



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Barack Obama's Track Record of Armenian Genocide Recognition

Barack Obama has a long track record of commemorating the Armenian Genocide, has spoken compellingly of the moral imperative of U.S. condemnation of this crime against humanity, and has publicly pledged several times, in clear and forceful language, to fully and properly recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Obama Presidential Campaign:

- 1) January 19, 2008 Obama campaign statement outlining Barack Obama's views on the importance of U.S.-Armenia relations, including his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- 2) September 21, 2008 Obama campaign statement from Barack Obama celebrating Armenian Independence Day.
- 3) October 31, 2008 Obama campaign fact sheet reaffirming Barack Obama's pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

United States Senate:

- 1) April 18, 2005 Senate sign-on letter, signed by Senator Obama, urging President Bush to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- 2) April 20, 2006 Senate sign-on letter, signed by Senator Obama, urging President Bush to recognize the Armenian Genocide.
- 3) July 28, 2006 letter from Senator Obama to Secretary Rice concerning the firing of Ambassador Evans, which includes strong language in support of Armenian Genocide recognition.
- 4) June 19, 2008 responses to Senator Obama's written questions to Ambassador to Armenia-designate Marie Yovanovitch.
- 5) April 28, 2008 U.S. Senate floor statement in remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.
- 6) June 16, 2008 constituent email response text to Illinois resident (and ANCA Chairman) Ken Hachikian in support of Armenian Genocide recognition.
- 7) April 12, 2007 YouTube video of Senator Obama during a public Capitol Hill constituent meeting, during which he stated: "For those who aren't aware there was a genocide that did take place against the Armenian people. It is one of these situations where we have seen a constant denial on part of the Turkish Government and others that this occurred."
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwR83GZjwdo>



EN ESPAÑOL

SIGN UP

| January 19, 2008

I am proud of my strong record on issues of concern to the one and a half million Americans of Armenian heritage in the United States. I warmly welcome the support of this vibrant and politically active community as we change how our government works here at home, and restore American leadership abroad.

I am a strong supporter of a U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy. As President, I will maintain our assistance to Armenia, which has been a reliable partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism. I will promote Armenian security by seeking an end to the Turkish and Azerbaijani blockades, and by working for a lasting and durable settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict that is agreeable to all parties, and based upon America's founding commitment to the principles of democracy and self determination. And my Administration will help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid, and by strengthening the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments.

I also share with Armenian Americans – so many of whom are descended from genocide survivors - a principled commitment to commemorating and ending genocide. That starts with acknowledging the tragic instances of genocide in world history. As a U.S. Senator, I have stood with the Armenian American community in calling for Turkey's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. Two years ago, I criticized the Secretary of State for the firing of U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, after he properly used the term "genocide" to describe Turkey's slaughter of thousands of Armenians starting in 1915. I shared with Secretary Rice my firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. The facts are undeniable. An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy. As a senator, I strongly support passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106), and as President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.

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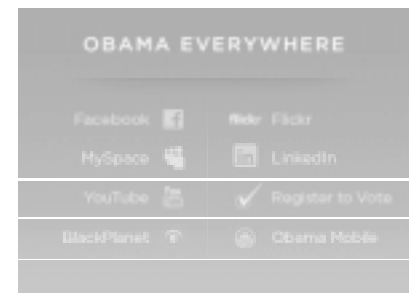
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VIEW MORE

Genocide, sadly, persists to this day, and threatens our common security and common humanity. Tragically, we are witnessing in Sudan many of the same brutal tactics - displacement, starvation, and mass slaughter - that were used by the Ottoman authorities against defenseless Armenians back in 1915. I have visited Darfurian refugee camps, pushed for the deployment of a robust multinational force for Darfur, and urged divestment from companies doing business in Sudan. America deserves a leader who speaks truthfully about the Armenian Genocide and responds forcefully to all genocides. I intend to be that President.

I look forward, as President, to continuing my active engagement with Armenian American leaders on the full range of issues of concern to the Armenian American community. Together, we will build, in new and exciting ways, upon the enduring ties and shared values that have bound together the American and Armenian peoples for more than a century.

