

EARTH DAY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, we have just celebrated Earth Day here in the United States and, I hope, rededicated ourselves to protecting our environment. But at the same time, there are others on this planet commemorating the anniversary of an environmental catastrophe.

I'm speaking of the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. On April 26, in Kiev as well as in many other cities around the globe, including many here in the United States, people will gather to discuss the aftermath of that accident. But more importantly, they will be looking to the future, and not only to seek assurances that there will be no more such disasters but to rededicate countries and citizens to environmental protection.

I am particularly proud, Mr. Speaker, to note a most unique and important partnership which has developed around the anniversary. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Foundation [CCRF], a group based in Short Hills, NJ, and Hamden, CT and formed 5 years ago, has already turned about \$2 million in donations into about \$40 million in airlifted supplies to the people of Ukraine, most urgently needed pharmaceuticals.

CCRF has now received a large grant from the Monsanto Co. and together this charitable organization and this American firm are launching on this anniversary a major healthcare initiative for children and women in outlying areas. It will enable CCRF and the Ukrainian doctors and hospitals with whom it works to extend vital care to people in farm communities. The initiative will have strong focus on prenatal care and education for pregnant women.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a great model for the other groups, other companies, other countries, not just a one-shot, one-day commemoration of an environmental disaster but a longer-term commitment by an American-based charitable group and an American corporation.

I might add that our State Department, especially Ambassador Richard Morningstar, the Coordinator of Assistance to the CIS, and our United States Ambassador in Ukraine, William Miller, have been most cooperative in assisting the development of this project.

Today in Kiev there was an airport event welcoming a United States Government airlift of more than \$11 million of needed drugs and medical equipment. At that event, both Ambassador Morningstar and Ambassador Miller as well as high-level Ukrainian officials praised the Monsanto/CCRF project as a model for companies and charitable organizations everywhere and a sign that the Chernobyl commemoration is not just a 1 day event.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SERVICE MEN
AND WOMEN IN BOSNIA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is an old military saying which alerts us to expect the unexpected. This time-tested adage is as true today as we send young fighting men and women to Bosnia as it was two generations ago in World War II.

On April 27, 1996, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and the VFW Post 3729 will commemorate the 52d anniversary of Exercise Tiger. Exercise Tiger was designed to be a dress rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of France. But as is so common in the "fog of war," the best laid plans are always subject to the unexpected, the unanticipated, the unforeseen.

And so it was on April 28, 1944 when an American amphibious assault force which was practicing for the D-Day invasion was suddenly attacked by German warships. The surprise attack resulted in the death of 946 men, the second highest death toll of that long and embittered war.

Today, over 20,000 U.S. service men and women are serving in Bosnia in an effort to again secure peace in Europe. These dedicated individuals, like those who have served so honorably before them, have the difficult task of fulfilling the commitments made by American foreign policy makers. And like those who served in uniform over 50 years ago, the unexpected can happen at any moment with devastating effect.

I wish to salute the fine men who served and died 52 years ago while conducting Exercise Tiger. There is a special kinship between those American heroes and the men and women who today are serving in Bosnia. I wish also to pay tribute to Walter Domanski of the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and Bill Cadmus, Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3729. These two fine individuals are "keepers of the flame," ensuring that Americans will remember and reflect on the sacrifices that our military has made and continues to make on our behalf.

MERCURY ELECTRONICS: FIFTY
YEARS AT THE FRONT LINES,
DEFENDING AMERICA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company that has provided important contributions to our national defense and to the defense of freedom worldwide. That company is Mercury Electronics, celebrating its 50th anniversary this month.

For half a century, Mercury Electronics has provided essential components for our Armed Forces in the air, on land, and at sea. In this role, they have contributed mightily to America's defense, and the part that our Armed Forces have played in protecting the free world throughout the cold war. They continue this activity, helping the United States and her

men and women serving under arms to secure the peace and safety necessary for the preservation of the American way of life.

Not only has this company been a vital part of America's defense, but it has also been an exemplar of what America is all about. For the entire 50 years of its existence, Mercury has remained in the city of York in my district, providing jobs and economic stability. By remaining in its original locality, it has provided a continuity for its workers that has allowed them to build families in the area, and to remain close to their loved ones. Mercury Electronics has been a prime example of what small business can do. Its dedicated employees have enriched the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mercury Electronics on this occasion. Mercury has served America, not only in the role of manufacturing items for our armed forces, but also by showing what can be accomplished by hard-working people enjoying the freedoms their products have played a role in preserving. I congratulate Mercury Electronics on their 50th anniversary, and wish them many more.

GRANT PERMANENT MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO ROMANIA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, last month, our colleague, PHIL CRANE, chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, introduced legislation to grant permanent most-favored-nation status to the country of Romania. It is a bill that is overdue and I commend my colleague and the cosponsors of the legislation for taking this step.

Of all the Eastern European nations journeying from a centrally planned economic system to that of a free market economy, Romania has had the longest road to travel. It suffered through 40 years of a Communist economic policy. Its 1989 revolution exposed the hollowness of that economic legacy, but it also exposed how deeply ingrained that way of thinking can become. Nevertheless, despite tremendous obstacles, Romania has not faltered in its attempt to join the Western economic community of nations.

