

NEWS FROM

Congressman

Joseph Crowley



NEW YORK

7TH DISTRICT

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I want to take this time to thank ARMENPAC, the Knights of Vartan, the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian General Benevolent Union for hosting this event to bring world attention to this infamous period in world history. I would also like to take this time and say hello to my friend Aram Sarafian who has also been an integral factor in this fight. While I am not able to attend and speak today, I want to tell you I support your cause and am working to make positive changes in Congress in respects to recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

April 24th will mark the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, when Turkey murdered 1.5 million Armenians and exiled over a million others.

That date in 1915, set a historical precedent that allowed governments to continue to commit crimes against humanity. It is time for Congress and the Bush Administration to stop dragging their feet and bring a resolution to so many people who fell victim to the atrocities committed by the Ottoman Empire 91 years ago.

I believe that by failing to recognize these barbaric acts, one becomes complicit in them. Let us never forget the 1.5 million Armenians who perished in 1915 and 1916.

As a result, I have been a strong supporter of efforts to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide by both the United States Congress and the President. Every year, prior to the April 24th Commemoration Day, I have joined my colleagues in writing a letter to the President to voice my support for properly characterizing the events in 1915 as Genocide. Like in the past, I have again requested that Congress and the Administration formally recognize this as Genocide.

I have always supported the Armenian American community. However, my support for the community does not only stem from the size of the Armenian Community in Queens, but also because I see the strategic importance of the Caucuses region for the United States.

In 2003, I had the opportunity to visit Armenia and to plant a tree at the Genocide memorial. The independent country of Armenia is a living testament to honor the memories of the survivors.

I am very proud of my work in support of the Armenian-American community in the United States and the proud people of Armenia, both as a member of the Committee on International Relations and as a member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

I have worked with Alex and Aram Sarafian from the NY ANC in Woodside to promote Armenian issues, so that Armenian Americans can also have a voice in Congress.

As a close ally and reliable friend, the United States has an obligation to the Armenian people to help them address the challenges of the future – from nation-building, and enhancing regional security to reconstructing critical economic infrastructure.

I will continue to work tirelessly to promote the interests the Armenian-American community, from recognizing the past to building a strong and stable future.