

time the events took place. Newspaper headlines in mid-1915 heralded, "More Armenian Massacres," "Armenian Horrors Grow," "Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed," "800,000 Armenians Counted Destroyed," "Spare Armenians, Pope Asks Sultan." On July 16, 1915, Morgenthau sent the following message by telegraph to the Secretary of State:

"Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Other diplomats and consular officers substantiated the Ambassador's report of what was taking place. Abram Elkus, Morgenthau's successor, through his cables to the State Department confirmed his predecessor's assessment.

We must not allow a handful of revisionists to shake our resolve to prompt recognition and acceptance of responsibility for this well-documented historical event. Indeed, Morgenthau and other diplomats who witnessed and reported in great detail the enormous devastation of the Armenian community would be astonished to learn today that the abundant evidence they collected, much of which is held in our own National Archives, and the testimony of survivors who are still with us, have come under challenge. Despite the irrefutability of the documentation and testimony, including extensive accounts from survivors, witnesses, and historians, there are those who deny the past, blame the victims, and oppose reconciliation.

It is a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the Armenian people that, after enduring centuries of oppression, they have reestablished a free and independent state that is making new strides toward democracy and economic revitalization. In its short existence, the Republic of Armenia has survived the earthquake of 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and a blockade by its neighbors. The spirit of the Armenian people is reflected not only in their dedication to rebuilding a nation from the ashes of totalitarianism, but also in the strength and vibrancy of the Armenian-American community. Americans of Armenian origin have successfully contributed to the cultural, social, economic, and political life of this country while preserving the rich faith and cultural traditions of their forebears. Clearly, the spirit of the Armenian people continues to thrive.

Mr. President, to ensure that such a tragedy never be repeated it is incumbent upon us to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide and pay tribute to the survivors. Just as we have vowed never to forget the Nazi Holocaust, we must continually remind ourselves of the events of 1915. They became, after all, a precedent for Hitler, who rationalized his barbarism by asking, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

As citizens of a nation founded on the ideals of freedom and human dignity, we must educate ourselves about the events that constituted the Armenian genocide and renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on humanity. In the words of the great philosopher, George Santayana, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."●

#### COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 83rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Old and young around the world today remember the Armenian holocaust. We remember that on this date in 1915, the Ottoman Empire and the successor Turkish nationalist regime began a brutal policy of deportation and murder. Over the next eight years, 1.5 million Armenians would be massacred at the hands of the Turks and another 500,000 would have their property confiscated and be driven from their homeland.

Although it seems that the world stood silent while the Armenian population was devastated, a few witnesses did try to tell the terrible story. In 1919, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., the American Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, published a memoir which extensively detailed what he had seen and heard in Turkey during the previous six years. Of the events of the genocide, Ambassador Morgenthau wrote, "I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared to the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915."

Last August, I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh. I was able to see the treasures of that land firsthand and pay tribute to the indomitable spirit of the people of Armenia. One morning I toured the Genocide Monument and Museum in Yerevan and then stood by the eternal flame while a vocalist sang a haunting solo. It was the most moving moment of my visit.

My trip to the Transcaucasus made it clear that despite having already undergone such terrible persecution and hardship, the people of the Armenian Republic still suffer today. The economy is struggling and the area has still not recovered from the 1988 earthquake. The Karabagh conflict remains unresolved and Turkey continues to blockade humanitarian aid to Armenia.

However, the Armenian people remain resilient, hopeful, and an inspiration to others. In Armenia, they continue their quest for peace and democracy. Just last month, the residents of Armenia showed their commitment to democracy when they participated in the third presidential election since independence in 1991. In America, many

communities, like those in my home state of Rhode Island, are enriched by the traditions of Armenians who have immigrated to our shores.

