

up as garbage or litter where they take up to 1,000 years to biodegrade. A national bottle bill will help us turn this trend around.

A national bottle recycling program would have profound economic benefits from energy savings for American businesses. The energy use associated with manufacturing these containers from virgin materials is far greater than the cost of using recycled materials. In fact, making an aluminum can from recycled materials requires 95 percent less energy than to make it from scratch.

I am proud to introduce this important bill today on Earth Day. Passing this bill would send a clean energy message in a bottle to American consumers and businesses. A national Bottle Bill can help America quench its thirst for imported oil and will allow us to have carbon dioxide in our fizzy drinks, while cutting down on heat-trapping carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

IN MEMORY OF MEGAN MILLER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the remarkable life of Megan Miller. I was deeply saddened to learn of her passing and believe her courage in the face of adversity is something special that deserves recognition today on the floor of the people's House.

Megan Nichole Miller was born on November 26, 2000, to her loving parents, Scott and Suzanne Miller of Jamestown, Indiana. Megan attended Granville Wells Elementary School and was a member of New Brunswick Church of Christ.

Though Megan faced remarkable challenges throughout her brief time with us, she will be remembered by her friends and family for the spirit with which she lived and the faith that guided her life. Megan's passion for life brightened the world for everyone around her. Instead of focusing on her physical difficulties, she used her disabilities to teach others the importance of accepting all people—no matter what their circumstances. It is fitting that Megan loved music, especially hymns about God and heaven, where I am certain she is now.

None were more blessed by Megan than her family. She shared a special bond and deep love with her sister Hannah. Megan's parents are forever blessed by their remarkable daughters, and have gained a greater understanding of the worth that we all carry in the eyes of God.

Though Megan sadly has passed away, those who knew her will continue to benefit from the inspiring example that she set throughout her life. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to the doctors and nurses who gave Megan the best possible care and my deepest condolences to Scott, Suzanne, and Hannah.

GEORGE MASON AWARDED USAID GRANT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to share with our colleagues a recent announcement from USAID indicating that Virginia's George Mason University was one of 40 paired winners of the highly competitive Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition.

George Mason will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation. The development of this sort of higher education is critical to Africa's future development, particularly in nations like Sierra Leone, which not too many years ago had been ravaged by civil war.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY AWARDED USAID-FUNDED GRANT IN AFRICA-U.S. HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE GRANT COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Higher Education for Development (HED) announced today that George Mason University is one of 40 paired winners of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative Planning Grant Competition. Nearly 300 applications were submitted for capacity-building partnerships between U.S. colleges and universities and higher education institutions in Sub-Saharan African nations. George Mason University and other paired winners will receive planning grants from USAID of \$50,000 each (a complete list of winners may be found at www.hedprogram.org).

"This competition is an important opportunity to build the kind of higher education capacity critical to the development of Africa," said Joseph Carney, director of USAID's Office of Education. "This initiative was proposed during the Higher Education Summit for Global Development and subsequent regional summit held in Rwanda last year. We are delighted to see this effort moving forward and expect great results from these planning grants."

These paired institutions will use the grants to develop plans to address regional and national economic development priorities such as engineering, health, agriculture, environment and natural resources, science and technology, education and teacher training/preparation, and business, management and economics.

George Mason University will partner with the University of Sierra Leone to develop a four-campus community college system for the nation, under the sponsorship of Ernest Bai Koroma, President of Sierra Leone, and under the direction of the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

HED manages the competition which grew out of the Africa-U.S. Higher Education Initiative (www.aplu.org), a collaborative effort between a number of higher education associations and other organizations, led by the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (A.P.L.U.), formerly the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC).

"We were elated by the astounding number of highly qualified applications received, and even more pleased by how many applications demonstrated a strong understanding of higher education needs in Africa," said Dr. Tully Cornick, executive director of HED. "The top 40 paired winning institutions represent the best of these applications, and

plans that are developed as a result of the grants will address a variety of critical development needs. It is our belief that if funding is found to implement these plans, we will see tangible, measurable and sustainable impact made in these African countries."

