

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