

BELLEVUE: THE #1 CITY IN
AMERICA FOR SMALL BUSINESS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bellevue, Washington, for being named the best place in the Nation to live and launch a business by Fortune Small Business. Anyone who has visited in the past decade couldn't help but notice the abundance of construction cranes throughout the downtown area. They would also quickly realize that Bellevue embodies the true spirit of American innovation. I'm proud to represent this city that lies within the Eighth Congressional District of Washington.

Bellevue is a worthy recipient of this honor, with its growing downtown and natural beauty thanks to its proximity to the Cascade Mountains and breathtaking Mount Rainier. Citizens can enjoy the 90 city parks or nearby views of Lake Washington. With multiple high-tech corporations in the city, Bellevue draws a talented, high-tech workforce that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that grows our economy and creates jobs.

As we celebrate the achievements of small businesses across the Nation during "Small Business Week," it is my hope that cities across the country follow Bellevue's lead and embrace their entrepreneurial spirit. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and provide the key to our economy's resilience in uncertain economic times. Today, I'm proud to honor the City of Bellevue for its achievements in creating one of the finest places in America to live and work.

I ask for unanimous consent to insert the following article into the record.

THE NO. 1 CHAMPION: BELLEVUE, WASH. ABUNDANT TECH TALENT. GORGEOUS VIEWS. (BUT COSTLY HOMES AND TAXES.)

(By Mina Kimes, March 26, 2008)

BELLEVUE, WASH. (FORTUNE Small Business)—Earl Overstreet, Chief Executive Officer of General Microsystems (GMI) in Bellevue, travels fewer than five times a year for business. But he visits the Mercer Slough Nature Park, across the street from his office, every day on his lunch break. He walks across a wooden bridge, gazes at Bellevue's rising downtown—and then turns away.

Over the past ten years Overstreet has watched the city evolve from a bedroom community into an urban center of skyscrapers and 117,000 inhabitants (the latest population figures, according to the local chamber of commerce), but he's more eager to point out blackberry bushes and red-tailed hawks.

"When you're surrounded by mountains and nature," he says, "you can't help but be content."

Overstreet, 60, and his wife, Barb, the firm's CFO, spend free time hiking, kayaking, and biking around the area. While new businesses are cropping up quickly, most office buildings are still enveloped by greenery—the city boasts 90 parks and 50 miles of trail. "Taxes [including a 0.1496% business tax on gross receipts] and property costs are high," says Overstreet, "but it's a premium for the living conditions."

The median home sale price hovers at \$500,000 (the metro area averages about \$400,000), but Bellevue, lying 20 minutes from Seattle, also boasts low crime rates, great

schools, and excellent health care. Nearly 60% of locals over 25 have at least a bachelor's degree. The city expects to add 15,500 jobs by 2010, up 11.5% from 2006. Bellevue's strategic location helps tire growth. GMI, whose revenue rose from \$6 million in 2002 to \$28 million last year, is based near its suppliers—Hitachi, Symantec, Sun Microsystems—as well as customers such as Boeing and Starbucks.

"Many of our employees came from our clients," Overstreet says.

The city is also a font of tech talent, thanks to the Microsoft campus in nearby Redmond. Many former Microsofties have launched startups in Bellevue. Current employees pour wealth into a growing service sector.

Overstreet points out that many small businesses in Bellevue operate globally—not surprising considering that 40% of the population is nonwhite or foreign-born. "We do have a glittering downtown now," he says, "but it's the diversity that attracts entrepreneurs like me."

COMMEMORATING THE SURVIVORS
OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ACKERMAN, Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began in 1915 and lasted until 1923. Over the course of 8 years 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were murdered and over 500,000 were forced into exile. On this day we should take a moment to think of the survivors and commend them for the bravery they continue to show in the face of the memories they carry of that awful time.

We are told to never to forget the egregious acts that human beings commit against other human beings, especially when they come in the form of a calculated mass extermination of a single people. In remembering the Armenian genocide it is important to keep in mind that we are not pointing fingers at Turkey. Modern day Turkey is no more the Ottoman Empire than today's Germany is the Third Reich. But we must not banish the truth from the world stage. What was done to the Armenian people was atrocious, nothing less than a crime against humanity. As such, it is our responsibility to accurately describe what happened between 1915 and 1923 and admit that what was done to the Armenian people was genocide.

