

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I am thankful for the opportunity to speak on this most important occasion.

I am proud to be here this evening to honor my Armenian friends—particularly on the eve of the 85th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. I want to associate my comments with an article that I recently read in the Jerusalem Post, which said . . . “The 1915 wholesale massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks remains a core experience of the Armenian nation . . . While there is virtually zero tolerance for Holocaust denial, there is tacit acceptance of the denial of the Armenian genocide in part because ‘the Turks have managed to structure this debate so that people question whether this really happened . . .’” Well we know that the death of 1.5 million Armenians by execution or starvation really happened, and we know that we must not tolerate this denial.

In fact we have an obligation to educate and familiarize Americans with the U.S. record on the Armenian Genocide. As Members of Congress, we must ensure that the legacy of the genocide is remembered so that this human tragedy will not be repeated. Toward that end I have sponsored H. Res. 398, the “United States Training on and Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide Resolution.”

This bipartisan resolution calls upon the President to provide for appropriate training and materials to all Foreign Service officers, officials of the Department of State, and any other Executive Branch employee involved in responding to issues related to human rights, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. As we have seen in recent years, genocide and ethnic cleansing continues to plague nations around the world, and as a great nation, we must always be attentive and willing to stand against such atrocities.

My resolution also calls upon the President in the President’s annual message commemorating the Armenian Genocide to characterize the systematic and deliberate annihilation of the 1.5 million Armenians as genocide, and to recall the proud history of the United States intervention in opposition to the Armenian Genocide.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. HORN. Madam Speaker, I stand before my colleagues today, as I have in times past, to recognize and pay tribute to those who perished during the Armenian Genocide that began almost nine decades ago.

Turkey’s continued refusal to acknowledge the atrocities committed against the Armenian people of the Ottoman Empire during the first World

War has long been of great concern to me as an educator, a United States representative, and simply as a member of the global community.

Each year many colleagues take this special opportunity to recognize the fact that more than a million and a half Armenians were killed. In addition, much of the Armenian population was forcibly deported. This day coming up, April 24, is an opportunity to remind all Americans to join with the Armenians at home and in the United States in commemoration and memory of those who lost their lives because of the tragic events that took place from 1915 to 1918 and again from 1920 to 1923.

As an educator, it is important to emphasize the role education should play nationally, as well as globally, in ensuring that we do not continue to see racial intolerance or religious persecution which has in so many cases led to so-called ethnic cleansing by murderous and perverted butchers. What an outrage for humans to treat other humans such human killers of small children.

Genocide is not just a chapter in the history of humankind that has been sealed and closed forever. It continues to be a progressively alarming problem today, as our world grows smaller and our population doubles every few years.

Events during the last two decades, Cambodia, Rwanda, Kosovo attest to this fact. We must, therefore, strive to teach our children tolerance. Our future generations must not forget those darker moments of history in the 21st century. The million and a half Armenians, the 6 million Jews murdered by Adolph Hitler’s orders, the 2 million Cambodians murdered by Pol Pot’s orders.

As long as Turkey continues to deny that millions of Armenians were killed simply because of their ethnic identification, we will continue to stand here and take this important opportunity to ensure that the memory of the Armenian Genocide is not forgotten.

Madam Speaker, educators around the country should use April 24, a day that a group of Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and brutally murdered by Turkish killers. It is essential to cultivate awareness in our children of the past tragedies that have occurred.

If we do not see the future dangers that will exist, if we refuse to acknowledge, understand and vigorously oppose racial and religious intolerance, wherever it arises, it would be shame on us and it shall not be.

HIGH COSTS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise once again to address the high costs of prescription drugs in this country, and

the recently released Republican plan that will do absolutely nothing to help the people of this country, especially our senior citizens, who are struggling with these high prescription drug prices.

The Republicans have finally released that the seniors in their districts and across this country are struggling with these high prescription drug prices. So they came up with a plan, a phony plan, one that does not guarantee our seniors affordable prescription drugs. It does provide a plan to protect the profits of the prescription drug manufacturers in this country. They say that the seniors will be able to buy private prescription drug plans. Do these private plans mean that seniors will be able to afford their medicines?