Because Armenia is a part of our world and persons of Armenian descent are members of our community, we must remain committed to always remember the Armenian genocide. As Peter Balakian, author of the critically acclaimed "Black Dog of Fate", wrote:

Commemoration is an essential process for the bereaved and for the inheritors of the legacy of genocide. It is a process of making meaning out of unthinkable horror and loss. The burden of bereavement can be alleviated if shared and witnessed by a larger community. Only then can redemption, hope and community be achieved.

Menk panav chenkn mornar.●

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DUNWOODY HIGH STUDENTS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dunwoody High School students, Bakari Brock, Jennifer Campbell, Richard Cartwright, Michael Cayes, Carol Chandler, Melissa Chastnew, Zack Cullens, Melissa Derick, Kevin Franklin, Erin Green, Judy Hudgins, Rebecca Lamb, Dwayne O'Mard, Sandra Park, Andrea Pierce, Jennifer Price, Scot Prudhomme, Carlyn Sibling, Geren Stone, Dannon Taylor, David Weiner, David Yoo, and their teacher, Celeste Boemker, who will be traveling to Washington to represent our state in the "We the People . . . the Citizen and the Constitution Program" in early May.

As a strong proponent for the education of our nation's youth, it is with great pride that I hear of children from my home state to compete on a national level to test their knowledge of politics and the government of the United States. Students and teachers such as these, who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and intelligence, should be appropriately recognized. Therefore, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to commend these students and wish them luck in their upcoming competition.●

#### EXPLANATION OF SELECTED VOTES TO THE SENATE BUDGET RESOLUTION

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, now that the budget resolution has been adopted, I wanted to take a few moments to discuss several of the more important votes that took place.

The first of these was the Allard amendment to create a new point of order against future budgets that fail to eliminate the federal debt by the year 2028. Mr. President, I fully support reducing the size of the federal debt, and I am glad the pending resolution cuts the relative size of the debt by almost 20 percent over the next five years. On the other hand, the Allard amendment may require making payments on debt that is not actually due.

A significant portion of the debt is held by foreign investors. It does not make sense to me to use American taxpayers' dollars to make early debt payments to foreign investors like the central banks of China, Japan, and Germany. I believe there are several priorities facing this Congress beyond reducing the federal debt, including reforming the Social Security system and improving our onerous tax code, and I do not support amendments that would tie Congress' hands with regard to these important reforms.

Two other amendments that require comment were the Kennedy and Murray amendments to increase funding in Function 500, the education and training function, while making across-the-board cuts to all other domestic discretionary accounts. Mr. President, the underlying budget resolution accomplishes two priorities with regard to education. First, it lives up to the budget agreement signed by both congressional leadership and the President just last year. That agreement targeted sufficient resources at federal education programs to fully fund the priorities of both the President and Congress. Second, this resolution adds to those agreed-to levels by increasing funding for important programs like IDEA and the Innovative Strategies State Grant program—programs that work by block-granting federal resources back to the states and local governments.

Mr. President, if we have learned anything regarding effective education policy, it is that building an ever larger federal presence in historically local- and state-controlled public schools simply doesn't work. The Senate budget recognizes this fact, while the Kennedy and Murray amendments ignore it. This budget increases federal education funding by \$2.6 billion over the next five years at the same time that many budget areas are being cut. I believe this is a clear indication of the priority the Senate places on education issues.

Several other amendments were offered, including the Lautenberg, Wellstone, Dorgan, and Feingold amendments, which would have established so-called reserve funds for the creation of new mandatory spending programs. Mr. President, by definition, these amendments call for creating new, uncontrolled federal entitlement programs. Exactly what these programs would do, and how they would be funded, is left unclear. On the other hand, my position regarding new mandatory spending is extremely clear—until Congress takes the necessary steps to ensure the future solvency of our existing entitlements, including Social Security and Medicare, we should have the discipline to refrain from creating new programs which will endanger the solvency of existing programs and the federal government. For that reason, I opposed these reserve fund amendments.

