

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 something. 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 how 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.

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

(Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.

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

(Mr. PEASE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.

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

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. UNDERWOOD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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 placed complete and total trust in their skippers and their skippers had to have the same faith in their men. During World War II, the price they paid for their successes was heavy. The submarine service carried the highest mortality rate of any U.S. service, more than a 20 percent loss of life. However, one has only to look at the statistics to see how effective our submariners really were. With only 1.6 percent of all Navy personnel, the submarine service sank over 55 percent of all Japanese ships sunk in the war, including one-third of all Japanese Men-of-War.

President Roosevelt when he was secretly told of the success of our submariners said, "I can only echo the words of Winston Churchill: 'Never have so many owed so much to so few.'" Those lost on submarines in the line of duty for their country will never be forgotten. We must not forget those who still serve in the silent service. Happy birthday to the U.S. submarine force.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to speak about something else that is important to all veterans in this Nation. I want to speak about what the Department of Veterans Affairs has described as an epidemic. I am talking about the staggeringly high infection rates of hepatitis C among our country's veterans population.

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Hepatitis C is a fatal disease that can incubate for over 30 years before any symptoms occur. Over 70 percent of those Americans infected with Hepatitis-C are unaware that they even carry the virus. Treatment and testing are both available through the Veterans Administration for any veteran who believes that he or she is at risk.

I am told that my area of the country has a 28 percent infection rate among veterans, while the general population experiences a 1.8 percent infection rate. I represent the greater New York area. With a 28 percent infection rate, I call upon our veterans to be aware of this.

In my hand I hold a very simple home test kit for Hepatitis-C, and I am calling on all of our veterans to try to get tested. The veterans can get one of these test kits if they go to a VA hospital or if they contact the American Liver Foundation at 1-800-GO-LIVER for information about these testing programs.

Testing is very easy. It is a four-step process. It is very, very simple. First you pick up the phone and you get a personal ID number, then you take your sample, it is only one drop of blood, and you mail it in a pre-paid envelope. Ten days later you call for a completely confidential result.

It is important that every veteran who has been exposed to any blood-to-blood contact pick up one of these Hepatitis-C check kits and call 1-800-GO-LIVER or go to their VA hospital, because it is important, especially in our greater New York area, that the veterans in that area get tested. Please get tested, especially if you are a veteran, before the symptoms of severe liver disease begin to show themselves. By the time that they do, it is almost too late.

LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHERWOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an important issue that more and more Americans are concerned about, and that is the high cost of prescription drugs here in the United States. I want to show a chart that reflects just how severe this problem is.

This chart talks about one of the most commonly prescribed drugs in the United States, called Prilosec. It is a drug that deals with a gastrointestinal problem of too much acid. If you buy that drug, a 30-day supply in Minneapolis, Minnesota, it will sell for about \$99.95. Now, if you happen to be vacationing in Manitoba, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, you take exactly that same prescription into a prescription supply of some kind, a drugstore, you will be able to buy that drug for \$50.88, exactly the same drug, made in exactly the same plant, same dosage, everything. But, interestingly enough, if you take that same prescription into a drugstore in Guadalajara, Mexico, you can buy that drug for \$17.50.

Mr. Speaker, this is the day and age of NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. Goods and services are supposed to be able to go across our borders freely. That is true of almost every other product, except drugs.

We are not alone in saying that prescription drugs have gone up a lot. Our own estimates by our own government say that over the last 4 years, prescription drugs here in the United States have gone up 56 percent. Last year