragedy, I cannot help but think that they would have surely labeled these atrocities as genocide if only the word had been coined. The United States has a rich history of defending human rights, standing up for the oppressed, and speaking the truth about genocide. However, in spite of support from Members of Congress and leaders in the Armenian community, the official policy of the executive branch of the United States still does not recognize the Armenian genocide.

I am so proud that my home state of Nevada, with its vibrant Armenian-American community, and 40 other U.S. States have, by legislation or proclamation, already recognized the Armenian Genocide. In fact, on April 11, 2000, former Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn proclaimed April 24, 2000, as a day of remembrance of “The First Genocide of the 20th Century.”

I would also like to congratulate the Armenian-Americans of southern Nevada for planning yet another successful Armenian Genocide Commemoration event on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. It is so wonderful to see this community from

my home county come together each year to honor the survivors and their deceased brethren, and I wish my Armenian friends in Nevada the best of luck with this year’s commemoration and those for years to come. May God bless them and all of those who fight on their behalf.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, an ancient nation faced extermination when officials of the Ottoman Government initiated a series of raids in which hundreds of Armenians were arrested and subsequently deported or killed. Isolated incidents of brutality had occurred before, but sadly this event marked the beginning of a campaign of murder, deportation, and forced starvation. When the violence ultimately ended, as many as 1.5 million Armenians had died and 500,000 were exiled. Armenians all but disappeared from land their people had occupied for centuries.

The American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire at the time was the distinguished Henry Morgenthau who described the horrors perpetrated against the Armenians as the “murder of a nation.”

Just this week, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which I have the honor to chair, had a hearing on the systematic murder of innocents in Darfur. The incident serves as an important reminder that an open discussion of the Armenian genocide is critical. Since the 1915 ethnic cleansing, the murder by a government of its own citizens has occurred again and again.

It is depressing to think that human beings have not learned their lesson. The whole world is diminished, wounded, and made poorer by such tragedies and we must not forget them if we hope to prevent them. The commemoration of this act of brutality and systematic murder 93 years ago is important and relevant not only for the survivors and their descendants, but for humanity as a whole.

TRIBUTE TO DAN CHERRY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend, Dan Cherry. A retired U.S. Air Force brigadier general, Dan Cherry is a respected Kentuckian and a man of character.

During his time in the Air Force, General Cherry volunteered for combat duty in 1966 and 1971, flying over 295 missions, most of them over North Vietnam. On one of those missions in April 1972, General Cherry shot down the plane of a Vietnamese soldier, Nguyen Hong My.

General Cherry always wondered what happened to the pilot that he shot down, and he recently was given the chance to meet him. General Cherry

and Hong My met face to face in Vietnam almost 36 years to the day of General Cherry's shooting down Hong My's MiG-21 fighter.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Brigadier General Dan Cherry, who through his actions of patronage and reconciliation has shown us what it means to be a true American, and Kentuckian. Recently the Bowling Green Daily Newspaper published a story about General Cherry and the remarkable story of his journey to Vietnam. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Bowling Green Daily News, Apr. 13, 2008]

VIETNAM VET REUNITES WITH PILOT HE SHOT DOWN IN '72

(By Jim Gaines)

BOWLING GREEN, KY.—On April 6, Dan Cherry and Nguyen Hong My were back in the air near Hanoi, capital of Vietnam.

Almost 36 years before—on April 16, 1972—Cherry shot down My's MiG-21 fighter in the same area.

My parachuted as his plane crashed, breaking his arms in the process; and now Cherry's plane, an F4D Phantom II, is restored to its wartime colors and parked in the Aviation Heritage Park on Three Springs Road.

Last week, the two men flew together past the scene of their earlier encounter, chatting in the comfortable seats of a jetliner on their way to My's home.

"It was, I guess, the most amazing experience I've ever had in my lifetime," Cherry said.

Cherry volunteered for combat duty in Southeast Asia in 1966, then for a second tour in 1971. He flew 295 missions, most of them over North Vietnam. He retired as a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force and went on to a career in Kentucky state government and managing the Kentucky TriModal Transpark.

But, Cherry said, he often wondered what happened to the pilot he shot down. When the Aviation Heritage Park was in its planning stages 2½ years ago, one of its local backers half-jokingly suggested trying to find the MiG pilot.

Cherry worked through friends to contact a reunion show on Vietnamese TV, which worked through the Ministry of Defense to identify Nguyen Hung My.

In December, a producer of the show—called "As If We Never Parted"—e-mailed Cherry with the news and asked if he'd appear on the show.

After flying to Vietnam for his first visit since the war, he went to the TV studio April 5. According to Cherry, the show's host introduced him and told the audience about his life. After showing pictures of Cherry's family, she introduced My.

