fought to defend their country and to help the United States against the expansion of Soviet Communism through its proxy regime in Hanoi. But, their names are not on the Vietnam Memorial Wall here in Washington. So, we must be vigilant to keep alive their memory in our hearts and tell the story of their brave sacrifices to our children and our children's children so that their memory and the important cause that they fought for is not forgotten by future generations.

In Laos, from 1969 to 1970, the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command captured and occupied the strategic site of the Plain of Jars (Thong Haihin) which was crucial to the overall course of the war effort. The Plain of Jars is near the border of North Vietnam and was controlled by three North Vietnamese divisions. During heavy fighting the Lao and Hmong Special Forces under my command defeated the North Vietnamese troops and captured many Soviet-supplied tanks, artillery pieces, anti-aircraft guns, trucks and many hundreds of tons of small arms and other equipment which cost Moscow an enormous amount of money. The Superpowers—the Soviet Union and the United States—were surprised that such a small number of Hmong and Lao soldiers could defeat such a large force of the North Vietnamese Army and then occupy and defend the Plain of Jars. This battlefield victory saved many Americans from having to fight against these North Vietnamese troops and their weapons as well as greatly slowing the advance of Communism in Southeast Asia for many additional years.

It is also important to note the major contribution made by the Lao and Hmong soldiers of the Royal Lao Army in locating and destroying many of the North Vietnamese Army's supply lines along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. The Lao/Hmong Special Forces caused heavy losses to the North Vietnamese troops and rescued many hundreds of downed American pilots.

The United States did not lose the Vietnam War on the battlefield. The United States withdrew from the Indochina War in 1975 because of world politics, U.S.-Soviet detente, American-Chinese relations and U.S. domestic opposition to the War. However, the United States eventually won the war in world politics in the struggle between Communism and Capitalism. Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe collapsed with the help of freedom fighters like the Hmong and Lao combat veterans who assisted the United States in resisting the expansion of international Communism. Many Communist countries changed to become free countries because of the sacrifices of the Laotian and American men and women who defended freedom and democracy during the Cold War. Therefore, we must recognize and honor those men and women-in-arms who fought and died in the Vietnam War and remember that freedom, democracy and peace will once again return to Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia in the near future.

Thank you for joining me here today to mark this important occasion. God bless you all.

## CENTRAL NEW YORK: NATION'S FIRST PEE WEE WORLD HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

### HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, last year I was as proud as I could be, or thought I could be, of some very special young athletes in my home district, the Syracuse Stars Pee Wee Hockey Team. They had won the USA Nationals and all of our hometown was awash in publicity and congratulations.

Today I am eager to report that the same team has once again prevailed. They are now the holders of the World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey, having won on February 19 this year the 36th Annual Tournoi De Quebec in Quebec City. The tournament hosted 115 teams from 17 countries. The Stars defeated teams from Russia, Ukraine, Detroit, and Toronto on their way to becoming the first U.S. team to ever win the World Cup.

To put this tournament in perspective, more than 550 former or present NHL players have participated, including Wayne Gretzky, Brett Hull, and Mario Lemieux.

The players are: Daniel Bequer, goalie, of North Syracuse; Brian Balash, forward, of Auburn; Gary Baronick, forward, of North Syracuse; Drew Bucktooth, forward, of the Onondaga Indian Nation; Tim Connolly, forward, of Baldwinsville; Jeremy Downs, defense, of Syracuse; Joshua Downs, defense, of Syracuse; J.D. Forrest, defense, of Auburn; Todd Jackson, forward, of Cortland; Josh Jordan, forward, of Marathon; Tom LeRoux, forward, of Syracuse; Doug MacCormack, forward, of Cortland; Matt Magloine, defense, of North Syracuse; Freddy Meyer, defense, of New Hampshire; Anthony Pace, forward, of Cortland; Steve Pakan, defense, of Syracuse; Mike Saraceni, goalie, of North Syracuse; and Ricky Williams, forward, of McGraw. Head Coach Don Kirnan was assisted by coaches Mike Connolly and John Jackson and manager Chris Kirnan.

Freddy Meyer won the Tournament MVP trophy and Drew Bucktooth won the Grand Finale Game MVP. Tim Connolly was top scorer of the tournament and along with Anthony Pace was named a single-game MVP. Dan Bequer gave up only two goals in the last three games, which proved for some exciting hockey, especially in the Stars' 6–2 final game win over the Toronto Young Nationals.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these young athletes for their performance, and for bringing home to the United States our first World Cup of Pee Wee Hockey.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOOD SERVICE STAFF AT THE MIDDLE COUNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the excellent food service staff at Middle Country School District in Centereach, Long Island, NY, for their hard work and outstanding service.

