

colleague, the Honorable Les Aspin, then chairman of the House Armed Services Committee on April 28, 1992:

We look back in order to memorialize those who died under Ottoman rule, to restate that they shall not have died unmourned and unnoticed, to shout that millions of us, Armenians and non-Armenians alike, will never forget.

We look forward to declare that this must never happen again, that the deaths of one and a half million people must serve as a perpetual warning to the world, alerting us to the threat of evil and uniting us to combat anyone who might again think of committing wholesale murder.

Mr. Speaker, in remembrance of those Armenian leaders executed during the genocide of 1915, I am honored to recognize some of the outstanding Armenian-American leaders of today, who have contributed so much to the betterment of our nation, our beloved state of California and our communities in the 34th Congressional District.

In particular, I wish to honor the Most Reverend Archbishop Lapajian, and the Reverend Babouchian, Pastor of the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral in Montebello, California for their faithful spiritual guidance.

And, it is appropriate to recognize two former Armenian-American elected officials who made an enormous contribution to the State of California and the communities of the 34th Congressional District, the Honorable George Deukmejian, who served as a Member of the State Assembly, state Senator, Attorney General and Governor of California; and the Honorable Walter J. Karabian, who served as Majority Leader of the California State Assembly. Their exemplary service has been a beacon of hope to all that wish to realize the American dream of opportunity and success.

In addition, I am pleased to recognize the service of the Honorable Tom Malkasian, City Treasurer of the city of Montebello, and member of the board of the Armenian Mesrobian School.

I have also recently had the privilege to visit several worthy leaders and institutions of the Armenian community in my district including Raffi Chalian, President of the Armenian National Committee; David Ghoogasian, Principal of the Armenian Mesrobian School; Anita Haddad, Co-Chairwoman of the Armenian Relief Society; Manouk Zeitounian, leader of the Homenetmen Athletics and Boy Scouts; Joseph Gharibian, Member of the Board of Representatives of the Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Cathedral; and most significantly, Lucy Der Minassian, Co-Chairwoman of the Armenian Relief Society, and herself a survivor of the Armenian genocide of 1915.

Mr. Speaker, in closing let every American stand with our Armenian brothers and sisters noting this anniversary throughout the world, together with the victims of torture and genocide whenever and wherever it occurs, to honor their precious memory, in compassion for their terrible suffering, and with unflinching resolve to never, never forget.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, today, we solemnly observe the Armenian genocide, a tragedy that took place nearly 84 years ago.

The courage and strength of the survivors and the memory of those who perished are an inspiration to all of us to stand up here today. It is our task to make sure that the Armenian genocide will never be forgotten.

Over 6 million people of Armenian descent live in this country. Many of them can still re-

count the persecution they faced from the Ottoman Empire and the stories of the night of April 24, 1915, the night the genocide began.

In observance of this date, we must remember the hard lessons learned from this tragedy so that we will never forget our duty to fight against human rights abuses, "ethnic cleansing," genocide and other crimes against humanity.

As we support the brave men and women fighting to stop the genocide of ethnic Albanian's in Kosovo, we see that genocide is not simply a sad chapter in history. The lessons of the Armenian genocide are ever salient. In the Kosovo case, our country's message must be clear. When a leader decides to erase a race of people from the earth, we will react with all due force and determination to make sure that leader fails.

The blood of genocide victims stains not only the hands of the perpetrators, but also those who do nothing to stop it. We can not wash our hands of this tragedy. We must remember the crimes of the past and work to end all types of genocide. This includes dedicating ourselves to ending the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, we must never forget what happened to the Armenians 84 years ago, just as we must never overlook the human rights violations which are happening today in all corners of the world.

SAN JACINTO DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue with a series of speeches designed to explain to my colleagues the history of my home State of Texas.

On March 2 of this year I spoke to this body of the brave actions taken by 54 men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, a document modeled after the one signed almost 60 years earlier by our Founding Fathers.

I also spoke to my colleagues of the brave sacrifices of the defenders of the Alamo and of the massacre of Texas forces at Goliad. Six weeks later, on the banks of San Jacinto River, approximately 750 Texans under General Sam Houston assembled, determined to avenge their brothers.

On the morning of April 20, 1836, over 1,500 Mexican soldiers under General Santa Ana approached the Texans' position. Driving off by fire from the famous "Twin Sisters" cannon, he fell back to regroup.