Cherry said he was nervous, wondering how he'd be received. But My smiled as he came out and shook Cherry's hand. Through an interpreter, My said he was glad to meet Cherry. The anchor told about My's life, his four years of flight training in the Soviet Union and his war service.

Thanh Nien News, a major newspaper in Ho Chi Minh City which publishes in Vietnamese and English, reported on the pilots' meeting. According to that story, My said

he'd never thought about looking for the pilot who once shot him down. After the war, he studied English and finance, and worked for an insurance company, the paper said.

My flew for two more years after recovering from his bail-out injuries, speaks Chinese and Russian, has a great sense of humor, and is obviously highly respected by friends and family, Cherry said.

After the show, the two sat down backstage and talked about flying and their respective families.

"We hit it off really well," Cherry said.

Later, they and the TV staff went to a rooftop restaurant in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. Over dinner, My asked if Cherry would visit his home in Hanoi. Cherry—already planning to go to Hanoi the next day as a tourist—thought My meant some indefinite time in the future; it turned out he meant the next day. When Cherry agreed, My changed his own travel schedule so they could be on the same flight.

My's house, it turned out, was within walking distance of Cherry's hotel. That night he and his friends Larry Bailey and John Fleck made their way to My's house along streets teeming with motor scooters, Cherry said.

They had dinner with My's family, and Cherry got to hold his former opponent's 1-year-old grandson, he said.

"It was just a tremendous experience to be welcomed so completely," Cherry said. "I've made a good friend in Mr. Hong My."

In return, he gave My a bottle of bourbon and invited him to visit Bowling Green, perhaps later this year, he said.

My offered to guide them around the city the next day, showing up at 8 a.m. in a car with his son-in-law and friend. He took them to one site after another, including a number of military museums that ordinary tourists wouldn't get to see, Cherry said. They saw past displays of Soviet-built fighter planes, including MiG-21s like the one My flew in 1972, he said.

Cherry also visited the "Hanoi Hilton"—the building made notorious as a prison for American pilots shot down over North Vietnam. It's now a museum. Most of the exhibits, though, are devoted to the Vietnamese who were held there during the decades of French rule, Cherry said; there's only one small room describing its time as a prison for Americans.

The overall impression he had of Vietnam is that what the Vietnamese call the "American War" has been put far behind them, he said.

"They're moving on to the future. They don't hold any grudges," Cherry said.

My also asked for help with one task: He shot down an American plane, too, but believes that pilot was killed, Cherry said. So he asked if Cherry could help him find that pilot's family. He would like to express his respect and condolences, Cherry said.

NATIONAL TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND SON TO WORK DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, April 24 is Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day, which is a great opportunity for people who are in a position to do so to give their kids a better idea of what they do for a living. In my office, we had a short social time this morning to allow the children of staff members to gather and talk about their experience. Participation in Take

Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day can be fun for the parents and the children. But at its heart, this day is a part of a broad effort to reach pay equity for women.

On Tuesday, we marked Equal Pay Day, the point in 2008 when the average woman's wages finally catch up with what the average man earned in 2007. The numbers are sobering.

Equal pay has been the law since 1963. But today, 45 years later, women are still paid less than men—even when women have similar education, skills, and experience. While women's wages have risen in all States, in inflation-adjusted dollars, since 1989, the typical full-time woman worker does not make as much as the typical man in any State. At the present rate of progress, it will take 50 years to close the wage gap nationwide.

In 2007, women were paid 77 cents for every dollar men received. That is \$23 less for every \$100 worth of work women do—\$23 less to spend on groceries, housing, child care, and other expenses. Nationwide, working families lose \$200 billion of income annually to the wage gap.

Over a lifetime of work, the 23 cents on the dollar women are losing adds up. The average 25-year-old working woman will lose more than \$523,000 to unequal pay during her working life. These figures are even worse for women of color. And because women are paid less now, they have less money to set aside for retirement, and they will earn lower pensions than men.

Part of the motivation behind Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day is to expose children of both genders to professional fields that historically have been dominated by men. This day is one of many initiatives developed to encourage girls and young women in their education and professional journeys. Professional and student organizations, such as the Society of Women Engineers, offer a support network for those young women who are making their mark in professions that historically have not seen many women.

Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day can help both girls and boys see the career opportunities that may be open to them if they stay in school, set goals, and study. I commend the employers and employees who are able to participate today. I would also like to congratulate and encourage the children who are sizing up options for their future careers. Let us keep in mind today that we need to keep working to enable every child to achieve his or her full potential, and we need to ensure that women are fully and fairly compensated for all the work they do.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise in honor of today's Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day when, over the past 15 years, individuals, families and workplaces have joined in expanding opportunities and transforming the