

very rough weather during the critical bloom period. Yet, this is the natural reality of the risks faced by farmers and ranchers.

Before blindly attacking sound agriculture policy, such as crop insurance, I ask my colleagues here to take a close look at what it takes to feed our Nation, especially in a year like this one where farm income is down over 50 percent.

These policies are not meant for the good crop years or in a good harvest. They exist for the terrible crop years.

Mr. Speaker, weather is unpredictable, as are natural disasters and fickle markets. However, we can make sure farmers have access to tools that manage these risks in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Let's not jeopardize this successful and vital program.

ADHERING TO OPEN SKIES AGREEMENT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, so-called flags of convenience have decimated the U.S. maritime industry to a tiny fraction of its former size. It is a system where owners chase the cheapest, most exploitable labor, and the least regulation around the world.

Now the Department of Transportation under the Obama administration, in its infinite wisdom, wants to bring that system to aviation. Won't that be great when we are all flying in planes with crews coming out of Indonesia or India or somewhere else where they can be exploited, paid less, and maybe have kind of questionable credentials.

Actually, they are issuing pilot certificates in India to people who have never ever flown a plane. That will just be dandy. But, hey, the tickets will be cheap. You might not get there, but you paid less to get on.

This is absolutely absurd. We have the safest and best system of aviation in the world with our proud domestic airlines. Their employees get decent wages, we fly safe, and we want to now go to flags of convenience?

They are ignoring the clear language of the Open Skies Agreement in making this decision. No to the Obama administration.

DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, talk to your neighbors, turn on the local news, and you hear the tragic stories of how opioid abuse is devastating families across the country and in my State of Michigan.

Combating this epidemic requires us to work together to tackle it head on. No effort is too small, and each of us can do our part. One way to help is participating in National Prescription

Drug Take-Back Day, which takes place this Saturday, April 30th. It is an opportunity for citizens to clean out their medicine cabinets of unwanted medications with no questions asked. Safe disposal of expired prescription drugs is an important step to preventing abuse.

Authorized drop-off sites are located all across Michigan's Seventh Congressional District, and I will be stopping by one of those sites, the Jackson Police Department, on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It is a human issue, and it affects us all.

101ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Armenian community to commemorate 101 years since the start of the Armenian genocide.

On April 24, 1915, more than 300 Armenian leaders were taken from their homes, arrested, and systematically executed. They were the first killed in what would eventually become a genocide resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million innocent men, women, and children.

Over a century later, the Armenian people have vowed to never forget these atrocities. The children and grandchildren of the genocide's victims have worked hard to remember and honor those who suffered. For too long, this crime has gone unrecognized and unpunished.

This weekend in Los Angeles, California, 60,000 people came together outside of the Turkish consulate to rally for long overdue acknowledgment of their ancestors' murders.

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, and I stand by the Armenian American community in Los Angeles and throughout this country in their call for recognition and justice.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JIMMY HAYLEY

(Mr. WEBER of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the passing of lifelong Galveston County resident, Jimmy Hayley.

A fixture in our community, Jimmy Hayley was the president and CEO of the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce for almost 30 years, where he helped foster economic development that brought positive growth to our community.

Jimmy was the model for other chamber leaders in our region. He set the bar for how to run the organization helping businesses around the area grow and become a positive influence in our community.

Not only was Jimmy an amazing family man to his wife, two sons, and seven grandchildren, he was a great mentor and a wonderful friend to so many folks.

While our community has suffered a great loss in the passing of Jimmy Hayley, it is important that we celebrate his life and all the growth and progress during his tenure that will continue in his memory.

My thoughts and prayers are with Jimmy's family and friends during this difficult time. God bless them all.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. PETERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Deer Lodge, Montana, June 7, 2015:

Arie Arlynn Lee, 37 years old;
Augustine Lee Bourne, 5;
Woodrow Lee Bourne, 4;
Arie Lee Bourne, 1.
Belfair, Washington, February, 26, 2016:

Donna Reed, 68 years old;
Lana Carlson, 49;
Tory Carlson, 18;
Quinn Carlson, 16.
Flour Bluff, Texas, September 14, 2014:

Pamela Kay Rhodes, 63 years old;
Ricky Ray Collier, 56;
Laura Elaine Ogden, 32.
Orange, California, February 19, 2013:
Melvin Edwards, 69 years old;
Jeremy Lewis, 27;
Courtney Aoki, 20.
Menasha, Wisconsin, March 3, 2015:
Jonathan Stoffel, 33 years old;
Adam Bentsdahl, 31;
Erin Stoffel, 31;
Olivia Stoffel, 11.
Akron, Ohio, April 18, 2013:
Ronald Roberts, 24 years old.

CONGRATULATING DR. DIANA NATALICIO

(Mr. HURD of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Dr. Diana Natalicio.

One of our Nation's foremost experts on higher education, Dr. Natalicio has transformed the University of Texas at El Paso into a premier institution and a national success story. For her distinguished career, Dr. Natalicio was recently recognized by Time Magazine as one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

In 1988, she was named president of the university and has since increased enrollment from 15,000 to 23,000 students who reflect the demographics of the Texas-Mexico border region. UTEP is the only research institution in the United States that serves a predominantly Mexican American student body.

UTEP's continued success under Dr. Natalicio's leadership serves as a