us and improve nutrition. These safety net programs, including SNAP, the Child Nutrition Programs, and WIC are vitally important to helping those in need put food on the table during economic hard times and helping make sure no one especially seniors and children—goes hungry in America. The Child Nutrition Programs including the National School Lunch Program are among the most important and successful anti-hunger and nutrition programs in the country. Thanks to diligent oversight by USDA, and significant reforms in the program, SNAP is one of the most effective and efficient federal programs. It is a testament to USDA’s longstanding commitment to the highest standards and oversight of its programs.

Globally, the impact of USDA is just as great. I have long promoted an integrated government-wide approach to addressing global hunger and food insecurity. Beginning with the Bush Administration and expanding under the leadership of President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and U.S. Aid Administrator Raj Shah, I am proud to say that global food security programs are stronger than ever. In particular, I am proud to support USDA’s signature role in global agricultural development, emergency food aid, and international school feeding programs.

Agriculture is not just a nostalgic reflection of the past, it is a critical part of contemporary American life and the U.S. economy. I would like to take this opportunity to salute the thousands of Massachusetts small farmers who contribute so much not only to the economy, but to the nutrition and health of the people of Massachusetts, New England and the nation. It has been such a privilege for me to visit their farms, dairies and gardens and witness first-hand the great work they are doing.

I am pleased to extend my heartfelt birthday wishes to USDA on this landmark anniversary, and I wish them the very best success in supporting agricultural development here at home and around the world in the next 150 years.
complete successfully for Fulbright Awards, Goldwater Scholarships and other prestigious national fellowships and scholarships funded by
this body.

Included among its graduates are public servants at every level, including most notably former Vice President of the United States James "Jimmy" Carter; former Secretary of State, Secretary of War, U.S. Senator and recipient of the 1912 Nobel Peace Prize Elihu Root; current Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; and former U.S. Ambassadors Arnold Raphel, William Luers, Sol Linowitz, Michael Kinsley, Edward Walker. Hamilton College also counts among its alumni prominent business leaders, scientists, artists, educators, physicians, ministers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, entertainers, writers, and journalists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distin-
guished colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating the students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees of Hamilton College on the occasion of their institution’s two hun-
dredth anniversary on May 26, 2012.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to rec-
ognize the 150th anniversary of the Depart-
ment of Agriculture. It was 150 years ago to
this day that President Abraham Lincoln es-
tablished the USDA.

As Americans, we have been blessed with
the most successful agricultural economy on
dearth. U.S. consumers spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable in-
come on food—the lowest of any developed
nation in the world. In Europe, consumers spend double that percentage and, in devel-
opping countries, consumers often spend more than half of their income on food. As Ameri-
cans, we can be proud of our producers and the role our agriculture department has played in making advancements in the agricultural sector. Successes in agriculture lift all aspects of our economy.

American agriculture’s success has been fueled largely by the hard work of our farmers and ranchers. They withstand incredible chal-
lenge on a daily basis to provide our nation with a safe, abundant and affordable food sup-
ply. More and more, our producers will be de-
pended upon to feed not only Americans here at home, but a growing world population. I am
confident our producers, our research institu-
tions and the private sector will be able to har-
ness innovation to meet the daunting chal-
lenge of feeding a world population that is ex-
pected to grow from around 7 billion to over 9 billion by the year 2050.

Agriculture will continue to represent the foundation of the U.S. economy. I am proud of
what agriculture has been able to accomplish over the last 150 years with the support of
USDA. With great respect for the farmers and ranchers in Southern Missouri I represent, and
those in industry and our research institu-
tions, that I recognize agriculture’s great suc-
cess story over the last 150 years.