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Statement by Senator Barack Obama on Armenian Independence Day

On this day, September 21, Armenians and friends of Armenia everywhere celebrate the independence of the Republic of Armenia, and I extend my warmest and best wishes on this happy occasion. Throughout their long history, a spirit of independence, self-reliance, and survival defines the Armenian people. After centuries of living in the Persian, Russian, and Turkish empires, Armenians first achieved their modern independence in 1918 and regained it after 70 years of Soviet rule in 1991. Their struggle continues, but in the years of renewed independence they have been able to guide their own destiny through years of war and economic dislocation. Even in the face of genocide, the pain of the past has not defeated the Armenians, either in Armenia or the far-flung diaspora.

America has benefited tremendously from the vigor and talents of the Armenian people. Armenian-Americans have made enormous contributions to American life – to our arts and academia, to business, science, and politics – while still maintaining strong ties to their ancestral home.

Recent events in the Caucasus region remind us of both the importance of rededicating ourselves to peace, and the possibility of progress even where there is a long history of alienation. The conflict in Georgia shows the danger that lurks when rising tensions are ignored and the United States pursues a diplomatic strategy of neglect. But in recent days we have also seen the hopeful step – taken by the Presidents of Turkey and Armenia -- to restart dialogue that could, in time, bring a welcome normalization of relations and offer Armenia more diversified opportunities for trade, transport, and energy supplies. American policy must build on this step, to ensure that Armenia enjoys a future not merely of independence but of partnership and cooperation with the U.S. and its allies.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sunday, September 21, 2008
Contact: Obama Press Office; (312) 819-2423





BARACK OBAMA: SUPPORTING U.S.-ARMENIA RELATIONS

The Armenian Genocide, carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the deportation of nearly 2 million Armenians, and approximately 1.5 million of those deported were killed. Barack Obama believes we must recognize this tragic reality and strongly supports a U.S.-Armenian relationship that advances our common security and strengthens Armenian democracy.

Recognition of the Armenian Genocide: Barack Obama shares with Armenian Americans a principled commitment to ending genocide. That starts with acknowledging the tragic instances of genocide in world history. As a senator, Obama has stood with the Armenian American community in calling for Turkey's acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. He criticized the Secretary of State two years ago for the firing of the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia, John Evans, after he used the term "genocide" to describe Turkey's slaughter of thousands of Armenians starting in 1915. Obama wrote that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence.

Barack Obama strongly supports passage of the Armenian Genocide Resolution (H.Res.106 and S.Res.106) and will recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Genocide Prevention: The U.S. and the entire global community must remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to make sure that they never happen again. Sadly, genocide persists today and threatens our common security and common humanity. In Sudan, we are witnessing many of the same brutal tactics - displacement, starvation, and mass slaughter - that were used by the Ottoman authorities against Armenians in 1915. Obama has been a leading voice urging the Bush administration to take stronger steps to end the genocide in Sudan. He traveled to the United Nations to meet with Sudanese officials, visited refugee camps on the Chad-Sudan border, pushed for the deployment of a robust multinational force for Darfur, and urged divestment from companies doing business in Sudan.

Commitment to Armenian Americans: Barack Obama has a strong record on issues of concern to the 1.5 million Americans of Armenian heritage in the United States. As president, Obama will maintain our assistance to Armenia, which has been a reliable partner in the fight against terrorism and extremism. An Obama administration will help foster Armenia's growth and development through expanded trade and targeted aid. He will also strengthen the commercial, political, military, developmental, and cultural relationships between the U.S. and Armenian governments. Obama will continue his active engagement with Armenian American leaders on the full range of issues of concern to the Armenian American community to build upon the enduring ties and shared values that have bound together the American and Armenian peoples for more than a century.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge you to join us in reaffirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide in your April 24th commemorative statement.

This date marks the 90th anniversary of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Over an eight year period, one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile. The victims of the Genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history.

The memory of the Armenian Genocide underscores our responsibility to help convey our cherished tradition of respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughters. It is in the best interests of our nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to ensure that they are never repeated. We respectfully request that you refer to the mass slaughter of Armenians as genocide in your commemorative statement. This would constitute a proud, irrefutable and groundbreaking chapter in U.S. diplomatic history.