"This important initiative continues to illustrate the enormous unmet need for higher education partnerships in Africa," added Peter McPherson, president of A.P.L.U. "We see this as just the beginning—this is an ongoing campaign to accomplish much more in engaging higher education institutions in Africa."

HED, funded by a cooperative agreement with USAID, was founded by the six major U.S. higher education associations to engage U.S. colleges and universities in international development. For more information about HED and to view details about the planning grants corn petition, visit www.HEDprodrum.orcl.

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years. For more information on USAID, visit www.USAID.gov.

THE 94TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the suffering of millions of Armenians between 1915 and 1923 due to actions by the Ottoman Empire. In those eight years, approximately 2 million Armenians were deported from their traditional homeland. Of those, 1.5 million were senselessly killed and the remaining 500,000 were expelled from their homes. This genocide served as models for other horrific massacres and ethnic purges that sadly persisted throughout the 20th century.

There is broad agreement that indeed what took place was genocide. On May 24, 1915, the Allied Powers England, France and Russia issued a joint statement charging the Sublime Porte of committing "a crime against humanity." The U.S. showed firm opposition to the unfolding horrors. Secretary of State Lansing in 1915 authorized the Ambassador to the Sublime Porte to engage to "stop Armenian persecution," and President Wilson set up relief funds for the victims and survivors, including 132,000 orphans who became foster children of the American people.

Genocide was also corroborated by German and British archives and records of diplomats who served in the Ottoman Empire at the time. The United States National Archives and Record Administration holds extensive documentation on the genocide, and the UN General Assembly in 1946 and the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide recognized the Armenian Genocide as they type of crime the U.N. intended to prevent and punish by codifying existing standards. In 1975, a House Joint Resolution designated April 24 of that year as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man" in part to remember all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry.

We welcome steps today by the governments of Turkey and Armenia—as the official

inheritors of these fateful policies of the Ottoman government—to normalize relations and begin working through this history. Indeed, reconciliation of painful history is an important means of preventing future tragedies of this scope.

We believe this process will be strengthened if the President—in his annual message commemorating the April 24, 1915 declaration by Allied Powers—to accurately characterize the mindless massacre of Armenians as genocide and to recall the proud record of U.S. opposition to this persecution.

IN HONOR OF THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS COUNCIL #3182

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Knights of Columbus “Christopher Council” (Council #3182) as they celebrate their 60th anniversary of service to the Church and Community in the State of Delaware.

The Knights of Columbus exists throughout the United States, providing valuable services to their communities that would otherwise be left undone. For over 125 years, the organization has dedicated time, money, energy, and service to the sick, disabled, and anyone in need of help through a variety of programs. During the last sixty years, the Christopher Council has gone above and beyond its call of duty and provided an extraordinary amount of service to our local community. I commend them for their efforts.

This Council’s work here extends to a variety of organizations and interests, as the members have continually sought to help others indiscriminately since the inception of its charter on September 29, 1948. Most recently, this Council has given major support to the St. Helena and Holy Rosary Parishes and Schools by actively supporting their annual carnivals and by sponsoring scholarships. Furthermore, the Christopher Council regularly offers numerous services to the Claymont and Wilmington area outreach programs as well as Claymont’s annual Community Pride Festival and their yearly Christmas parade. Additionally, this organization assists the Cub Scouts, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Special Olympics, among other worthy organizations. They act as a leader within their own great institution by hosting our statewide Knights of Columbus summer picnic each year.

Once again, I am proud to recognize the Knights of Columbus Christopher Council for the profound impact they have made on our community. I am confident that they will continue to build on their accomplishments and strengthen their organization while improving our community even further. I wish them all the very best for the future.

INTRODUCING THE SENATOR PAUL
SIMON WATER FOR THE WORLD
ACT OF 2009

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, in honor of the 39th Annual Earth Day celebration, I am introducing the Senator Paul Simon Water for the World Act of 2009, with Representatives DONALD PAYNE, DANA ROHR-ABACHER, JESSE JACKSON JR., ZACH WAMP, PETER WELCH, JOHN BOOZMAN, DAN BURTON, GEORGE MILLER, and JEFF FORTENBERRY as original cosponsors. The purpose of this Act is to empower the U.S. Government to respond to the pressing poverty, security, and environmental threats presented by the dire mismanagement and shortage of global freshwater.

