

claim. Under the Bush proposal, a homeowner who filed a single claim, regardless of the size, would be dropped from the program. Without long-term comprehensive reform of the NFIP, I am concerned that in the future Congress may follow through with the Administration's proposal or other proposals to double or triple flood insurance premiums for all flood-prone homeowners, as was proposed in 1995 and 1996.

While the Administration is pushing people out of the NFIP, it also proposes to reduce the federal share of hazard mitigation grants from 75% to 50%, reducing funds available for flood prevention by \$83 million. The administration also proposes to eliminate FEMA's Project Impact, which helps communities protect themselves from the devastating effects of natural disasters. In addition, the 2002 budget cuts the Army Corps of Engineers by \$600 million. Of that cut, \$451 million comes from Construction General funds, which fund flood control and navigation projects. A policy of reducing flood prevention efforts while reducing insurance will compound the safety risk and financial pain for homeowners in the floodplain.

Instead of stripping away homeowners' flood insurance, my legislation takes a three-pronged approach to addressing this issue: a comprehensive pre-disaster mitigation program; an enhanced repetitive substantial loss property buyout program with consistent criteria and procedures; and improved coordination between FEMA and local governments:

Pre-disaster mitigation: The legislation directs the FEMA director to carry out a program to mitigate repetitive flood losses by providing financial assistance in the form of grants to the States, local governments, and local flood management agencies for planning and carrying out activities designed to reduce expenditures from the NFIP. Eligible mitigation activities include elevation, relocation, demolition, floodproofing, and acquisition by States and communities of properties and structures located in flood-risk areas. Grants would be provided on a cost-shared basis, with an Federal Government providing no more than 75 percent of the total cost of the mitigation activities as is the case within traditional watershed management programs.

Repetitive Loss Property Buyout Program: The legislation authorizes the FEMA director, upon determining that an insured property is a repetitive substantial loss property, to offer to purchase the property at fair market value (including structures) at the time of the offer. This offer would remain open as long as the property is covered by the NFIP. The State or local flood management agency may coordinate and carry out the purchase at FEMA's direction. Any property so acquired would have to be used in a way compatible with open space, recreational, or wetlands management practices, providing both environmental and flood management benefits. The legislation establishes a firm damage standard of repetitive flood losses in excess of 125 percent of the value of the property (or structures) to become subject to and receive priority for buyout offers. It also provides incentives for acceptance of buyout offers by establishing increased NFIP premiums and deductibles for owners of substantial repetitive loss properties who decline buyout offers.

Intergovernmental Coordination: The legislation directs the FEMA director, in consultation with regional flood plain administrators, to develop and periodically update a list of repetitive flood lost properties, which will provide a consistent data base for all levels of government. This consistent approach to assessing, ranking, and reporting of repetitive loss properties will result in better targeting of assistance to areas of greatest need.

This legislation authorizes the appropriation of \$100 million for fiscal year 2000 to carry out the pre-disaster mitigation and repetitive flood loss property buyout program. I believe this is a cost-effective investment that will reduce the financial exposure of the American taxpayer by better protecting or removing the highest risk properties from the National Flood Insurance Program.

HONORING COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE'S "COMMUNITY ADJUNCT FACULTY OF THE YEAR"

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to ask that this Congress recognize and say thank you to Colorado Mountain College's "Adjunct Faculty of the Year" Marcia Hund. Marcia was selected from 1,000 community faculty members for her ability to teach and for her understanding of students. For that, Marcia deserves the recognition of this body.

Marcia teaches the fundamentals of math, and is an instructor in the CMC's Rifle Center Learning Lab. And after school she volunteers as a tutor for Literacy Outreach, teaching adults otherwise unaffiliated with CMC how to read. Marcia is also involved with the students as a faculty advisor. She has worked on CMC's Adjunct Faculty Pay Plan Committee, and has been an active member in the National Association of Developmental Education. "We are very excited that Marcia has been chosen as the college's adjunct faculty of the year," said Dean Harry Silver in a recent Glenwood Springs Post Independent article. "Marcia epitomizes our adjunct faculty."