We look forward to your April 24th statement and stand ready to assist you in this endeavor and in the many other matters of importance to our nation related to Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

Sincerely,



Jon S. Corzine
United States Senator



John Ensign
United States Senator

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Chris Dodd

Tom F. Kelly
05 / 2000

Earl Levin
Myi Snow

Ed Kennedy

J. L. L. L.

Jack Reed

Bernard D.

Susan Collins

Jim Jeffords

Barbara Boxer

Jim Johnson

Debbie Stabenow

Sam Brownback

Charles Schumer

Janine Peisstein

Norm Coleman

Frank R. Lautenberg

Robert A. Menendez

Timothy W. Feigold

Elizabeth Dole

Harry Reid

Paul Santorum

Dick Durbin

Rick Santorum

George Allen

John E. Sumner

Patty Murray

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 20, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

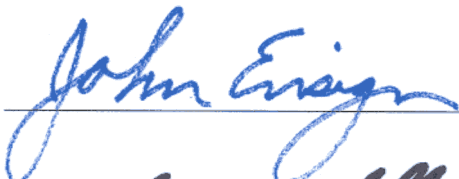

We are writing to urge you to join us in reaffirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide in your April 24th commemorative statement.

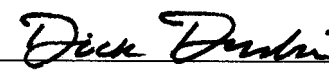
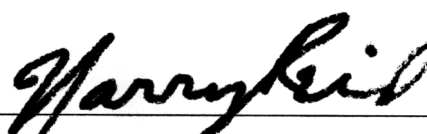
This date marks the 91st anniversary of the systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915. Over an eight year period, one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile. The victims of the Genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history.

The memory of the Armenian Genocide underscores our responsibility to speak forcefully about our respect for fundamental human rights and opposition to mass slaughters. It is in the best interests of our nation and the entire global community to remember the past and learn from these crimes against humanity to ensure that they are never repeated. We respectfully request that you refer to the mass slaughter of Armenians as genocide in your commemorative statement. This would continue a groundbreaking and honorable chapter in U.S. diplomatic history.

We look forward to your April 24th statement and stand ready to assist you in this endeavor and in the many other matters of importance to our nation related to Armenia and the South Caucasus region.

Sincerely,

Hillary Rodham Clinton

El Chfee

Rick Santorum

Barack

Ken Salazar

Nom Coughlin

Jeanne Kristina

Paul Hunsley

Eric Johnson

Olympia

Tom F Kelly

John E. Sununu

John Paul

Joe Lieberman

Mumukshu Bhattacharya

Robert A. Taft

Paul Sarbanes

Frank R. Lautenberg

Richard

Debbie Stabenow

Daniel & Akaka Bubba Boyer

Robert Mering. Chuck Scherer

James M. Jeffords Elizabeth Dale

Wayne Allen Susan M. Collins

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 28, 2006

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

I write with regard to the State Department's decision to recall Ambassador John Evans from his post as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia after he used the term "genocide" to describe the Turkish government's slaughter of Armenians in 1915.

As a general rule, I believe it is critical for State Department employees to follow guidance on issues – not substituting their personal opinions for official Department policy. In light of the official U.S. position on the events of 1915, I understand the Department's reported unease over Ambassador Evans.

Nonetheless, I believe that the controversy over Ambassador Evans' use of the term "genocide" underscores the fact that the current U.S. position is untenable. That the invocation of a historical fact by a State Department employee could constitute an act of insubordination is deeply troubling. When State Department instructions are such that an ambassador must engage in strained reasoning – or even an outright falsehood – that defies a common sense interpretation of events in order to follow orders, then it is time to revisit the State Department's policy guidance on that issue.

The occurrence of the Armenian genocide in 1915 is not an "allegation," a "personal opinion," or a "point of view." Supported by an overwhelming amount of historical evidence, it is a widely documented fact. Examples of this evidence include:

- The Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem), the Institute for the Study of Genocide (NYC), and the International Association of Genocide Scholars have all issued consensus documents stipulating the occurrence of the genocide.
- It was his study of the Turkish massacres of Armenians that motivated Raphael Lemkin to coin the word "genocide" in 1941 and to press for the drafting and passage of the United Nations Genocide Convention in 1948.