Today, one-fifth of the world’s population relies on freshwater that is either polluted or significantly overdrawn. A lack of safe water and sanitation is an ongoing threat to global security and remains the world’s greatest health problem, accounting for 2 million deaths a year and half the illness in the developing world.

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa the United States and 185 other countries agreed to the goal of cutting in half the percentage of people without access to safe water and basic sanitation by 2015. I worked with the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Henry Hyde and Tom Lantos, and Senate Majority and Minority Leaders Bill Frist and HARRY REID to enact the Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005. This landmark bipartisan legislation established investment in safe and affordable water for the world’s poorest as a major goal of U.S. foreign assistance.

We are halfway to the 2015 Millennium Development completion date and we must redouble our efforts. Although progress is being made through innovative partnerships between the U.S. Government, NGOs, businesses, and local partners, nearly 900 million people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water and 2 out of 5 people on the planet lack basic sanitation services. By 2025, climate change and rapid population growth will further stress water resources and are expected to leave 2.8 billion people in more than 48 countries facing severe and chronic water shortages.

The United States cannot sustainably meet its poverty alleviation, global health, or development assistance goals without addressing the issue of safe water and sanitation. This legislation answers the call to act. The overarching goal of the Water for the World Act is to provide 100 million of the world’s poorest with first-time access to safe drinking water and sanitation on a sustainable basis by 2015. To accomplish this goal the legislation builds upon the Water for the Poor framework for investment, expands U.S. foreign assistance capacity, and recognizes sustainable water and sanitation policy as vital to long-term diplomatic and development efforts.

The Water for the World Act complements legislation introduced recently in the Senate by Senators RICHARD DURBIN, BOB CORKER, and PATTY MURRAY. Through this legislation we will

help the U.S. government focus its efforts and fully implement a smart and efficient global water strategy that meets our commitment to extend safe drinking water and sanitation to over a billion people in need.

HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK
OF BART ANDERSON

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, Southern Utah has lost a local treasure with the passing of Bart Anderson of St. George, Utah.

Bart Anderson was often described by people who meet him for the first time as “bear-sized Bart Anderson”. He loomed large in the community life of Washington County. He was a retired St. George hematologist, historian and folklorist. Everyone knew him as “Ranger Bart” because he devoted his golden years to giving slide shows at nearby national parks—including Zion National Park—as well as at state parks.

I knew Bart Anderson as a man with a passion for the stories of this part of the West, known as Utah’s Dixie—so named because cotton was one of the crops grown by the Mormon settlers here at the time of the Civil War.

One of Bart’s most popular presentations was one on the outlaw Butch Cassidy. It featured vintage photos of Butch Cassidy, who Bart often pointed out, could charm the locals and even the lawmen of that era.

Bart was a talented and versatile man, who turned down a number of more lucrative business offers because they would take him away from Dixie and he said he had too much red dirt running through his veins to leave.

As a child, he contracted polio and when doctors said he wouldn’t walk again, his father threw him in the swimming pool to help make him strong. When he was 11, Bart’s father arranged for him to work for the Boy Scouts as a guide into the back country. He developed a great love of hiking, including the Grand Canyon.

As an adult, he merged his love of hiking with his passion for story-telling by giving walking tours in downtown St. George. That morphed into a series of history lectures for which he developed over 100 slide programs that communicated his love of place to residents and visitors alike.

He married his sweetheart, Delorice, whom he called “the wind beneath my wings.” She was often in the audience during his lectures and performances. Whether he was reciting “The Ballad of Sam McGee” around a campfire with a troop of Boy Scouts, or researching history at the Washington County Historical Society, Bart Anderson was happiest when he was immersed in folklore. He received many local state and national honors, including an award as Outstanding Volunteer from former First Lady Hillary Clinton.

One of his close friends, Lyman Hafen, told the local newspaper that Anderson was one-of-a-kind—with a heart as big as Zion Canyon. I was very proud to be his friend and while he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.