I am proud to note that Armenian immigrants found, in the United States, a country where their culture could take root and thrive. Most Armenians in America are children or grandchildren of the survivors, although there are still survivors amongst us. In my district in Northwest Indiana, a vibrant Armenian-American community has developed and strong ties to Armenia continue to flourish. My predecessor in the House, the late Adam Benjamin, was of Armenian heritage, and his distinguished service in the House serves as an example to the entire Northwest Indiana community. Over the years, members of the Armenian-American community throughout the United States have contributed millions of dollars and countless hours of their time to various Armenian causes. Of particular note are Mrs. Vicki Hovanessian and her husband, Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, residents of Indiana's First Congressional District, who have continually worked to improve the quality of life in Armenia, as well as in Northwest Indiana. Three other Armenian-American families in my congressional district, Dr. Aram and Seta Semerdjian, Heratch and Sonya Doumanian, and Ara and Rosy Yeretsian, have also contributed greatly toward charitable works in the United States and Armenia. Their efforts, together with hundreds of other members of the Armenian-American community, have helped to finance several important projects in Armenia, including the construction of new schools, a mammography clinic, and a crucial roadway connecting Armenia to Nagorno Karabagh.

In the House, I have tried to assist the efforts of my Armenian-American constituency by continually supporting foreign aid to Armenia. This past year, with my support, Armenia received $93 million in U.S. aid to assist economic and military development. In addition I am once again joining with several of my colleagues in signing a letter to President Bush urging him to honor his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian people have a long and proud history. In the fourth century, they became the first nation to embrace Christianity. During World War I, the Ottoman Empire was ruled by an organization known as the Young Turk Committee, which allied with Germany. Amid fighting in the Ottoman Empire's eastern Anatolian provinces, the historic heartland of the Christian Armenians, Ottoman authorities ordered the deportation and execution of all Armenians in the region. By the end of 1923, virtually the entire Armenian population of Anatolia and western Armenia had either been killed or deported.

While it is important to keep the lessons of history in mind, we must also remain committed to protecting Armenia from new and more hostile aggressors. In the last decade, thousands of lives have been lost and more than a million people displaced in the struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabagh. Even now, as we rise to commemorate the accomplishments of the Armenian people and mourn the tragedies they have suffered, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and other countries continue to engage in a debilitating blockage of this free nation.

Consistently, I have testified before Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee on the important issue of bringing peace to a troubled area of the world. I continued my support for maintaining of level funding for the Southern Caucasus region of the Independent States (IS), and of Armenia in particular. I also stressed the critical importance of revisiting Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act that restricts U.S. aid for Azerbaijan as a result of their blockade. However, I commend my colleagues on the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee for striking the appropriate balance last year regarding Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which will now allow Azerbaijan to do their part in the war against international terrorism. Unfortunately, Armenia is now entering its fourteenth year of a blockage and I must request that the Congress review the waiver of Section 907 on a yearly basis. The flow of food, fuel, and medicine continues to be hindered by the blockade, creating a humanitarian crisis in Armenia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives JOE KNOLLENBERG and FRANK PALLONE, for organizing this special order to commemorate the 88th Anniversary of the Armenian genocide. Their efforts will not only help bring needed attention to this tragic period in world history, but also serve to remind us of our duty to protect basic human rights and freedoms around the world.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my special order tonight, the Armenian Genocide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LIPINSKI addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WEINER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, 88 years ago, Armenian teachers, clergy, businessmen, writers and doctors were rounded up and killed. The events of April 24, 1915, set the stage for the first genocide of the 20th century, the extermination of more than 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

With one of the largest Armenian expatriate communities in the world, April 24 has become an integral part of America's history—but debate over the genocide is still an annual and bitter conflict.

Even though modern-day Turkey was established in 1923 out of the ashes of the Ottoman Empire and was not the actual perpetrator of genocide, it spends millions of dollars each year to fight recognition of the Genocide. Despite this well-funded effort, there is no serious academic dispute about the Armenian Genocide. Our own National Archives houses diplomatic dispatches that vividly describe the systematic destruction of an entire people.

News accounts from the American press also provide a trove of primary source evidence. Headlines, such as the following from the New York Times, describe the horrors: ''Armenian Officials Murdered by Turks,'' ''Appeal to Turkey to Stop Massacres,'' ''Tales of Armenian Horrors Confirmed,'' ''Wholesale Massacres of Armenians by Turks,'' ''Armenians Are Sent To Perish in Desert,'' ''Turks Depopulate Towns of Armenia,'' ''Million Armenians Killed or In Exile,'' and ''The death of Armenia.''

When the Armenian Genocide occurred, the heinous crime had no name. In denouncing what he was witness to, our own U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau chose the words ''race murder'' to describe the atrocities. Raphael Lemkin, an International law scholar, ultimately coined the term genocide in 1944.