- At the time of the killings, it was U.S. State Department officials working in the Ottoman Empire who drew attention to the horrors, describing the massacres as a “campaign of race extermination” (U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1913-16, Henry Morgenthau), a “carefully planned scheme to thoroughly extinguish the Armenian race” (U.S. Consul in Aleppo, Jesse Jackson), a “plan . . . to destroy the Armenian race as a race” (U.S. Consul in Harput, Leslie Davis), and an “unchecked policy of extermination through starvation, exhaustion, and brutality” (U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1916-17, Abram I. Elkus).

We need to move U.S. policy on this issue away from a zero-sum game between Turkey and Armenia. I understand the sensitivities at play with regard to Turkey: the Government of Turkey is a key U.S. ally, and I believe we should be deeply engaged with that nation and its people to strengthen our increasingly important bilateral ties. It is my hope that the Administration will work more closely – in terms of time, energy, and resources – with this important democracy.

The recall of Ambassador Evans only underscores the need to revisit the official U.S. position on the events of 1915 in an effort to make it consistent with the historical consensus that has developed on this issue. Many in Congress would welcome the opportunity to discuss Ambassador Evans' recall with you, as well as the instructions the Department gives to its officials on this matter. I understand that a number of my colleagues have inquired about Ambassador Evans' recall but have not received satisfactory responses from your office.

While I believe that neither the Department of State nor U.S. Congress should be attempting to write the history of 1915, the U.S. government should endeavor to align its policies with facts that have been well-established by credible historians. I believe that we should examine more closely these matters to prevent Ambassador-designee Hoagland from being placed in a similarly awkward position.

Sincerely,



Barack Obama
United States Senator

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador-Designate Marie L. Yovanovitch by
Senator Barack Obama (#1)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 19, 2008**

Nearly 2 million Armenians were deported during the Armenian Genocide, which was carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, and approximately 1.5 million of those deported were killed. It is imperative that we recognize the horrific acts carried out against the Armenian people as genocide. The occurrence of the Armenian genocide is a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming collection of historical evidence. I was deeply disturbed two years ago when the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia was fired after he used the term "genocide" to describe the mass slaughter of Armenians. I called for Secretary Rice to closely examine what I believe is an untenable position taken by the U.S. government. I ask that you respond to the following questions:

Question:

How do you characterize the events surrounding the Armenian genocide?

Answer:

The U.S. Government acknowledges and mourns the mass killings, ethnic cleansing, and forced deportations that devastated over one and a half million Armenians at the end of the Ottoman Empire. The United States recognizes these events as one of the greatest tragedies of the 20th century, the "Medz Yeghern," or Great Calamity, as many Armenians refer to it.

That is why every April the President honors the victims and expresses American solidarity with the Armenian people on Remembrance Day. As the child of refugees -- at a different time and place -- I do feel very strongly about the great suffering experienced by the Armenian people both at that time and today as they remember this dark chapter in their history. I too mourn the loss of so many innocent lives and fully respect that the Armenian-American community and the Armenian people want their pain and loss to be acknowledged.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador-Designate Marie L. Yovanovitch by
Senator Barack Obama (#2)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 19, 2008**

Question:

If confirmed, what actions will you take to remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide?

Answer:

If confirmed, I will continue the tradition of participating in the official memorial event held in Yerevan every April. I will refer to this great historic catastrophe as the “Medz Yeghern,” the term often used within Armenia to refer to that dark chapter of history. If confirmed, I also would make it a priority to promote understanding and reconciliation between the peoples and governments of Armenia and Turkey. It is important for the U.S. to do everything that it can to encourage dialogue between Armenia and Turkey, and to encourage Turkey in particular to examine the terrible events of that time openly. This was a tragedy that we and the world must never forget, so that it is never repeated.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador–Designate Marie L. Yovanovitch by
Senator Barack Obama (#3)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 20, 2008

Question:

What steps is the State Department taking to encourage greater study and recognition of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey?

