

leader in the community and dedicated his life's work to making this world a better place than the way he found it. Sylvan was a very special person and meant a lot to all who knew him. He loved people and he made us better because he educated and challenged us!

At this time, I do not think Sylvan would have wanted the Houston communities to anguish over his passing; instead, he would want all of us to pick up the torch of leadership and responsibility, and work together to ensure that our communities continue to grow and learn from one another, and to continue God's work.

Nevertheless, Sylvan's passing will forever leave a void in all of our hearts in Houston, and throughout the great state of Texas. I hope that in time, his family, friends, and colleagues are comforted by the legacy of accomplishments Sylvan leaves behind. In addition, I hope that fond memories of Sylvan Rodriguez will continue to inspire all who knew him and the Houston community for the future. In closing, I offer my deepest sympathy on Sylvan Rodriguez passing and bid him a fond farewell.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1800

MICROSOFT BREAK-UP

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

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, we are a Nation of laws. Without a codified, uniform, and fairly administered systems of laws, American society would be harmed, lives would be ruined and businesses would falter and fail.

I also know that our system is not perfect. Sometimes it is possible for existing laws to be misapplied or misinterpreted. Sometimes it is possible for reasonable men and women to look at the same set of facts and to simply draw different conclusions. And sometimes our very human and very American desire to side with the little guy overwhelms our objectivity and colors our view of the facts; that I believe is happening in the case of Microsoft versus the Department of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that Microsoft is being unfairly judged, not only in the federal courtroom, but also in the court of public opinion, and I believe this good company stands a chance of being unfairly punished. That is why I am here today to do what I can to stop an injustice from occurring.

Microsoft is the great American success story. Today, it is a company whose products have increased the effi-

ciency of our work force immeasurably. It is a company whose products are used and respected worldwide. It is a company who has shared more of its wealth creation with its workers than any other business in this country. It is a company whose founder has made more charitable contributions than any other business leader in the entire world.

And this American success story is under attack today, because it wanted to offer better products to its customers in order to stay competitive. That seems absurd to me. Even more absurd is the precedent that this decision would set for all of American business, because the attack on Microsoft is not simply an attack on a single very successful company.

It is an attack on the very principles of business competition and technological innovation. It is an attack that threatens to undermine one of the most successful engines of economic growth and technological innovation in our Nation.

One of the first rules of business is to anticipate changing markets, to predict what competitors will do, and try to do better. The way to win in a competitive marketplace is to produce better products more quickly and more economically. That is the basis of our free enterprise system. It is why our economy leads the world, and it is why we are the envy of the rest of the world.

It is a terribly, terribly serious matter for the government to intrude in that process of healthy competition. And it is simply not acceptable or reasonable for our government to seek to destroy a fundamental engine of our economy.

Microsoft is a generous and responsible corporate citizen, one of the most innovative and creative success stories in American history. Microsoft should not be attacked simply because they sought to provide more integrated, advanced, and efficient products to the marketplace, that is what consumers want companies to do. Far from harming consumers, that is what consumers want from products that and the companies that make them.

The theory behind antitrust actions is to prevent monopolistic or anti-competitive practices that could stifle development or competition and thereby hurt the consumer.

I understand that principle, but the key phrase is thereby hurt the consumer. And what is most important to consider here is not whether there is a specific level of competition, but whether consumers have, in fact, been harmed.

It is equally important that we carefully, very carefully, examine the possibility that a proposed response, a proposed response could be more harmful to consumers, more harmful to competition. Let us be clear about some-

thing. It is perfectly acceptable to ensure the competition is not unfairly restrained by monopolistic entities. But it is not acceptable, it is not reasonable to use the antitrust process to penalize companies for trying to improve their products for the sake of competitive advantage.

If protecting the consumer is the guiding principle behind antitrust proceedings, it is only fair to ask where the consumers have been in all of this. From the time this process began, right up to the present, there has not been an uprising of consumers demanding Microsoft being prosecuted or penalized.

In fact, consumers use and benefit from Microsoft products every day. And when it comes to choices, consumers have a multitude of choices of various software systems and operating systems.

Competition is alive and well in the software industry. Beyond the matter of choice in consumer satisfaction, it would be difficult to argue that prices have been driven up by Microsoft because every day the price of computer systems and more powerful systems are actually going down.

What is really going on? The case against Microsoft is not fundamentally about protecting consumers, it is really about competing businesses in the States in which those businesses reside seeking to get the upper hand on one another by using litigation where innovation has failed, by using the power of the government to usurp the power of the marketplace.

Our Federal Government should not be party to this, and our government must not stifle competition in the name of protecting consumers. Break up should not be an option.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited Microsoft. I know well the fine work they do, and I know how essential it is for the success of that company that products be integrated. We must not allow break up to harm consumers in the name of protecting them.

COMMEMORATING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow evening on this floor there will be a special order commemorating the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. I will not be present because of a conflict tomorrow evening, and, therefore, I chose this evening to rise in remembrance of all of those who perished during the Armenian Genocide. The commemoration of the Turkish persecution of its Armenian citizens is important because only by educating

ourselves about the past can we prevent repetition of similar tragic situations in the future.

April 24 is a special day for the Armenian people. It marks the day that 200 Armenian leaders were arrested in Constantinople and murdered. This was not an isolated incident, rather, it was the beginning of a chain of persecution that had begun under the rule of Ottoman Sultan Abdul.