Marcia came to CMC 14 years ago as a science and ecology teacher. She soon began teaching developmental classes. "Students will come after failing, sometimes again and again in school, and see success as an impossible dream. The wonderful part is for me to see them succeed and see that they can learn," said Marcia.

Marcia's supervisor Karen Dunbar says she has the ability to present information to the students in a kind and gentle manner. "I really do love working with adults who have had problems in school in the past . . . It's more than a job for me, it's something I feel is a valuable contribution, and I'm good at it."

Mr. Speaker, for the last 15 years Marcia Hund has helped out numerous students trying to finish their education, and for that she deserves the thanks of Congress. I know she will continue to do an outstanding job with her students. For that, we are all grateful.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLENS FALLS NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a historic institution in the 22nd District of New York. The Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company is the oldest bank in Warren County.

In 1851, the bank was founded by a dozen pioneering businessmen from the local lumber, limestone, and insurance industries. Under the leadership of its first president, Benjamin Burhans, the bank recorded more than seventeen thousand dollars in deposits in its first month alone.

Despite times of turmoil, such as the Civil War, the Great Depression and the two World Wars, Glens Falls National Bank was able to not only prosper, but grow as a dedicated establishment to downtown Glens Falls and the North Country. Although the bank currently has 23 branches, 350 employees, and over one billion dollars in assets, this landmark has been committed to remaining independent and local.

Glens Falls National is a true pillar of the North Country. The bank and its employees donate money, time, and hard work to more than 300 charitable and community causes including Glens Falls Hospital, the United Way, and the Adirondack Balloon Festival.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud resident of the 22nd Congressional District of New York, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Glens Falls National Bank and Trust Company.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago today, the small town of Chernobyl, Ukraine was the scene of the world's greatest nuclear accident in history. The aftermath of Chernobyl brought untold devastation to thousands of families in northern Ukraine. Radiation from blowing winds was spread as far away as the Scandinavian countries, even to coastal areas of southern Alaska and northern California. Even by most conservative experts, Chernobyl unleashed more radiation than 90 Hiroshima-sized bombs. Most of this fallout blanketed heavily populated areas of northern Ukraine and southern Belarus.

Studies have shown thyroid cancer has skyrocketed among children exposed to the radiation. Stillbirths and birth defects in Ukraine have doubled, while the rate of infant mortality is twice the European average. Unfortunately, the effects of radiation exposure, including latent cancers, do not emerge in the body until

ten to twenty years later. In effect, the next five to ten years will be crucial as humanitarian efforts mount to respond to the devastation inflicted over a decade ago.

Although all Chernobyl nuclear reactors have been closed, the community is still suffering. Let us not forget the silent disease affecting the citizens of Ukraine.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate once again in the annual remembrance of the Armenian genocide today, 86 years after this terrible tragedy which claimed the lives of over 1.5 million Armenians between 1915 and 1923.

The Armenian Genocide began in 1915 with the rounding up and killing of Armenian soldiers by the Turkish government. After that, the government turned its attention to slaughtering Armenian intellectuals. They were killed because of their ethnicity, the first group in the 20th Century killed not for their actions, but for who they were.

By the time the bloodshed of the genocide ended, the victims included the aged, women and children who had been forced from their homes and marched to relocation camps, beaten and brutalized along the way. In addition to the 1.5 million dead, over 500,000 Armenians were driven from their homeland.

It is important that we make the time, every year, to remember the victims of the Armenian genocide. We hope that, by remembering the bloodshed and atrocities committed against the Armenians, we can prevent this kind of tragedy from repeating itself. Unfortunately, history continues to prove us wrong. That is why we must be so vigilant in remembering the past.

It is important to continue to talk about the Armenian genocide. We must keep alive the memory of those who lost their lives during the eight years of bloodshed in Armenia. We must educate other nations who have not recognized that the Armenian genocide occurred.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Armenian-Americans—the survivors and their descendants—who continue to educate the world about the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide and make valuable contributions to our shared American culture. Because of their efforts, the world will not be allowed to forget the memory of the victims of the first 20th Century holocaust.

TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE LINDSEY
AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH
ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. George Lindsey and the Univer-

sity of North Alabama for their efforts in organizing and participating in the George Lindsey/UNA Television and Film Festival. This film festival is in its fourth year and has become an international affair showcasing and rewarding excellence in film and video endeavors. The cultural and educational benefits for UNA, the Shoals and the entire state of Alabama are immeasurable.