As each year passes the number of survivors of the Armenian genocide diminishes further. And while there is nothing that can be done to alter the past, we can and should ensure that generations to come know how the Armenian people suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It is also important that this day be marked to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide so that their fight for survival is honored and revered rather than forgotten and ignored.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating the survivors of the Armenian genocide on its 93rd anniversary.

INTRODUCTION RESOLUTION
REGARDING TSA RAIL SECURITY

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution regarding the role of the Transportation Security Administration in securing our Nation's rail and mass transit lines. This resolution reaffirms the Congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 that the Transportation Security Administration enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

I am pleased to have Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as an original cosponsor of this resolution. Chairman THOMPSON has been a leader in our efforts to secure against terrorist threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

Each weekday 11,300,000 passengers depend on our Nation's mass transit lines as a means of transportation.

Our Nation's mass transit lines serve as a target for terrorist attack as evidenced by the March 11, 2004, attack on the Madrid, Spain, mass transit system, the July 7, 2005, attack on the London, England, mass transit system, and the July 11, 2006, attack on the Mumbai, India, mass transit system.

The Transportation Security Administration has, through the development of its National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program, furthered its ability to provide security against terrorist attacks on the Nation's transportation systems by preventing and protecting against explosives threats.

It is imperative that our Nation's rail and mass transit lines remain secure from terrorist attack as they are critical to the functioning of our Nation's economy and serve as a means of transportation on a daily basis for millions of hard-working Americans.

JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED
GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE
AREA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the RECORD regarding S. 2739, the Consolidated National Resources Act, which includes the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Requesting Member: Congressman Frank Wolf.

Bill Number: S. 2739.

Provision: Title II, Section 2010.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 77, Waterford, VA 20197.

Description of Request: The legislation authorizes the appropriation of up to \$1,000,000 a year for the purpose of carrying out a management plan, which must first be approved

by the secretary of Interior. The management plan will describe comprehensive policies, goals, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area and encouraging long-term resource protection, enhancement, interpretation, funding, management, and development of the Area. The authorization is limited to \$15 million total. The legislation also requires a non-federal cost share match for each dollar contributed by the federal government. The Partnership must also submit an annual report to the secretary for each fiscal year for which the local coordinating entity receives federal funds under this subtitle, which specifies the performance goals and accomplishments of the local coordinating entity and other related information, including uses of funds and amounts of non-federal funds leveraged in the effort. The Partnership is authorized, for the purposes of preparing and implementing the approved management plan for the National Heritage Area, to use federal funds made available under the legislation to make grants to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and other parties within the National Heritage Area; enter into cooperative agreements with or provide technical assistance to political jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and other interested parties; hire and compensate staff, and other purposes related to the national heritage area.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership is the designated local coordinating entity for this national heritage area. The Partnership is comprised of over 150 partners, including every elected body within the four-state region, including Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, the convention and visitor associations of each of the included 15 counties, and the directors of tourism from each of the four states.

The legislation does not permit the Partnership to use any federal funds provided under the Act to acquire any interest in real property. In addition, Section 408 of the Act sets forth numerous safeguards for private property and makes unmistakably clear that nothing in the Act abridges the rights of any property owner (whether public or private), including the right to refrain from participating in any plan, project, program, or activity conducted within the National Heritage Area.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I was absent on Tuesday, April 22, and much of Wednesday, April 23rd for personal reasons. Had I been present Tuesday for votes, I would have voted "yes" on each of the three votes taken: H.R. 5151, H.R. 831, and H. Res. 981. Had I been present Wednesday for votes, I would have voted "no" on the motion to adjourn and "yes" on both H.R. 5613 and H. Con. Res. 322. I would also have voted "yes" on ordering the previous question and passage of the rule, H. Res. 1125, and "yes" on all three amendments to H.R. 5819.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 93rd anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide, which was the first genocide of the 20th century and sadly, the template for a cycle of genocide that continues to this very day.