Answer:

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara is committed to working with the Government of Turkey on ways in which the atrocities of 1915 can be studied. As a recent example, the Administration is currently laying the groundwork for an International Visitor Program that would bring archivists from the Turkish State Archives to the U.S. to look at the ways in which we do historical research. As a confidence building measure, the USG has contacted Armenian archivists to participate in the program, in the hope that, upon return, the archivists from both countries could work together on a joint program that would study the issue.

In addition, our Embassies take every opportunity in meetings with the Governments of Armenia and Turkey, and with civil society leaders from both countries, to encourage improved dialogue between

them. Since 2006, the USG has provided over \$700,000 in support of initiatives to increase people-to-people connections between Armenia and Turkey, including research projects, conferences, documentary production, and exchange and partnership programs with the goal of increasing cross-border dialogue and cooperation. These programs are focused on bringing together Armenian and Turkish NGOs, think tank researchers, academics and business leaders at the grass roots level by creating opportunities for them to work together on common projects that will benefit both countries.

Questions for the Record Submitted to
Ambassador – Designate Marie Yovanovitch by
Senator Barack Obama (#4)
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
June 20, 2008

Question:

How will you work with your counterparts in Ankara to decriminalize discussion of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey? Is the Department satisfied with recent modifications to Article 301 of Turkey's Criminal Code that allowed individuals such as Hrant Dink to be prosecuted for speaking about the Genocide? Why or why not?

Answer:

The Administration has made clear to the Turkish authorities on many occasions that such prosecutions violate free expression, run counter to Turkey's aspiration to join the European Union, and undercut Turkey's strategic significance as an example of a secular democracy that can inspire reform throughout the broader Middle East and Central Asia. The scope for free expression in Turkey, including on the Armenian issue, has expanded significantly in recent years, but clearly there is much more to be done. In May 2008, Turkey amended Article 301 of its Penal Code, under which individuals have been prosecuted for "insulting Turkishness." While the Administration would have preferred to have seen the repeal of Article 301, the

amendments reduce the maximum possible sentence from three to two years and, most importantly, require the Minister of Justice to determine whether to accept the case for prosecution. The Minister's role should help to reduce significantly the number of cases brought by zealous prosecutors. The Administration has encouraged the Turkish authorities to continue this progress and to end legal action against citizens for expressing their views.

that Chairman LEAHY and I will continue to, with outside input, perfect this bill, and am confident in our House counterparts to do the same.

I am committed to moving this legislation forward and hope that we can join efforts to refine and enact this bill.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. OBAMA. Mr. President, last week, we paused in remembrance of the Armenian genocide, which was carried out by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923. Nearly 2 million Armenians were deported, and approximately 1.5 million of those deported were killed.

It is imperative that we recognize the horrific acts carried out against the Armenian people as genocide and I will continue to stand with the Armenian American community in calling for the Government of Turkey to acknowledge it as such. The occurrence of the Armenian genocide is a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming collection of historical evidence.

I was deeply disturbed 2 years ago when the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia was fired after he used the term "genocide" to describe the mass slaughter of Armenians. I called for Secretary Rice to closely examine what I believe is an untenable position taken by the U.S. Government.

I will continue to push for the acknowledgement of the Armenian genocide, and I offer the Armenian people my condolences.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, in honor of American troops who have lost their lives overseas in Iraq and Afghanistan I wish to make sure their service and sacrifice is forever memorialized in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Since I last included the names of our fallen troops on February 15, the Pentagon has announced the deaths of 101 troops in Iraq and in Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes Afghanistan. They will not be forgotten and today I submit their names into the RECORD:

SSG Shaun J. Whitehead, of Commerce, GA; SSG Ronald C. Blystone, of Springfield, MO; PFC John T. Bishop, of Gaylord, MI; 1stLT Timothy W. Cunningham, of College Station, TX; LCpl Jordan C. Haerter, of Sag Harbor, NY; CPL Jonathan T. Yale, of Burkeville, VA; SGT Guadalupe Cervantes Ramirez, of Fort Irwin, CA; 1stLT Matthew R. Vandergrift, of Littleton, CO; PVT Ronald R. Harrison, of Morris Plains, NJ; SPC Steven J. Christofferson, of Cudahy, WI; SGT