Madam Speaker, there is nothing in their plan that does that. The GAO proposal creates a brand new bureaucracy, a very inefficient counterproductive system for providing and subsidizing a drug benefit. We know that we need to provide a drug benefit for our senior citizens, particularly those on Medicare.

A recently released White House report shows that 43 percent of rural residents on Medicare have no prescription drug coverage. Those without coverage pay nearly twice as much out of pocket as anyone else. The report is just another justification that seniors need a good prescription drug benefit under Medicare. They need access to lower-priced prescription drugs, like all the rest of the world has. Americans without a prescription drug benefit spend more for their medicine than anyone else in the world.

The prescription drug manufacturers are now running ads under the guise of Citizens for Better Medicare. This is a front group for the manufacturers. This ad claims that if you allow a reasonably-priced prescription drug to be sold in this country at relatively the same price that it sold in other countries that you threaten the research and development, the fact is, in countries where they sell these products for half as much as they do in America, they are increasing their research and development faster than they are in the United States. This just simply does not make any sense.

They say that to allow Americans to purchase prescription drugs at reasonable prices and at fair prices, like all the rest of the world has, that it would create a situation where our health care system would be in danger and that we would end up with a bad system. There is nothing to that.

This is just an attempt to frighten the senior citizens to think that they may not have access at all to good medication. The fact is what the fright should be, what the fright is, the manufacturers are fearful that they will lose their exorbitant profits that they squeeze from the pockets of our senior citizens in this country every day.

Their new ad claims that their intention is to import Canada's government controls.

The truth is, Canada is now utilizing the purchasing power of the U.S. government. One way the Canadian government keeps brand name drug companies from price gauging is to see at what price drug companies sell their products in other countries.

In Canada, the price cannot exceed the median price charged in other developing countries. Starting this year, the U.S. price Canada will use in the international comparisons is the U.S. Federal supply schedule price. We now have Canadians benefitting from the purchasing power of the United States Government. But Americans cannot benefit from that. This is an outrage that Canadians can benefit from U.S. Government discount that we refuse to give our own Medicare recipients.

I have introduced legislation that would give U.S. seniors access to lower prescription drug prices that seniors in all other countries enjoy, the International Prescription Drug Parity Act. The senior citizens in the district that I am fortunate to represent and in every district know that they are simply being robbed.

Senior citizens across this country expect every Member of Congress to address this situation. Addressing the issues of cost and affordability for prescription drugs as well as finding a reasonable approach to offering drug coverage to Medicare recipients is absolutely essential.

TRAGIC LOSS OF U.S. MARINES

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this past Saturday evening, we suffered a tragic loss in America when a Marine Corps V-22 Osprey crashed in a test mode and killed all 19 Marines on board the aircraft, a tragic loss of life.

All America has joined with the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Jones; the leaders in the Pentagon; and the President in mourning the loss of these brave Americans.

This tragic incident is now under full investigation. Today I arranged for a full briefing for our colleagues where the Marine Corps presented a full up-to-date assessment as to what has taken place, what facts we know about the incident, and what initial thoughts are occurring in terms of what caused the accident.

It is obviously too early to tell, but we expect that within a few weeks we will know the basis upon which a decision can be made about the cause of this terribly tragic accident.

But, Madam Speaker, before we even removed all of the remains of these brave Marines, we have political opportunists around the country taking shots at the program and making wild and outlandish statements.

One such person, Madam Speaker, is a former Reagan Republican officeholder who served as Assistant Secretary of Defense by the name of Lawrence Korb. Mr. Korb wrote an op-ed in The New York Times on April 11 that is filled with misinformation factually incorrect, is a disservice to the Marine Corps, and to all brave Americans who wear the colors of this Nation.

He is the defense equivalent of an ambulance chaser. Before the investigation has even begun, he is trashing what General Jones calls the number-one priority of the Marine Corps, a capability to replace an aircraft, the CH-46 helicopter, that is 50 years old, was built for the Vietnam War, and which is suffering severe problems because of its age and because of its extended use well beyond the original life expectancy of the program.

