

## EARTH DAY

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, we have just celebrated Earth Day here in the United States and, I hope, rededicated ourselves to protecting our environment. But at the same time, there are others on this planet commemorating the anniversary of an environmental catastrophe.

I'm speaking of the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. On April 26, in Kiev as well as in many other cities around the globe, including many here in the United States, people will gather to discuss the aftermath of that accident. But more importantly, they will be looking to the future, and not only to seek assurances that there will be no more such disasters but to rededicate countries and citizens to environmental protection.

I am particularly proud, Mr. Speaker, to note a most unique and important partnership which has developed around the anniversary. The Children of Chernobyl Relief Foundation [CCRF], a group based in Short Hills, NJ, and Hamden, CT and formed 5 years ago, has already turned about \$2 million in donations into about \$40 million in airlifted supplies to the people of Ukraine, most urgently needed pharmaceuticals.

CCRF has now received a large grant from the Monsanto Co. and together this charitable organization and this American firm are launching on this anniversary a major healthcare initiative for children and women in outlying areas. It will enable CCRF and the Ukrainian doctors and hospitals with whom it works to extend vital care to people in farm communities. The initiative will have strong focus on prenatal care and education for pregnant women.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a great model for the other groups, other companies, other countries, not just a one-shot, one-day commemoration of an environmental disaster but a longer-term commitment by an American-based charitable group and an American corporation.

I might add that our State Department, especially Ambassador Richard Morningstar, the Coordinator of Assistance to the CIS, and our United States Ambassador in Ukraine, William Miller, have been most cooperative in assisting the development of this project.

Today in Kiev there was an airport event welcoming a United States Government airlift of more than \$11 million of needed drugs and medical equipment. At that event, both Ambassador Morningstar and Ambassador Miller as well as high-level Ukrainian officials praised the Monsanto/CCRF project as a model for companies and charitable organizations everywhere and a sign that the Chernobyl commemoration is not just a 1 day event.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. SERVICE MEN  
AND WOMEN IN BOSNIA

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is an old military saying which alerts us to expect the unexpected. This time-tested adage is as true today as we send young fighting men and women to Bosnia as it was two generations ago in World War II.

On April 27, 1996, the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and the VFW Post 3729 will commemorate the 52d anniversary of Exercise Tiger. Exercise Tiger was designed to be a dress rehearsal for the D-Day invasion of France. But as is so common in the "fog of war," the best laid plans are always subject to the unexpected, the unanticipated, the unforeseen.

And so it was on April 28, 1944 when an American amphibious assault force which was practicing for the D-Day invasion was suddenly attacked by German warships. The surprise attack resulted in the death of 946 men, the second highest death toll of that long and bittered war.

Today, over 20,000 U.S. service men and women are serving in Bosnia in an effort to again secure peace in Europe. These dedicated individuals, like those who have served so honorably before them, have the difficult task of fulfilling the commitments made by American foreign policy makers. And like those who served in uniform over 50 years ago, the unexpected can happen at any moment with devastating effect.

I wish to salute the fine men who served and died 52 years ago while conducting Exercise Tiger. There is a special kinship between those American heroes and the men and women who today are serving in Bosnia. I wish also to pay tribute to Walter Domanski of the New Jersey Exercise Tiger Association and Bill Cadmus, Senior Vice Commander of VFW Post 3729. These two fine individuals are "keepers of the flame," ensuring that Americans will remember and reflect on the sacrifices that our military has made and continues to make on our behalf.

MERCURY ELECTRONICS: FIFTY  
YEARS AT THE FRONT LINES,  
DEFENDING AMERICA

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a company that has provided important contributions to our national defense and to the defense of freedom worldwide. That company is Mercury Electronics, celebrating its 50th anniversary this month.

For half a century, Mercury Electronics has provided essential components for our Armed Forces in the air, on land, and at sea. In this role, they have contributed mightily to America's defense, and the part that our Armed Forces have played in protecting the free world throughout the cold war. They continue this activity, helping the United States and her

men and women serving under arms to secure the peace and safety necessary for the preservation of the American way of life.

Not only has this company been a vital part of America's defense, but it has also been an exemplar of what America is all about. For the entire 50 years of its existence, Mercury has remained in the city of York in my district, providing jobs and economic stability. By remaining in its original locality, it has provided a continuity for its workers that has allowed them to build families in the area, and to remain close to their loved ones. Mercury Electronics has been a prime example of what small business can do. Its dedicated employees have enriched the local community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House of Representatives join me in recognizing Mercury Electronics on this occasion. Mercury has served America, not only in the role of manufacturing items for our armed forces, but also by showing what can be accomplished by hard-working people enjoying the freedoms their products have played a role in preserving. I congratulate Mercury Electronics on their 50th anniversary, and wish them many more.

## GRANT PERMANENT MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS TO ROMANIA

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 1996*

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, last month, our colleague, PHIL CRANE, chairman of the Trade Subcommittee, introduced legislation to grant permanent most-favored-nation status to the country of Romania. It is a bill that is overdue and I commend my colleague and the cosponsors of the legislation for taking this step.

Of all the Eastern European nations journeying from a centrally planned economic system to that of a free market economy, Romania has had the longest road to travel. It suffered through 40 years of a Communist economic policy. Its 1989 revolution exposed the hollowness of that economic legacy, but it also exposed how deeply ingrained that way of thinking can become. Nevertheless, despite tremendous obstacles, Romania has not faltered in its attempt to join the Western economic community of nations.

Romania is making the hard choices. It is taming inflation. Between 1994 and 1995, the inflation rate was cut in half from 62 percent to 28 percent. After selling off numerous state enterprises, at the cost of increased unemployment, Romania's rate of unemployment has shrunk from over 11 percent in 1994 to less than 9 percent in 1995.

Romania's private sector has grown into a formidable economic force. Today, 45 percent of Romania's gross domestic product comes from the private sector. By the end of this year, estimates show that 70 percent of its GDP will be generated by thousands of entrepreneurs who finally have the opportunity to determine their own economic future.

Romania is traveling a road that we in this country have encouraged by provisionally granting them MFN status. As a result, trade between our two nations has increased as United States exports take advantage of these new market opportunities. I review of Romania's economic policies, when coupled with its