Next week, we will begin to celebrate National Child Nutrition Week, and it's an important time for us all to focus on the health and well-being of our children. For the food service staff at Middle Country schools, however, every week is Child Nutrition Week and every day is an opportunity to make sure that children are eating healthy and staying fit.

These individuals at the Middle Country schools continually go above and beyond the call of duty. Their work is not just another job, it is an important vocation. They are entrusted with our society's most precious possessions—our children. In their delicate hands, we place the crucial responsibility that's usually just reserved for mothers and fathers—the responsibility of caring for our children. The food service workers rise to this occasion graciously, and they gently nuture our students.

The food service staff who work at the Middle Country schools know that the little things make all the difference. They go out of their way to make sure that a particular little boy finishes his milk or a certain little girl sticks to her special diet. For this extra effort, we are most grateful, and on behalf of all of the people of eastern Long Island, I would like to thank them for a job well done. They truly are role models. Their example can teach us all.

I would also like to extend a special note of congratulations and gratitude to Audrey Prentice, the coordinator of the Middle Country School District's food service program. Audrey is a tireless champion for the health and welfare of our society's most vulnerable members. Her heart is in her work and that makes all the difference. I am very thankful for all of her wisdom, her counsel, and her service.

## WELCOME TO JESSAMINE COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

### HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to welcome Jessamine County Middle School from Nicholasville, KY, to Washington, DC, on their annual trip.

There is a proud history in our Nation's Capital and I am pleased that these fine young men and women are able to take advantage of the educational opportunities available here in Washington.

## REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the more than 1.5 million victims of Armenian genocide who perished 79 years ago, and their families who still to this day remember this crime against humanity with the same intensity and pain that was felt during 8 years of murder, plight, and savagery.

For 3,000 years, Armenians and Armenian culture had thrived in the area covered by the Ottoman Empire. The Turkish authorities in power in 1915, however, systematically wiped out nearly two-thirds of its Armenian population. They first executed intellectuals and doctors, then adult males, leaving the elderly, the very young, and women defenseless, as the Turkish Government forced them on death marches through the deserts.

In 8 short years, Turkey managed to slaughter a vibrant, thriving, indigenous population,

whose descendants today are ever vigilante in their reminding the world never to repeat crimes of this magnitude again.

For too long, people have ignored or forgotten this unimaginable atrocity. The time has come for the United States, and people everywhere, to remember and honor the victims of this brutal crime against humanity. It is imperative that we all remember the incredible inhumanity of which people are capable, for to remember is to be vigilant. And vigilance is the only way we can ever keep such atrocities from reoccurring. Through these efforts we can promote peace and goodwill among all nations and cultures. We must, for if not all that we consider humanity will be lost.

## CUTS ENDANGER OUR ELDERLY

### HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Republican party is certainly full of contradictions. Six months after signing a ''Contract With America'' that included a platform promising fairness for senior citizens, they propose a budget that will harm the poorest and the least healthy of our Nation's older population. The House Republican budget outlines cutting Medicare funding by $270 billion over the next 7 years. In the same period of time, they propose that we abdicate responsibility for the Medicaid to the States, while decreasing the funding by $184 billion. In order to justify their cuts, they are insisting that without reform, the Medicare Program will be bankrupt by the year 2002.

Frankly, their new position makes very little sense. After all, nothing is being done to actually reform the system. Capping Medicare spending is not reform. Last year, President Clinton and the Democratic leaders in Congress struggled to reform the whole health care system, and to prevent the very crisis in Medicare that the Republicans decry today. Republicans refused to assist in the health care debate, and preferred partisan sniping. They were hiding their heads in the sand. They were all too eager to criticize the Democratic reform that would have applied small Medicare savings to comprehensive health care reform.

This year, we hear nothing of comprehensive reform. We are moving no closer to universal and affordable coverage. There are no genuine efforts to make our health care system more effective and more affordable. But the Republicans are talking about Medicare and Medicaid cuts. The cuts that they are proposing will not go toward saving Medicare, or ensuring universal coverage, but toward tax breaks to the wealthy.

The Republican party, which proudly authored a bill entitled the ''Senior Citizens Fairness Act'' now proposes to take a hit and the poor and the sick elderly, without putting one penny back into their health care. They are offering us all the pain of cuts, without the benefits of reform. Cuts like these are misguided, and should not be tolerated. Many people who have made tremendous contributions to this Nation, people in the twilight of their life, will suffer as a result of this budget.