Romania is making the hard choices. It is taming inflation. Between 1994 and 1995, the inflation rate was cut in half from 62 percent to 28 percent. After selling off numerous state enterprises, at the cost of increased unemployment, Romania's rate of unemployment has shrunk from over 11 percent in 1994 to less than 9 percent in 1995.

Romania's private sector has grown into a formidable economic force. Today, 45 percent of Romania's gross domestic product comes from the private sector. By the end of this year, estimates show that 70 percent of its GDP will be generated by thousands of entrepreneurs who finally have the opportunity to determine their own economic future.

Romania is traveling a road that we in this country have encouraged by provisionally granting them MFN status. As a result, trade between our two nations has increased as United States exports take advantage of these new market opportunities. I review of Romania's economic policies, when coupled with its

attempt at political democracy building, I believe that the prudent course of action for the United States is to make permanent a benefit we have granted Romania several times before. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support Chairman CRANE's bills.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADM. MICHAEL
KALLERES

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute to Vice Adm. Michael Kalleres, who will be honored on April 28, 1996 by the Parish Council and the entire Cathedral Community of the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. This distinguished citizen of Indiana's First Congressional District will address the congregation during the Liturgy and again during a formal luncheon to be held in his honor. This event will take place at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Merrillville, IN of which he and his wife, Georgia, have been longtime pioneer members.

Admiral Kalleres retired from active duty in September 1994 after 32 years of distinguished service as a naval officer. During this time, he led eight commands in combat and in peacetime, including two Financial Management Directorates. In addition, he led surface ships, squadrons, and two Joint Fleet Organizations.

Admiral Kalleres earned a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Management and Engineering from Purdue University and a master of science degree in Political and International Affairs from George Washington University. He is also a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Naval War College and the National War College.

Admiral Kalleres has received 18 military awards and decorations including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and the 1990 Son of Indiana Award for Military Service. Admiral Kalleres' dedication and involvement in the community has been recognized by several other organizations. In 1988, he was awarded the Saint Andrew's Medal for public service by the Greek Orthodox Church. Moreover, Admiral Kalleres received the 1993 Leadership Award from the American Hellenic Institute, and, in March of that same year, he was vested into the International Service Order of Saint Andrew as an Archon. He receive the AXIOs (Worthiness) Medal from the State of California, the 1992 State of Illinois Distinguished Citizen Award, and he was recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1994. Admiral Kalleres has also been cited in the Marquis Who's Who since 1990.

This past January, Admiral Kalleres was elected to the National Board of the Salvation Army, where he serves on the Disaster Relief and Communications Committee. Furthermore, he is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at Purdue University, and he currently serves as a member of the Defense Science Board for Strategic Mobility.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring this fine citizen for his dedication to the United States, as well as his community in northwest

Indiana. Admiral Kalleres' loyalty and dedication to his country should serve as a model for the citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District and all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MR. FRANCIS A.
MAIER

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of a much respected family man who was a part of Dallas' business community and a part of Dallas' family, Mr. Francis A. (Frank) Maier. He was among the 35 people who died in a plane crash on April 3 while on a trade mission to war-torn Croatia with United States Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Mr. Maier was 50 years old.

Mr. Maier was originally from the Bronx in New York City. He attended college at Manhattan College earning a bachelor's degree in business administration. After graduation, he began his career at Westinghouse in 1967. Mr. Maier had a 20-year-long career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Pittsburgh, and held several positions at Westinghouse, including director of project finance. A recruiting firm lured him to Dallas from Westinghouse in 1993.

As President of Enserch International, a subsidiary of Enserch Development Corporation, Mr. Maier dealt with trade issues for Enserch and represented his corporation and his country overseas. In the past several months, Mr. Maier had been to 10 Asian and European countries.

This is a sad time as we mourn the deaths of all of the people who died on that ill-fated flight, but we must not forget all of the contributions that these people gave to our country. Everyone in Dallas feels the loss of Mr. Maier's family and all of Dallas grieves with them.

HONORING THE WILSON EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Wilson Emergency Management Agency Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice-monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they

need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL
PARK WILDERNESS

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 1996

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act of 1996.

This bill, essentially identical to one that I introduced in the 103d Congress, is intended to provide important protection, and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding some 240,700 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation Systems.

Covering 91 percent of the park, the new wilderness will include Longs Peaks and other major mountains, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams. Indeed, the proposed wilderness will include examples of all the natural ecosystems present in the park.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain a true gem in our National Parks System also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

The wilderness boundaries for these areas are carefully located to assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings, and developed areas, privately owned land, and water supply facilities and conveyances—including the Grand River Ditch, Long Draw Reservoir, and the portals of the Adams Tunnel. All of these are left out of wilderness.

The bill is based on National Park Service recommendations. Since these recommendations were originally made in 1974, the north and south boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park have been adjusted, bringing into the park additional land that qualifies as wilderness. My bill will include those areas as well. Also, some changes in ownership and management of several areas, including the removal of three high mountain reservoirs make possible designation of some areas that the Park Service had found inherently suitable for wilderness.

In 1993, we in the Colorado delegation finally were able to successfully complete over a decade's effort to designate additional wilderness in our State's national forests. I anticipate that in the near future, the potentially more complex question of wilderness designations on Federal Bureau of Land Management lands will capture our attention.

Meanwhile, I think we should not further postpone resolution of the status of the lands