In his article, Mr. Korb makes some gross statements that really are a disservice to the Corps and to all brave Marines serving this country. He says that this program was objected to by all senior officials from the Reagan, Bush, and Clinton administrations. That is absolutely incorrect. In fact, it was former Navy Secretary John Dalton would led the fight to keep the V-22 Osprey program alive for the Marine Corps and eventually all of our services.

He says in an article that these aircraft cost \$80 million each. When, if he would have checked his facts, he would have found that the cost is closer to \$40 million per copy and would be lower if we were buying an adequate buy of these aircraft as opposed to having them stretched out at a very low-rate buy. He assesses that Congress only supported the saving of this program because of the jobs that would be retained in America.

Well, I would say to Mr. Korb, either get his facts straight or keep his mouth shut. In fact, it was General Al Gray, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, who testified before Congress that he would never subject his warriors to what the opponents of the V-22 called a dual-sling option.

They said we will bolt two helicopters together and we will ask Marines to fly in those two helicopters to achieve the medium range over the rising capability that the V-22 offers.

Madam Speaker, the kind of rhetoric coming from people like Lawrence Korb is really a disgrace to the American service person and Mr. Korb ought to be ashamed of himself.

What we now need is, first of all, to mourn these families of these brave Marines. We need to let them know that we are going to do everything possible to take care of them and their loved ones and we are going to get to the bottom of what caused this incident. We will overturn every stone and we will use every bit of capability that we have to find out the cause of this terribly tragic accident. And we will relay this information to the families first, to Members of Congress, and then to the American public.

And then once we have all that have data, we will make a decision, we will make a decision based upon information and facts, not rhetoric to allow some columnist to score political points in the New York Times.

Madam Speaker, for the RECORD, I insert the following news release of the Marine Corps dated April 9; the statement of General Fred McCorkle, Deputy Chief of Staff for Aviation for the Marine Corps, dated April 11; and an updated information packet on the mishap, dated April 11 so that the American people can see the real facts of what occurred here as opposed to listening to incompetent people like Lawrence Korb.

[News Release, U.S. Marine Corps, April 9, 2000]

MV-22 MISHAP INVESTIGATION

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC.—The Marine Corps is sending an aircraft mishap investigation team, headed by Colonel Dennis Bartels of Headquarters, Marine Corps, to Marana, AZ to determine the cause of Saturday night's crash of an MV-22 Osprey that took the lives of all 19 Marines aboard.

"The entire Marine Corps family grieves for the Marines we've lost in this tragedy and our thoughts and prayers go out to their families," said Gen. James Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps. "We have sent an expert team to Arizona to quickly investigate the circumstances surrounding this mishap."

Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig today released the following statement, "Evaluating new equipment and training for war, like war itself, puts life at risk. In peace and war, Marines accept that risk—it is a bond between us. In that spirit, we grieve today for our nineteen lost Marines and embrace their families."

The MV-22 was conducting a training mission in support of Operational Evaluation (OPEVAL) when it went down near Marana, AZ. During the mission, the crew and Marines conducted Non-combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) exercises as part of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course, with Marines embarking and disembarking the aircraft. The mission was conducted at night utilizing night vision goggles (NVGs) and forward-looking infrared radar (FLIR) to enhance night operational capability.

Operational Evaluation is a test phase to determine the operational suitability of the aircraft for the Marine Corps. It began in October 1999 and is scheduled to conclude in June 2000.

To date, the four Ospreys involved in Operational Evaluation have completed more than 800 flight hours. During March, the OPEVAL aircraft flew nearly 140 flight hours, an average of 35 hours per aircraft.

The mishap aircraft was part of the Multi-service Operational Test Team, based at Patuxent River, MD, but was temporarily attached to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron-1 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, AZ.

The names of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of next of kin.

[News Release, U.S. Marine Corps, April 9, 2000]

NAMES OF ACCIDENT VICTIMS RELEASED

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC.—Marine Corps officials are expressing condolences to the families of 19 Marines killed approximately 8 p.m. last night when an MV-22 Osprey crashed near Marana, Ariz.