

of the 1950s. The less-stable post-Cold War world, with the addition of such nations as Northern Korea, Iraq and Iran to the list of potential nuclear threats, adds to that. (In fairness, though,

The ABM treaty is a sticking point, of sorts, but that doesn't mean a new document can't be crafted to take its place. Contrary, perhaps, to common perception, there is a provision for withdrawing from it. Either Russia or the United States can get out on six months' notice by explaining that its "supreme interests" have been jeopardized by events relating to the treaty.

Bush, in his remarks on Tuesday, seemed to have been laying the groundwork for such an assertion. In any case, this much is certain: A functioning missile defense is incompatible with the treaty, which forbids it. At least the president chose not to figuratively rip the document up, which some of his campaign rhetoric last fall seemed to suggest. He wants to—at some undetermined point—take the legitimate exit route.

The president also wants to give back with one hand at least part of what he proposes to take away with the other. He's convinced (and he's probably right) that the United States doesn't need nearly the nuclear arsenal it now maintains. America has about 7,200 warheads; Russia, about 6,100. Under various START agreements and negotiations, both nations have agreed to a target of 2,000 to 2,500. Bush has said lately that he envisions still lower numbers, and Moscow seems ready to go along. (Not the least of its reasons is the cost savings.)

Cost still casts a long shadow on the missile defense idea as well, though. Defense Department sources say even a rudimentary plan could start at \$35 billion. One of the proposal's harshest critics, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, has fielded a figure almost 30 times higher; \$1 trillion. At such prices (in addition to what already has been spent), the nation certainly deserves a system that works. Bush's commitment to it should include a commitment to eliminating the engineering hanky-panky that marked previous tests.

In coming months, Bush and other top officials will be fanning out over Asia and Europe, talking to America's allies and seeking input—views to be taken into account. This has all the earmarks of a rational, reasoned approach far superior to the gunslinger rhetoric of last year's campaign. It just might work. The administration is to be congratulated for being both assertive and constructive.

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Small Business Committee, I am pleased to join with the President in launching Small Business Week. Small businesses represent the most important sector of our economy. They comprise 99.7 percent of all the employers in the United States. They provide two-thirds of the initial job opportunities for Americans. And, they provided over \$63 billion worth of goods and services to the federal government.

One of my constituents, Ms. Rebecca Hillburst of Rockford, Illinois, will be honored

this week as the Regional Subcontractor of the Year. She is the first in our region to receive this award.

Ms. Hillburst's father started the Commercial Printing Company in Rockford in 1948. She assumed the helm of the company in 1989. The business performs customized and commercial printing jobs. Rebecca Hillburst and her four employees, George, Lars and Eleanor Hillburst and Darcie Powelson are symbolic of the small entrepreneurial enterprise that makes America great. I applaud their hard work and dedication.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COWORKERS OF VERONICA "RONI" BOWERS AND CHARITY BOWERS

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, as we all are well aware, on the morning of April 20th a Peruvian Air Force fighter jet erroneously shot down a single engine Cessna owned and operated by the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism based in York County, Pennsylvania and located in my District. In so doing, one American missionary was severely injured and two were tragically killed.

I want to express my profound sympathy to James Bowers and his son Cory upon the tragic and untimely loss of their wife and mother, Veronica "Roni" Bowers and seven-month-old daughter Charity. I also want to express my sincere gratitude to the pilot of the plane Kevin Donaldson, who despite severely injuring both legs was able to land safely in the Amazon River.

In addition, I want to urge the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE) to continue to pursue their critical outreach efforts in the Amazon region and around the world. As a matter of background, the ABWE supports 1,300 missionaries in 65 countries worldwide. The missionary group has worked in Peru since 1939 establishing Baptist churches, schools, camps, and centers for pregnant women, as well as providing medical care throughout the Peruvian Amazon. More than 8,000 churches in the U.S. and Canada contribute money to support the mission of the ABWE. But what makes ABWE's mission so successful are the countless American men, women, and families from all walks of life who willingly sacrifice their precious time and effort, and unfortunately sometimes their lives, to do God's work.

The untimely death of Roni and Charity Bowers has brought to the forefront a significant, but little known operation that takes place as part of our overall anti-drug policy. Since the mid 1980's, the Department of Defense has led an inter-agency air interdiction effort to close the "air bridge" between coca fields in the Andean region of Peru and Bolivia and the production facilities in Colombia. The idea was that the United States would provide intelligence and other assets to the host nations for the detection and elimination of drug

smuggling operations, while staying out of the host nation's respective internal affairs and chain of command. Although an innovative approach to drug policy, this helping-hand policy is in obvious need of review, especially with respect to Peru.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, Section 1012 of the 1995 Defense Authorization Act requires that U.S. intelligence and related assets can only be used if the President determines whether drug smuggling comprise an "extraordinary threat to the national security of" the foreign country and that "that country has the appropriate procedures in place to protect against the innocent loss of life . . . which 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

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-scenes 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!

Given the significance of the day, it is perhaps fitting that we are considering the budget conference report. That package includes \$1.35 trillion in tax relief for all American taxpayers. With this tax relief, they can begin to earn for themselves a little sooner, and to plan for their priorities and their needs a little earlier.

In fact, current forecasts—under the assumption that there are no changes in the tax laws—have National Tax Freedom Day in 2011 falling on May 10. But, if the Bush tax relief package were passed, that date would be pulled back to May 5. In Washington terms, where we throw around numbers in the millions, billions, and trillions everyday, five days may not seem like much. But, to the family living paycheck to paycheck or trying to set aside a little bit in personal savings for the future, it means a lot.

It is in their honor, Mr. Speaker, that I am pleased to support efforts to let them keep more of their hard-earned money in their own homes, and to support the \$1.35 trillion in tax relief in our Fiscal Year 2002 budget.

FORT OSAGE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Fort Osage as a landmark identified and later developed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark during the voyage of the Corps of Discovery.

In June of 1804, the Corps of Discovery passed a high bluff on the Missouri River—which would later become Fort Osage in Jackson County, Missouri. Only four years later, Clark returned to initiate construction on a Fort and trading-house under the direction of the War Department. Clark noted "The River could be completely defended" and he deemed the "situation elegant."

Fort Osage (or Fort Clark as it was originally named) played an important role in the exploration and development of the West. Goods were traded with the Osage, Ayaaway and Kansas tribes at this site for years to come. Fort Osage proved to be the single most profitable trading post of its kind in the United States and the territories. We are indebted to the legacy of the Fort and the people who lived, worked and defended the Fort. Their courage had a profound effect on the evolution of our nation.

As part of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration, Jackson County Parks and Recreation is proposing an innovative education center. The education center would showcase artifacts and exhibit the significance of the Missouri River. I believe this education center is a wonderful addition to the commemoration and will help visitors understand the significance of Fort Osage. It is the only site along the trail where Clark returned to develop a facility that fulfilled the goals of President Thomas Jefferson's dream of commerce and development with the west.