Adam J. Kohlhaas, of Perryville, MO; PO1 Cherie L. Morton, of Bakersfield, CA; AA Adrian M. Campos, of El Paso, TX; CPL Benjamin K. Brosh, of Colorado Springs, CO; SPC Lance O. Eakes, of Apex, NC; SSGT Jason L. Brown, of Magnolia, TX; 1stSGT Luke J. Mercardante, of Athens, GA; CPL Kyle W. Wilks, of Rogers, AR; SPC Arturo Huerta-Cruz, of Clearwater, FL; SGT Joseph A. Richard III, of Lafayette, LA; CPL Richard J. Nelson, of Racine, WI; LCpl Dean D. Opicka, of Waukesha, WI; SGT William E. Allmon, of Ardmore, OK; SPC Jacob J. Fairbanks, of Saint Paul, MN; SGT Jesse A. Ault, of Dublin, VA; SGT Shaun P. Tousha, of Hull, TX; TSgt Anthony L. Capra, of Hanford, CA; SPC Jeremiah C. Hughes, of Jacksonville, FL; SSG Jeffery L. Hartley, of Hempstead, TX; MAJ Mark E. Rosenberg, of Miami Lakes, FL; SGT Timothy M. Smith, of South Lake Tahoe, CA; SPC Jason C. Kazarick, of Oakmont, PA; SGT Michael T. Lilly, of Boise, ID; SSG Jeremiah E. McNeal, of Norfolk, VA; SGT Richard A. Vaughn, of San Diego, CA; COL Stephen K. Scott, of New Market, AL; MAJ Stuart A. Wolfer, of Coral Springs, FL; SSG Emanuel Pickett, of Teachey, NC; CAPT Ulises Burgos-Cruz, of Puerto Rico; SPC Matthew T. Morris, of Cedar Park, TX; PFC Shane D. Penley, of Sauk Village, IL; SGT Nicholas A. Robertson, of Old Town, ME; SPC Charles A. Jankowski, of Panama City, FL; SSGT Travis L. Griffin, of Dover, DE; SGT Dayne D. Dhanoolal, of Brooklyn, NY; SGT Jevon K. Jordan, of Norfolk, VA; MAJ William G. Hall, of Seattle, WA; SPC Durrell L. Bennett, of Spanaway, WA; PFC Patrick J. Miller, of New Port Richey, FL; SGT Terrell W. Gilmore, of Baton Rouge, LA; CPL Steven I. Candel, of Houston, TX; CPL Joshua A. Molina, of Houston, TX; SPC Gregory B. Rundell, of Ramsey, MN; SSG Joseph D. Gamboa, of Yigo, Guam; PVT George Delgado, of Palmdale, CA; SSG Christopher M. Hake, of Enid, OK; PFC Andrew J. Habsieger, of Festus, MO; CPL Jose A. Rubio Hernandez, of Mission, TX; LCpl Dustin L. Canham, of Lake Stevens, WA; SSG William R. Neil Jr., of Holmdel, NJ; SGT Thomas C. Ray, II, of Weaverville, NC; SGT David S. Stelmat, of Littleton, NH; SGT David B. Williams, of Tarboro, NC; PFC Antione V. Robinson, of Detroit, MI; PFC Tyler J. Smith, of Bethel, ME; TSgt William H. Jefferson, Jr., of Norfolk, VA; SGT Gregory D. Unruh, of Dickinson, TX; SSG Michael D. Elledge, of Brownsburg, IN; SGT Christopher C. Simpson, of Hampton, VA; SPC Lerando J. Brown, of Gulfport, MS; CPL William D. O'Brien, of Rice, TX; SFC Collin J. Bowen, of Millersville, MD; SFC Shawn M. Suzch, of Hilltown, PA; SSG Ernesto G. Cimarrusti, of Douglas, AZ; SSG David D. Julian, of Evanston, WY; CPL Robert T. McDavid, of Starkville, MS; CPL Scott A. McIntosh, of Houston, TX; SSG Juantrea T. Bradley, of Greenville, NC; SPC Dustin C. Jackson, of Arlington, TX; PFC Tenzin L. Samten,