The Texans, inspired by their initial success, were champing at the bit. Houston, however, held them back, and sent his most trusted spy, Erastus "Deaf" Smith, with a few men to burn Vince's Bridge, thus cutting off the path of retreat for the Mexican Army. Mr. Speaker, Vince's Bridge is in the 29th Congressional District that I am proud to represent.

On the 21st, today's anniversary, though, Houston was ready to strike. With the Mexican Army still in its

camp, Houston gave the order to advance, and the Texans did not hesitate. I say "Texans," Mr. Speaker, because that force was made up of a lot of new immigrants to Texas from the United States. Texas has always been an immigrant State.

When within 70 yards the word "fire" was given, the Texan shouts of "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember Goliad" rang along the entire line. Within a short time 700 Mexican soldiers were slain, with another 730 taken as prisoners. The whole battle lasted less than 30 minutes.

From that point on, Texas was firmly established in the community of nations, seeking recognition. For 10 years she would remain an independent nation, until President James K. Polk signed the treaty admitting Texas to the United States in 1845.

A panel on the side of the monument at the San Jacinto battleground today underscores the importance of the battle after more than a century and a half of reflection: "Measured by its results, San Jacinto was one of the most decisive battles of the world."

The freedom of Texas from Mexico won here led to annexation and to the Mexican War in 1845, resulting in the acquisition by the United States of the States of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Now, Mr. Speaker, at one time or another I am sure, coming from Texas, we claimed all those States as part of Texas, but they really were not. Almost one-third of the present area of the American Nation, nearly a million square miles, changed sovereignty starting with the battle of San Jacinto.

The San Jacinto battlefield was in the 29th Congressional District until 1996 when the Federal courts changed our lines, and now it is in the 25th Congressional District.

This major event in our history is remembered not only as a battle for Texas independence, but is a victory over freedom and dictatorship. Mr. Speaker, I hope the House and all of America will join those of us from Texas in celebrating that victory for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

[From the Houston Chronicle, Apr. 21, 1999]

SAN JACINTO

A DAY TO REMEMBER GREAT, UNVARNISHED HISTORY OF TEXAS

"Measured by its results, San Jacinto was one of the decisive battles of the world."

"So begins the simple inscription at the base of the towering San Jacinto Monument. The obelisk, visible from the modern glass castles of downtown Houston, holds its head high over a few quiet, lowland acres at the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River. There fate and the future noisily and auspiciously crossed paths and swords on this date in 1836.

"The freedom of Texas from Mexico," the inscription continues, "won here led to annexation and to the Mexican War, resulting in the acquisition by the United States of

Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma. Almost one-third of the present area of the American nation, nearly a million square miles, changed sovereignty."

That is more than worthy of note and remembrance.

But, even unvarnished, Texas history is a magnificent story in and of itself. And that is too often lost in these days of headline news and semi-literacy and our natural preoccupation with the present.

When Gen. Sam Houston and Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, and their respective armies, met on the field that day, the combat lasted but 18 minutes—the killing went on for more than two hours. Knowing and understanding the reasons why, indeed the reasons there was a battle in the first place, ought to be at least as much a part of modern Texans' knowledge base as, say, what the weather might be tomorrow.

But, sadly, it far too often is not. Yes, we remember the Alamo, but too few of us these days can remember and recount exactly why.

And so, we pick a day of anniversary, a day of remembrance to give more than just a passing thought to what and why and how what we see before us, both the good and the bad, came to be.

We observe San Jacinto Day with good cause here in Texas, our Texas.

CEREMONIES TO MARK BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO

Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court will deliver the keynoted address today during a ceremony marking the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto.

The 10:30 a.m. ceremony at the San Jacinto Monument is to honor the Texans who died April 21, 1836, when a small force led by Sam Houston surprised and defeated a larger Mexican force led by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

The Mexican leader fled during the battle but was captured a short time later, leading to Texas' independence from Mexico.

Today's ceremony also will salute the 30th anniversary of the modern-day Texas Army, which appears in costume at such events and performs cannon and musket salutes.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the Skylarks and by K.R. Woods and the Fathers of Texas. A barbecue also is planned, for which tickets are \$10. Admission to the ceremony is free.