## SUPERFUND LIABILITY ALLOCATION ACT OF 1995, H.R. 1616

### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 1995*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, if ever a Federal program needed reform, it is the Superfund Program. It was first created in 1980 under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act [CERCLA]. It was changed and reauthorized in 1986 under the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act [SARA]. It was supposed to be reauthorized in the last Congress and committees in the House and in the other body reported comprehensive reform bills, but this effort fell short in the final days of the session.

At the center of the Superfund Program are liability provisions arguably more draconian than found in any other Federal statute. Superfund liability is retroactive, meaning that potentially responsible parties can be held liable for lawful actions taken before enactment of CERCLA or SARA. Superfund liability is also strict, meaning that there is no need to prove negligence to establish liability. It is also joint and several, meaning that a party or parties that contributed small amounts of contamination to a contaminated site can be held liable for all cleanup expenses.

With Superfund site cleanups now averaging $30 million, the incentive to avoid any liability at any cost is strong. Small wonder that Superfund has launched a tidal wave of litigation. At least $1 in $4 spent on Superfund cleanups is spent on lawyers and the consultants needed to support lawyers in litigation to avoid Superfund liability or to transfer liability to other parties via so-called contribution suits.

In my district, one of these contribution suits eventually involved more than 700 firms and organizations. More recently, a firm that had negotiated a cleanup plan costing nearly $20 million with EPA turned around and filed contribution suits against three dozen local firms. More important than the moneys involved, these Superfund-driven suits have divided whole communities and created resentment that will last for years. This can't be what Congress wanted to happen when the program was created.

In response to these unpleasant realities, I am today joining the gentleman from Virginia [Mr. BOUCHER], in introducing the Liability Allocation Act of 1995. Mr. BOUCHER and I first addressed these issues in November 1993 in the Superfund Liability Reform Act (H.R. 3624). After negotiations with the administration and other Superfund stakeholders, we introduced a revised version of H.R. 3624 as H.R. 4351, also entitled the Superfund Liability Allocation Act. This latter measure became section 412 of H.R. 3800, as reported by the then Committee on Energy and Commerce, and section 413 of the same bill as reported by the then Committee on Public Works and Transportation. As I mentioned earlier, H.R. 3800 was not considered by the House prior to adjournment in 1994.

This legislation would create an entirely new system of liability under Superfund, one based upon proportionality and the allocation of liability shares among potentially responsible parties. It places a moratorium on the commencement of cost recovery and contribution suits for cleanup costs until the allocation process is concluded and a stay on all existing cost recovery and contribution litigation. Each party's liability would be calculated in expedited manner; parties will pay only their equitable share of the cleanup costs, those clearly related to their respective roles at the site and to the amount of waste they actually contribute; finally, the expedited process for assigning liability and the limited court review of that process should significantly decrease transaction costs for all parties at Superfund sites.

The new system established under this bill would operate as follows:

First, after a site is listed on Superfund's National Priority List, EPA notifies all parties at the site that they are required to participate in the liability allocation process.

Second, the parties choose from an EPA-approved list of private allocators to conduct the allocation.

Third, EPA and any of the parties may nominate additional parties to be included in the process or may excuse parties from the process.

Fourth, EPA is able to provide expedited settlements to ''de minimis'' and ''de micromis'' parties to enable such parties to avoid having to participate in the 18-month allocation process, satisfying small business' major concern.

Fifth, the allocator is armed with the necessary information-gathering powers, including subpoena power, and is able to enforce such powers with the backing of the Justice Department. Parties who do not cooperate in providing information are subject to stiff civil and criminal penalties.

Sixth, each party is given the opportunity to be heard, including submitting an initial statement and commenting on the draft allocation report before the final report is issued.

Seventh, after considering the ''Gore Factors''—including the party's role at the site and the toxicity and volume of material—the allocator issues a report identifying each party's share of liability for the cleanup costs at the site.

Eighth, each party may settle with the EPA based on its allocated share. As consideration, the party is shielded from joint and several liability and from actions for contribution from other parties. Any party who rejects its allocated share will be exposed to joint and several liability and remains unprotected from contribution suits. Although the allocation is nonbinding as to the parties, the exposure to joint and several liability serves as a disincentive to reject the allocated share.

Ninth, the Government is bound by the allocation unless there is proof of bias, fraud or unlawful conduct on the allocator's part or if ''no rational interpretation of the facts before the allocator, in light of the factors he is required to consider, would form a reasonable basis'' for the allocation. The Government only has 180 days during which such review can occur, after which the right to reject the allocation is waived.

Tenth, the orphan share—for defunct and insolvent parties—is paid out of the Superfund.

Eleventh, the Government reimburses parties who pay for the cleanup for amounts spent beyond their allocated shares. The Government also pursues recalcitrant parties who fail to pay their allocated shares.

Mr. Speaker, many interests worked together in developing this legislation. If the