The Kempthorne amendment regarding the Endangered Species Act also re-

quires comment. Under the budget resolution, funds raised from selling surplus BLM lands were to be targeted at programs designed to protect endangered species. In my mind, Mr. President, this funding mechanism represents a win-win situation for everyone involved in protecting this nation's wildlife. First, by selling surplus lands, the federal government rids itself of the cost of managing lands for which it has no purpose. Second, the proceeds from these lands would go towards continued protection of endangered wildlife. During debate, Senator REID raised concerns that tying ESA funding solely to the sale of federal lands was not good policy. For this reason, I supported the Kempthorne amendment which addressed some of Senator REID's concerns by expanding the possible funding sources for Endangered Species Act enforcement.

Another important vote was the Bumpers amendment to increase the royalty on the net return on the profits from mining gold, silver and platinum and channeling those funds into IDEA. Mr. President, the underlying budget resolution takes a dramatic step towards increasing the funding for IDEA. This is a program that I fully support and look forward to continued increases in federal participation.

Nevertheless, I opposed this amendment because I do not believe the imposition of new taxes on the mining industry is the proper means of reforming our mining law. Hard rock mining is a capital intensive industry that has struggled in recent years despite the booming U.S. economy. The reason is simple—the costs of extracting these metals from U.S. soil is only slightly less than the market value of these metals. I believe there are better approaches for reforming our mining laws than simply raising taxes, and I look forward to working with Senator BUMPERS and other Senators to seeing those reforms take place.

Finally, Mr. President, I wanted to discuss the Domenici amendment regarding the recent ruling by the Veterans' Administration General Counsel to include some smoking-related illnesses in the qualified list of "service connected" diseases. Mr. President, I want to help veterans and their families, but it is my firm belief that such an increase in the federal government's liability should result only from an act of Congress, not a judge's ruling, and that Congress should only act with all the pertinent facts before it. For these reasons, I supported the Domenici amendment to require a year-long study of the merits of such claims. This study will enable Congress to avoid the current vacuum of knowledge that surrounds this issue and devise the best policy for our veterans. If the study supports these claims, then I will support expanding the current program to accommodate them. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ROTC CLASS OF 1944

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Utah ROTC Class of 1944 which responded to the call for active military duty during World War II. On May 2, 1998, at the University of Utah members of the ROTC Class of 1944 will hold a reunion commemorating the 55th anniversary of their activation into our national armed services. I believe it is fitting that we honor them today in the United States Senate.

The University of Utah Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was a unique organization. It was one of the few military units which were called into service during World War II from a specific community and which can return to that home area for a reunion. Most military units include individuals whose residences are scattered throughout the country. Through an Act of Congress in 1916, ROTC programs were established in higher education institutions across the country. Since that time, they have been an important part of this nation's civil defense—in times of war and peace—training generations of students for service to their country.

In the early 1940s, this class trained at the University of Utah with horse-drawn artillery working with an old French 77 millimeter cannon and with a 105 millimeter howitzer, new at the time. As a unit, this ROTC class was first assigned to Camp Roberts in California, for basic training in truck drawn artillery. Later they were assigned to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for further training and ultimately received further schooling at the Infantry Officers School at Fort Benning, Georgia. After graduation from Fort Benning, these young men, whose average age at the time was slightly over 20, served as officers in various combat units in Italy, France and the South Pacific.

These were brave and honorable men, each one of them. Of the 99 who were called to active duty in 1943, two were killed in action while serving in the 10th Mountain Division in Italy. One was later killed in the Korean Conflict. Of the group's original 99 members, 71 are still alive. Today, I speak for all Utahns and all Americans when I say, we honor these brave men and pay tribute to them for their service and sacrifice for this great country. The Class of 1944's great tradition of discipline and leadership continues today as many of its members are respected professionals in the public and private sector as well as their own communities.

Finally, Mr. President, before I close, I want to thank Chris S. Metos of Salt Lake City, Utah, for the outstanding job he has done to help organize this upcoming reunion and for the many years of service he has provided to this country and to the people of the state of Utah. ●