On Saturday, the San Jacinto Volunteers will present their ninth annual re-enactment of the Battle of San Jacinto. The living history camp will feature Texan and Mexican armies beginning at 10 a.m., with uniformed characters demonstrating camp cooking, candle and soap making, weapons and other activities from the Texas Revolution era.

A narrated "battle" is set for 3:30 p.m. with cannons booming, muskets firing and battle drums echoing to signal the clash of Texan and Mexican cavalry and infantry. The day concludes with a re-enactment of Santa Anna's surrender to Houston and a ceremony honoring those who died in the battle 163 years ago.

The San Jacinto Battleground is on Texas 134, or Battleground Road, north of Texas 225. For more information call 281-479-2431.

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

(Mr. HUTCHINSON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FAIR TRADE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1999

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

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, the headlines are very grim today. We are facing in America a record trade deficit, one that threatens to cut the economic growth rate of this country. This is in the context of an international economic malaise in which unfair trade practices and naked mercantilism have proliferated on the part of our trading partners.

What America needs, Mr. Speaker, is not only a stronger trade policy but stronger legal protections put in place to guarantee a level playing field in this challenging international environment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce, on behalf of myself and six bipartisan cosponsors, the Fair Trade Law Enhancement Act of 1999. This bill takes a broad approach to trade law reform and includes important necessary changes to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws. These reforms are essential if we are going to keep the trade laws effective and relevant to current conditions in a newly turbulent global economy.

America's trade laws have long been critically important to U.S. jobs in both the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. These laws form the last line of defense for U.S. industries, which must operate on market-based principles even though their foreign competitors frequently do not, against injury caused by unfairly traded imports.

The basic covenant at the heart of U.S. trade policy holds that while America maintains an open market to fairly traded goods of any origin, our trade laws will ensure that our industries and workers will not be subject to injury from unfairly traded imports.

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Unfortunately, American industry and our working men and women have suffered because we have failed to update these laws even as the world economy continues to change. The trade laws must now be strengthened to prevent unfairly traded imports from undermining our manufacturing and agricultural base.

The last general reform of the U.S. trade laws, unconnected to any particular trade agreement, occurred more than a decade ago. In that time, the problems to which these laws must respond have changed considerably, as underscored by the recent Asian and Russian economic disasters and the steel trade crisis that has ensued. It has become painfully clear, for example, that the current trade laws are not capable of responding to the kinds of sudden import surges, causing dramatic and rapid injury, which now seem to be part of the international economic scene.

The reforms in my bill are fully consistent with WTO rules and fall into three categories: One, amendments to the safeguard law; two, amendments to the antidumping and countervailing duty laws; and, three, provisions establishing a steel import notification program.

The safeguard amendments update the remedy in section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974 to make it more effective for U.S. industries trying to deal with damage in import surges. In particular, the amendments conform some of section 201's unnecessarily stringent standards to the more appropriate standards in the WTO safeguards agreement.

The antidumping and countervailing duty law amendments would amend Title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 in light of some of the new global economic realities and conditions to which those laws must now respond. Some of these changes reverse flawed court decisions that have limited the laws' remedial reach in a manner never contemplated by Congress. Again, the primary focus of these reforms is to eliminate unnecessary obstacles American manufacturers and farmers face in securing relief under current law, and to assure through WTO-consistent means that U.S. firms and workers can face their foreign competitors on a level playing field.

Having effective and up-to-date trade laws in place is important to internationally competitive U.S. farm and manufacturing industries, especially the steel industry, where international trade has been more heavily distorted by subsidies, closed markets cartelization and dumping than any other economic sector.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Fair Trade Law Enforcement Act of 1999. These fundamental reforms will help keep a credible and effective deterrent against unfair trade in place into the next millennium, and they deserve enthusiastic support from friends of America's manufacturers and farmers and workers all over.

CONDOLENCES EXTENDED TO PEOPLE OF LITTLETON, COLORADO

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

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I am profoundly shocked and saddened by yesterday's school tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, where two students opened fire on their classmates and then turned their guns on themselves.

The most common question we ask ourselves in a situation like this is "why?" Well, we do not know yet all the "hows" or "whys" of this tragedy, and we may never understand it. What we can do, without question and hesitation, is extend our thoughts and prayers to the families who have lost their loved ones, to the parents who