Dr. Lindsey, a 1952 alumnus, is known throughout the country for his role in The Andy Griffith Show. Lindsey also became a staple character on Hee-Haw. His credits and appearances on television and film fill many a page. However, Lindsey has not let his fame and fortune cloud his commitment to good will. Instead, Lindsey has used his success and talents to improve the lives of those around him. He has raised more than one million dollars for the Special Olympics and started the George Lindsey Aquatic Center at the Alabama State Hospital for the Mentally Retarded. His generosity and dedication to the University of North Alabama are legendary.

Along with Bobbie Hurt, Bill Jarnigan, Robert Potts, and Lisa Daniell of UNA, Lindsey had a vision for a festival that would provide aspiring artists, especially those from the state of Alabama, the opportunity to showcase their art while learning from professionals how to strengthen their work. They have succeeded beyond their greatest expectations bringing in such speakers as Tom Cheronos, director of Seinfeld and Academy Award-winning actor Ernest Borgnine and launching the careers of several of the participants.

As this year's festival gets underway, I wanted to express my deepest appreciation to Dr. Lindsey and UNA for encouraging the future leaders of the film industry. I also want to thank them for helping share with the world the wonderful things that are going on at UNA. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of the 5TH district of Alabama, I share my congratulations with UNA for the success of the George Lindsey/UNA Television and Film Festival and I wish them many, many more years of fruitful collaboration.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE
MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Merchant Marine Panel of the House Armed Services Committee, I rise today to address a matter under the jurisdiction of my panel which is of the utmost importance to the national security and the maritime capability of the United States, namely the need to reauthorize the Maritime Security Program (MSP).

The MSP program was established by the Maritime Security Act of 1996. The program was designed to maintain the continued presence of an active, privately-owned, U.S.-flag and U.S.-crewed merchant shipping fleet that would provide sustained sealift capability in time of war or national emergency. That Act phased out the operating differential subsidy

program, provided reduced payments to vessel operators who agreed to make vessels and associated intermodal assets available to Department of Defense (DOD) upon request, and authorized \$100 million annually for MSP program funding. Without the MSP program, U.S.-flag vessel owners would have been forced to shift their operations to foreign flags with foreign crews in order to remain internationally competitive. This would have been detrimental to our national security interests.

The MSP has proved very successful. Today, 47 U.S.-flagged commercial vessels, crewed by U.S. citizens, participate in the MSP program. These vessels are engaged in the foreign commerce of the U.S. and are enrolled in DOD's Emergency Preparedness Program to ensure that such vessels and associated worldwide intermodal transportation and management assets are incorporated into DOD sealift plans and programs, and are immediately available to meet military sealift requirements. Without the MSP the cost to DOD would be substantial—approximately \$800 million annually would be required by DOD to provide similar sealift and related system capacity on its own for the rapid and sustained deployment of military vehicles, ammunition and other equipment and material.

Authorization for the MSP is for a ten-year period up through September 2005. To ensure the continued operation and viability of a maritime security fleet of privately-owned, militarily-useful U.S.-flag vessel operators, Congress needs to move forward with the reauthorization of the MSP. This would provide the industry with the timely assurance they need that the MSP program will continue beyond the year 2005.

Additionally, I am concerned over rumors that U.S. citizenship requirements for this program could be modified. I strongly believe that reauthorization of the MSP program must ensure that current United States citizenship requirements continue to apply for operators of U.S.-flagged, U.S. crewed commercial vessels. The MSP program now requires that priority be given to MSP vessel operators that are owned and controlled by United States citizens (such operators are commonly known as "Section 2 citizens" under section 2 of the 1916 Shipping Act). Such U.S.-ownership and U.S.-control requirements are critical to the continued viability of the MSP program and must be preserved.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this vital effort to enhance the national security of the United States while ensuring that critically important U.S.-ownership standards are maintained.

DESIGNATION OF THE LEE H.
HAMILTON FEDERAL BUILDING
AND U.S. COURTHOUSE IN NEW
ALBANY, INDIANA

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce H.R. 1583, a bill to name the Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in