

community, and especially the United States of America—but, nonetheless, we are still in a very difficult economic situation. We have complex issues in the area of energy. We are hopeful that this winter will be less severe than last winter. We are better prepared for the winter than we were last year and in years past. Soon our atomic energy plant will also be supplying electricity, certainly by winter.

But, I believe that there is a more important precondition than energy for Armenia's economic future. That is the means of communication between Armenia and the outside world. This is more important, in economic terms, than all other issues. Until we are able to have open access to the outside world through all our neighbors—Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey and Georgia—we cannot have a normal economy. Our economic destiny depends on two things: the pace of economic reforms in Armenia, and how fast Armenia can become integrated into the international economic system. This is the issue that we must resolve together with you.

I want to express my deep gratitude to all of you for the great efforts which you have made on behalf of Armenia—efforts which are already showing fruition. And through the people who are gathered here, I consider it my duty to express my gratitude to the people and the government of the United States of America. The aid that the United States has given to Armenia over the past four years has been vital to Armenia.

I have several aspects in mind: first, the great humanitarian assistance that has been given to Armenia; second, the role of the United States in the huge assistance that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have given Armenia starting last year; and, third, the great role that the United States has played in maintaining peace and stability in our region, and in developing a political resolution to the issue of Nagorno Karabagh. This is such an important contribution toward putting our country on its feet, that we can consider the United States to be a participant in the establishment of Armenian statehood.

A few moments ago, Senator McConnell pointed out that aid to Armenia not only emanates from the interests of Armenia, but also from the interests of the United States. This is true. It is true because Armenia has the opportunity—of course, with your help—to become a model—a model in terms of democracy, a model in terms of the free market, and this is the realization of the faith of the United States.

In conclusion, I want to express my deep gratitude to each and everyone of you. First, from day one, you have stood by our government unconditionally, and I hope that we have not let you down. I am sure that, hereafter in the same manner, you will show the same faith and the same unconditional spirit in standing by us—both in our difficult days and in our bright future, which I am sure is going to come.

I also want to emphasize the role of the Armenian Assembly—headed by my friend, Hirair Hovnanian—in these years of our independence. This is an opportunity to say that you are the organization which has proven that it is possible—without political ambitions—to help Armenia in a much greater way than otherwise. And I think this should be a model for the diaspora.

In conclusion, I want to put aside this official mask for a moment—I am a human being, after all—and say a few words of appreciation to a man who, as a friend in our most difficult times—in our coldest and darkest days—was with us, and was also a key person in creating close relations between Armenia and America. That was Harry Gilmore. Ambassador Gilmore set

such a serious foundation for relations between our countries that, on the base of this foundation, Amb. Tomsen, who is now in Yerevan, is continuing.

I also want to express special thanks to the man who worked the hardest and suffered most this evening, Amb. Edward Djerejian.

I feel an obligation to say that the honor you are giving me this evening is your way of expressing your debt of honor to our heroic people's patience and stamina. I would like to see us all, together, keep the honor of our people high.

Thank you.

RECOGNITION OF AMSA ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 1995*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and JIM OBERSTAR, the ranking Democrat of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies [AMSA] on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. AMSA is the only national trade association exclusively representing the unique interests of our country's largest wastewater treatment agencies. As the first line of defense in our national campaign against water pollution, AMSA members are responsible for the high degree of water quality that we now enjoy in the United States.

The emergence of AMSA as a nationally recognized leader in environmental policy and a sought-after technical resource on water quality and ecosystem protection issues has paralleled the maturation of the Nation's most successful environmental law—the Clean Water Act. AMSA was established in 1970 by representatives of 22 municipal sewage agencies to secure Federal funding for municipal wastewater treatment and serve as a forum to discuss emerging national interest in improving the quality of the Nation's waters. Based upon the shared goal of effectively representing the interests and priorities of publicly owned treatment works, they formed AMSA.

In the quarter century that followed, the association grew and its interests diversified. Today, AMSA is a dynamic national organization involved in all facets of water quality protection and representing over 160 municipalities. Viewed as a key stakeholder in both the legislative and regulatory arenas, AMSA has built credible and collaborative relationships with Members of Congress, Presidential administrations and the Environmental Protection Agency. Recent years have reflected heightened involvement for the association in a broadening array of environmental laws and regulations, including the gamut of ecosystem issues encompassed under the umbrella of watershed management, among them nonpoint source pollution control and the protection of air quality and endangered species. As chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I am in a good position to observe that AMSA has met the goal of its founders and continues to pursue every opportunity to develop and implement scientifically based, technically sound and cost-effective environmental programs.

AMSA's active membership, prominence as a nationally recognized leader in environ-

mental policy, and a close working relationship with Congress and EPA, will undoubtedly allow it to help shape the course of environmental protection into the next century.

POPCORN RESEARCH, PROMOTION, AND CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 1995*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Popcorn Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act which will allow the U.S. Department of Agriculture to issue an order establishing a popcorn checkoff program. This would be similar to other agricultural checkoff programs for dairy, beef, pork, eggs, potatoes, and soybeans, to name only a few.

Americans consume 17.3 billion quarts of popcorn annually, or 68 quarts per man, woman, and child. It is one of the most wholesome and economical foods available. Last year, over 7,500 acres in popcorn production were harvested in my home State of Iowa, which is also home to several of the major popcorn processors.

The popcorn industry has always rallied to promote and market its product. As a result of these efforts, total popcorn sales have grown throughout the past several years, but a great potential exists to accelerate this trend with a larger, cooperative effort.

Under a popcorn checkoff program, popcorn processors would first vote to determine whether the program should go into effect. If a majority votes in favor, each popcorn processor would pay a small assessment on each pound of popcorn marketed. The Secretary of Agriculture would then select a popcorn board, made up of people from the industry to administer the program, with oversight by the USDA. The funds collected would be used for research, promotion, and consumer information projects with the goal of increasing consumption of popcorn.

I look forward to full consideration of the Popcorn Research, Promotion, and Consumer Information Act by the House of Representatives. This proposal will provide great benefits to the production of popcorn—and at no cost to the Federal Government.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REV. WALLACE HARTSFIELD

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 7, 1995*

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise today to bring to your attention, and to the attention of the House, the outstanding work and commitment of Rev. Wallace Hartsfield for the last 29 years to parishioners of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City.

Reverend Hartsfield was born in Atlanta, GA, November 13, 1929. He was an only child, raised by his mother, Ruby Morrissatte. Reverend Hartsfield received a bachelor of