of Prescott, AZ; SSG Laurent J. West, of Raleigh, NC; SGT Phillip R. Anderson, of Everett, WA; SPC Donald A. Burkett, of Comanche, TX; CAPT Torre R. Mallard, of OK; CPL Jose A. Paniagua-Morales, of Bell Gardens, CA; SGT Gabriel Guzman, of Hornbrook, CA; SPC Steven R. Koch, of Milltown, NJ; SGT Robert T. Rapp, of Sonora, CA; SSGT Christopher S. Frost, of Waukesha, WI; SPC Orlando A. Perez, of Houston, TX; SPC Micheal E. Phillips, of Ardmore, OK; CPL Kevin S. Mowl, of Pittsford, NY; LCpl Drew W. Weaver, of St. Charles, MO; SPC Keisha M. Morgan, of Washington, DC; CAPT Nathan R. Raudenbush, of PA; SGT Conrad Alvarez, of Big Spring, TX; CPL Albert Bitton, of Chicago, IL; SPC Micheal B. Matlock, Jr., of Glen Burnie, MD; SSG Bryant W. Mackey, of Eureka, KS; CPL Chad D. Groepper, of Kingsley, IA; CPL Luke S. Runyan, of Spring Grove, PA.

We cannot forget these men and women and their sacrifice. These brave souls left behind parents and children, siblings and friends. We want them to know the country pledges to preserve the memory of our lost soldiers who gave their lives for our country.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING KEVIN WEBB

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mr. Kevin Webb of Glasgow, KY. Mr. Webb was recently chosen to be one of eight speakers at the first ever Ticket to Work Partners Summit held in Louisville, KY.

In March 2008 the Social Security Administration launched the Ticket to Work Partners Summit to bring together over 400 of Social Security's partners who actively engage Social Security disability beneficiaries in work through the Ticket to Work Program. Mr. WEBB was chosen to be one of eight speakers nationally to discuss how they have benefited from this program.

With the help of the Social Security Administration, Mr. Webb was able to start his own business in April 2006. Today he is a proud co-owner with his father, Ron Taylor, of Webb/Taylor Horseback Riding and Boarding.

Prior to becoming a successful business owner, Mr. Webb was faced with a number of difficult challenges in finding employment. Despite all of the setbacks and obstacles he had to overcome, Mr. Webb never gave up on his dreams and continued to search for a job that made him happy.

Mr. Webb applied for a grant given to five individuals each year by the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities and the State vocation rehabilitation for startup funds for new businesses. With the grant and a fully funded Plan for Achieving Self Support from the Social Security Administration, Mr. Webb and his father were able to launch the Webb/Taylor Horseback Riding and Boarding.

**Text of Senator Barack Obama's June 16, 2008
constituent email response to Ken Hachikian**

June 16, 2008

Dear Kenneth:

Thank you for sharing with me your thoughts on the upcoming confirmation hearing for the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia. I appreciate having the benefit of your perspective on this important matter.

I share your view that the United States must recognize the events of 1915 to 1923, carried out by the Ottoman Empire, as genocide. As you know, this resulted in the deportation of nearly 2,000,000 Armenians, of whom 1,500,000 men, women, and children were killed.

We must recognize this tragic reality. The Bush Administration's refusal to do so is inexcusable, and I will continue to speak out in an effort to move the Administration to change its position.

I was deeply disturbed two years ago when the U.S. Ambassador to Armenia was fired after he used the term "genocide" to describe the mass slaughter of Armenians. In a letter to the Department of State, I called for Secretary Rice to closely examine what I believe is an untenable position taken by the U.S. government. A copy of that letter is enclosed for your review.

You may rest assured that I will keep your priorities in mind as I consider relevant matters before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. I hope that you will stay in touch in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama
United States Senator



“For those who aren’t aware there was a genocide that did take place against the Armenian people. It is one of these situations where we have seen a constant denial on part of the Turkish Government and others that this occurred.”

-- April 12, 2007 YouTube video of Senator Obama during a public Capitol Hill constituent meeting

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JwR83GZjwdo>