In just 2 years, between 1894 to 1896, 300,000 Armenians had lost their lives. This event marked the coming of years of oppression, torture and murder for the Armenian-Turkish population.

After Sultan Abdul's reign was over, a new group called the Young Turks came to power. They made pan-Turkism the national ideology, and they set out to rid Turkey of all its minority groups, mainly its Armenians. By 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been slaughtered and more than 500,000 had been exiled from their homes.

Less than a century ago, the massacre of the Armenian people was unknown to the world. To this day it is still denied by the Turkish government, just as the Nazis two decades later denied the Holocaust. Both of these atrocities could have been prevented, or at least mitigated, if the public had been aware of them. Sadly, it was only after the world learned of the Holocaust and the depths to which human beings could sink in their treatment of each other that the massacre of the Armenian population of Turkey gained attention as genocide.

As we aspire to attain universal human rights for all, we need to have a full knowledge and understanding of the truth. Although we are much more aware of human rights violations, they are still occurring to this day. From the torture of political prisoners, to the Armenian genocide, to the repression of Kurdish people by Turkey and Iraq, to the human rights issues in Kosovo, we can see ethnic cleansing is still in existence. But we can also see the worldwide concern, and we have been able to act to protect innocents.

The denial of this by the Turkish government needs to end and an open and honest acknowledgment of the Armenian genocide must be made before significant progress can be made in Turkish-Armenian relations. To prevent such crimes against humanity from recurring, we must intensify our efforts to establish a growing respect for the truth and oppose and condemn human rights violations wherever they may occur.

THE PASSING OF KENNETH PADDIO AND THE OTHER SOLDIERS WHO PASSED ON THE MV-22 OSPREY TRAGEDY APRIL 11, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD). Under a previous order of

the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the 19 remarkable and valiant Marines, who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country this past Saturday. My prayers and condolences go out to their family, friends and loved ones during this difficult time.

I urge all Americans to recognize the enormity of what these fallen Marines have afforded us. Our nation is blessed—providing us with a political system that guarantees each of us life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are free to speak our minds. We are free to practice our faiths. We are free to travel this great land and be with whomever we choose. These precious gifts of freedom have not come free. They have endured through the blood of American heroes and heroines.

President John F. Kennedy once remarked: "A man does what he must in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures, and that is the basis of all human mortality." This quote clearly describes these heroes who risked their lives this past weekend so that our great nation's military readiness remains strong and intact.

These Marines were conducting a standard training mission in support of Operational Evaluation when they MV 22 Osprey aircraft crashed near a municipal airport in Marana, Arizona. These Marines conducted this standard evaluation to ensure that this aircraft was suitable for operation by the Marine Corps.

Fittingly, these 19 soldiers symbolize the commitment and dedication that all of our military forces have displayed throughout history in protecting this great democracy. Whether it be peacekeeping missions abroad or training exercises on American soil, members of our Armed Forces risk their lives to ensure that our democracy is preserved. From the early heroes of the Revolutionary War to those who are currently enlisted in our Armed Forces, millions of Americans have sacrificed their lives to preserve our precious freedom and to meet our commitments to allies around the globe. As a nation, we mourn their loss and we are privileged to enjoy the benefits of the ultimate sacrifice that these men and women in our Armed Forces have made on our behalf.

In addition, I pay additional tribute to Private Kenneth O. Paddio, a resident of the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas, and one of the 19 soldiers onboard this fatal military operation. After graduating High School a year ago, Private Paddio moved to the 18th Congressional District of Houston, Texas to be close to his beloved mother Ella. Truly a remarkable young man, his family and loved ones recall that Kenneth was a "quiet, independent and determined young man who joined the Marines to better himself." On behalf of the 18th Congressional District, we mourn your loss and pay tribute to your heroism.

In closing, I again offer all of the families my deepest sympathy. I hope that in time, you are comforted by the legacy of accomplishments that your loved ones have left behind. May God bless you all.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HERMAN B. WELLS, LIVING LEGEND OF INDIANA HISTORY

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

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, last month Indiana lost a favorite son of great distinction, a living legend of Indiana history. I rise to acquaint the larger world with Dr. Herman B. Wells of Indiana University who died at the age of 97.

The standard details of his life mark great attainment: Economics professor, then Dean of the Business School, he became President of the University in 1937, and served until 1962. Then, retiring not at all, he continued his service as Chancellor of the University until his death. Were that all there was, he would be worthy of great honor.

But there was more, marking his true greatness: he gave himself to the University and to its many thousands of students, leading learning and leading change in important ways. He protected controversial research; he developed a world-class school of music; he used his personal power to roll back racial discrimination at the campus; he helped the school to integrate its basketball team; and, friend and counselor to generations of students, with his counsel he helped make Indiana and the Nation a better place.

In our loss of Herman Wells, Indiana has lost a towering figure of American higher education.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED STATES SUBMARINE SERVICE AND VETERANS HEPATITIS C EPIDEMIC

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor men who bravely served the United States in our most trying times as a Nation. Today marks the 100th anniversary of the U.S. submarine force. Will Rogers once said, "We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by. Today we applaud the heroes and we honor fellow submariners who remain on eternal patrol. May we never forget them and their brave deeds." Those are the words of Mr. Rogers.

The thoughts of Will Rogers live with us today. During the most serious challenges our Nation has faced, the men of the submarine service did their jobs above and beyond the call of duty. They were essential to creating victory in war and remain essential to keeping America strong in peace. War fought under the sea developed its own physics and harsh realities completely different from the experiences of any soldier who came before them. These men