As a Polish attorney, Lemkin was appalled by the Turkish atrocities against the Armenians and tried to get European statesmen to criminalize the destruction of ethnic and religious groups. He was dismissed as an alarmist. Years later, when Hitler invaded Poland, Lemkin lost 49 family members in the Holocaust.

Landing as a refugee on American shores, Lemkin resolved to devise a word to convey the evil under way. In 1944, while working for the U.S. war department, he invented the term ''genocide''—citing the Armenian case as an example.

In 1948, in the shadow of the Holocaust, the international community responded to Nazi Germany's methodically orchestrated acts of genocide by approving the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The Convention confirms that genocide is a crime under international law and defines genocide as actions committed with the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

The United States, under President Harry Truman, was the first nation to sign the Convention. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan

signed an Act that implemented the Convention and criminalized genocide under U.S. law—putting the United States on record as being strongly opposed to the heinous crime of genocide. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the signing of that convention.

I will soon introduce a resolution, along with my colleague Mr. RADANOVICH and several other Members of Congress, that recognizes this important step taken by the United States 15 years ago, to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust, the Armenian Genocide, and the genocides in Cambodia and Rwanda, among others, will not be forgotten.

Euphemisms, vague terminology or calls for more discussions are just some of the dodges used to avoid Turkish discomfort with its Ottoman past. There is nothing to discuss, there is nothing to discover, there is nothing to be gained by denial—but there is much to be lost.

Let us not minimize the deliberate murder of 1.5 million Armenians. Let us not equivocate. Let us not temporize. Let us instead pay homage to the memory of those innocent victims and honor the courage of the survivors. Let us call genocide, genocide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON of Indiana addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WEXLER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LARSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DELAHUNT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DEFICITS, THE DEBT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to come and address the Chamber this evening. I want to talk about deficits, the debt and fiscal responsibility.

There was a time in this country when those issues were very, very important. It dominated public debate in this country in the 1980s and well into the 1990s as we saw our deficit on a yearly basis explode and the overall debt go up to levels that started to concern people. There was a constant battle to try to figure out how to get that debt under control and get our budget balanced on a yearly basis.

In recent years, that debate has drifted away. Part of that makes sense. After 9/11, with the slowdown in the economy, with the war in Iraq, there is no question that it makes a certain amount of sense to run short-term deficits in at this point. In emergency situations, that is what you do.

My concern and the concern of the New Democrats, which I represent and work with, is that far from simply saying, well, for the time being we are not going to pay as much attention to deficits, it has gotten to the point in Congress and with the White House where it seems like they do not care about them at all, they do not care what the numbers are and they do not think they are important, and that is a very, very dangerous policy and one that we must correct.

So this evening I want to talk about, first of all, putting it back into context and letting folks know where the deficit is at, where the debt is at. In recent years we have not focused on it that much, and I think people have totally forgoten what those numbers are. It is important to be aware of what those numbers are.

The second issue is to remind folks that the deficit and the debt matter. We have heard some truly bizarre talk here in recent months, coming primarily from conservatives, conservatives who just a few short years ago were arguing that we ought to have a constitutional amendment to balance the budget, we ought to require that it be balanced, never have it be an option to run a yearly deficit. Those same people are now saying deficits probably do not really matter that much.

I think they were probably wrong in both, requiring a constitutional amendment and now in saying that the deficits do not matter. Deficits do matter. Now, there are times when you should probably go ahead and run one because of an emergency situation, so a constitutional amendment to balance the budget would unduly restrict our Federal Government. But to go from that to saying that they just do not matter at all is ridiculous. So what I want to start out with is showing where the numbers are at and just how bad things have gotten.

First of all, as we head toward fiscal year 2003 coming to a close in October, the projections are now that that deficit, when you add in the supplemental for the war that is going to pass this week in Congress, that deficit will approach $400 billion, just for the one year. That is a higher dollar figure deficit than our Nation has ever seen, by a comfortable margin. I think the highest deficit we had, even during the really bad times of the early 1990s, was $290 billion.

When you look long term at the 10 year picture, that is where it gets even bleaker. That is what we are talking about this week with the budget resolution that the House and Senate are trying to reach agreement on.

The budget resolution, in theory, is a 10 year blueprint for where we want our budget to go. That blueprint right now has us going in debt, in debt to a level never before imagined.

So I have a chart here that shows this and where we are going. This is from the Goldman Sachs study that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) mentioned earlier. It starts off by showing what the official CBO projection is. The official CBO projection is that over the course of the next 10 years, we will have an $890 billion surplus.

So basically they are assuming, despite the existing $400 billion deficit that we are going to run this year, in the out years, as we get further down, we will have sufficient surpluses to make that up and get us up to this very happy figure of an $891 billion surplus. The problem is that there are a lot of