

shall at a minimum include effective means to identify and warn an aircraft before the use of force" is authorized. After temporarily suspending air interdiction flights in early 1994, former President Clinton made the determination that Peru fulfilled Section 1012 requirements based on a serious deterioration of their national security at the hands of drug traffickers, as well as a comprehensive set of air interdiction procedures Peru adopted to protect against the innocent loss of life.

These straight-forward procedures include checking the flight plan of the observed aircraft, establishing radio communications, making visual contact to check the aircraft's registry and to give it visual instructions to land, getting permission to fire warning shots, then disabling shots and finally, when all else fails and the aircraft refuses to comply, then and only then can permission be granted to shoot down a civilian aircraft.

All reports indicate that on that fateful Friday morning, over the strenuous objection of U.S. personnel, Peruvian officials either moved too quickly through these procedures, or did not implement them fully. The result was that a bullet fired from a Peruvian Sukhoi—25 jet fighter passed through the fuselage of the tiny missionary plane, through the heart of Roni Bowers and into the head of baby Charity, killing both instantly. The air interdiction effort in Peru and the overall policy itself is mired in questions.

President Bush has requested \$882 million for his Andean Regional Initiative in next year's budget. This program will substantially increase the investment in drug interdiction and eradication efforts in Peru and surrounding countries. Before Congress appropriates another dollar toward counter drug efforts in Peru, I believe it is imperative for us to review and rethink our interdiction policy. I urge Congress to look into tightening intercept procedures in drug trafficking areas, as well as strengthening the important role they have in the oversight of our drug policy.

The United States should not expend taxpayer dollars to provide intelligence to a country that apparently violates straight-forward, internationally recognized interception procedures. Every effort must be made in our interdiction policies and procedures to ensure against the innocent loss of life. We cannot undo the horrific personal tragedy that James and Cory Bowers have endured with the loss of their wife and daughter, mother and sister. We can, however, do our utmost as a nation to ensure that through procedural reforms of the interdiction program, this private tragedy is transformed into a public good, so that no other family will suffer a similar heartache and loss in the future.

COMMEMORATION OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, a horrific event in world history that took the

lives of 1.5 million Armenians and tore the Armenian nation from its historic homeland.

The Armenian Genocide, the first act of genocide in the twentieth century, is emblematic of the high human cost of senseless hatred and prejudice. I join my colleagues today, in solidarity with the Armenian-American community and with Armenians throughout the world, to commemorate this dark period in human history and to ensure we take to heart the lessons learned from this tragedy. The legacy of those who were lost must be our pledge to remember—and to prevent such an episode from happening again.

We have already learned the lessons of forgetting. The indifference of the world to human suffering and the slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians set the stage for the Holocaust, ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, and other tragic events of a massive scale. Today's commemoration comes too late for those who have already fallen victim to blind hatred. But we hope and pray that it is not too late for those in danger around the world.

As we recall the Armenian Genocide and mourn its victims, we renew our pledge to the Armenian nation to do everything we can to prevent further aggression, and we renew our commitment to ensuring that Armenians throughout the world can live free of threats to their existence and prosperity.

Unfortunately, we must still work toward this simple goal. Azerbaijan continues to blockade Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, denying the Armenian people the food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance they need to lead secure, prosperous lives. The United States has taken a leadership role in trying to bring the blockade to an end and crafting a solution to this tragic conflict. As we look forward to a new round of proximity talks in June, we are filled with hope that this year we will see peace and stability in the Caucasus.

Mr. Speaker, the Armenian people have shown true resilience in confronting the many obstacles they have faced in the last century. From the ashes of the Genocide, Armenians have become a strong people, making great contributions throughout the world. In the words of Armenian-American author William Saroyan, "when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia."

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in hoping that we will soon see a "New Armenia," and in pledging to hasten its arrival.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 96, I inadvertently voted no. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 10, the Comprehensive Retirement Security and Pension Reform Act of 2001 and strongly support its enactment.

I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that my vote on final passage should have been "yea."

AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my deepest appreciation for some of the most dedicated people I know. This last weekend, I held an art competition for high school students in the 5th Congressional District called "An Artistic Discovery". Eight schools and over 50 children participated in the competition, producing some of the most creative, innovative pieces of art I've ever seen. All of these future artists deserve to be recognized.

Today however, I rise to pay respect to the behind-the-scene heroes of "An Artistic Discovery"—the teachers. The dedication these teachers have for their students, art, and for teaching doesn't come from a textbook, or from years of experience. The pride that radiated from these teachers faces when their students stood next to their artwork came from deep inside their soul.

On this day, Teacher Appreciation Day, I would like to show my appreciation for the teachers who put so much work into making "An Artistic Discovery" a success. Several teachers helped to make this event possible, including: Karin Hughes from South Salem, Lynn Pass from West Linn, John Allgood from Gladstone, John Beck of Dallas, Judy Frohreich of Stayton, Wendy Edginton of Clackamas, John Widder of Tillamook, and Donna Hues of John F. Kennedy High School in Mt. Angel.

Without these teachers, their students would have missed out on the opportunity to display their wonderful artwork and we would have missed the chance to enjoy it.

IN HONOR OF FLORIDA TAX
FREEDOM DAY 2001

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, starting today, the average hard-working Floridian starts to work for himself and his family.

Today is Florida's Tax Freedom Day. On average, for the last 128 days, Floridians have been working to earn the money they need to pay their federal, state, and local taxes. In other parts of the country, where state and local taxes are higher, Tax Freedom Day still hasn't come.

Mr. Speaker, last week we hit the American average—May 3 was National Tax Freedom Day. That means it takes 123 days for the average American to earn enough to pay their tax bills. Curiously, it only takes 106 days for them to earn enough to pay for their food, shelter, and clothing combined, proof of the fact that Americans pay more in taxes than for these necessities. In 1992, National Tax Freedom Day was nearly a whole month earlier—April 18. The hard-working, American taxpayers deserve a break!