It is, by any reasonable standard, established history that between 1915 and 1923 the Ottoman Empire systematically killed an estimated 1.5 million Armenians and drove hundreds of thousands of others into exile from their ancestral homeland. The record of this atrocity is well documented in the United States Archives and has been universally accepted in the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the broader historical and academic communities.

However, there is still debate around the world, including here in our Nation, on whether this incident actually qualifies as genocide. On April 26, 1915, the New York Times reported on the first reported purges of Armenians in Ottoman Turkey. Later in 1915, the Times ran a front page article about a report from the Committee on Armenian Atrocities discussing exactly what was happening to Armenians in Turkey. "The report tells of children under 15 years of age thrown into the Euphrates to be drowned; of women forced to desert infants in their arms and to leave them by the roadside to die; of young women and girls appropriated by the Turks, thrown into harems, attacked or else sold to the highest bidder, and of men murdered and tortured."

One can debate specific historical incidents, but growing up in Fresno, California, the land of William Saroyan, I heard stories shared by grandparents from the Kezerian, Koligian and Abramian families about being forced to leave their homes, the stories of the long marches, and the random murders. Clearly, they believed there was a systematic approach to eliminate the Armenian communities in places that had been their homes and farms for centuries. My Armenian friends believe this systematic approach was among the first genocides of the 20th century, and so do I.

Around the world, in the single, longest lasting and far-reaching campaign of genocide denial, Turkey seeks to block recognition of this travesty. It's against the law to even mention the Armenian genocide in Turkey. The Armenian Genocide involved the issue of man's injustice to mankind, and it continued to occur throughout the 20th century in the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and now in Darfur. As leaders, we must confront this and not allow Turkey to continue to stand alone and ask us to believe that the Armenian genocide was not genocide.

In standing up to this policy of denial, we, of course, honor the martyrs of the genocide and we encourage our Turkish allies and friends to come to terms with their past. And, in a very powerful and significant way, we reinforce our own vital role, as Americans, in leading the international community toward unconditional opposition to all instances of genocide.

Last October, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed H. Res. 106, a resolution

to recognize the Armenian genocide in the United States. Unfortunately, this bill has yet to come before the full House for a vote. Supporters of this resolution are constantly told that now isn't the time to recognize the genocide, that scholars, not Congress, should determine if this event was genocide, or that passage of this resolution will hurt our relationship with Turkey. I could not disagree more with these statements.

First, there is never a "right time" to recognize genocide. Ninety-three years have passed since the start events occurred, and we cannot wait around for a convenient moment to recognize this truly catastrophic historical event. Secondly, the scholars have spoken and the historical record is clear and thoroughly documented. And finally, we have seen over and over again that Turkey's warning of disastrous consequences are dramatically overstated. In fact, in nearly every instance, Turkey's bilateral trade has gone up with each of the countries that have recognized the Armenian genocide—including Canada, Italy, France, Russia, and Belgium.

Genocide is not something that can simply be swept under the rug and forgotten. We need leaders around the world to not only recognize it, but to condemn it so the world can truly say, "Never Again." The United States cannot continue its policy of denial regarding the Armenian genocide, and I encourage passage of H. Res. 106 to recognize the Armenian genocide in our Nation.

93RD ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 93rd Anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

Since being elected to the U.S. Congress, I have come to the floor of the House every year to solemnly remember the atrocities that began on April 24, 1915—when the Ottoman government ordered the deportation of 2.5 million Armenians and oversaw the murder 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Today, as I stand for the 10th time in recognition of the Armenian genocide, I do so with one major distinction from years past. This year is different because the House Foreign Affairs Committee has formally recognized the Armenian genocide. Last October, under the leadership of the late Chairman Tom Lantos, the Committee passed House Resolution 106.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I was proud to have been a part of this vote. And, as a strong supporter of the Armenian community, I will be proud when the full House of Representatives considers H. Res. 106.

In 2003, during my first visit to Armenia, I planted a tree at the genocide memorial and paid homage to those who perished and suffered. It was a somber day, just like today's anniversary of the Armenian genocide. We not only participate in these events to remember the past, but also so we never forget.

We must never forget the horrific events that took place 93 years ago. We must never