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 Nutri-

tion Programs including the National School Lunch Program are among the most important and successful anti-hunger and nutrition pro-

grams in the country. Thanks to diligent over-
sight by USDA, and significant reforms in the pro-

gram, SNAP finds the most effective and effi-
cient federal programs. It is a testa-

ment to USDA’s longstanding commitment to

the highest standards and oversight of its pro-

grams.

Globally, the impact of USDA is just as
great. I have long promoted an integrated gov-

ernment-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

USDA Administrator Raj Shah, I am proud to say that global food security pro-

grams 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 pro-

grams.

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 thou-

sands 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 birth-
day wishes to USDA on this landmark anniver-
sary, and I wish them the very best success in
supporting agricultural development here at
home and around the world in the next 150
years.

Because of their efforts, no Member of Con-
gress will be able to say they haven’t been
touched by this terrible disease. And because
of their efforts, I truly believe that one day in
the not so distant future we will finally have a
cure.

I also want to honor one special individual in
particular who had planned to be here
today, before he lost his battle with ALS on
April 27, 2012 at just 34 years old.

Joshua Kennedy led a life of exemplary
service. He served his country bravely as a
Sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserves, including
eighteen months in Iraq as a petroleum supply
specialist. He served his family as a devoted
husband to his wife Ernesta and a proud fa-
thor to his sons Tyler, Charles, and Andrew.

He served his community in Maine as a cor-
rectional officer at Androscoggin County Jail in
Auburn. Then after his diagnosis in March
2010, he began to serve his country in a way
he never imagined—as a passionate advocate
for ALS awareness.

I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Josh in
my Portland office not long after his diag-

osis. I was struck by his compelling story, his
warm smile, his love for his family, and his
bravery in the face of unbeatable odds. He and
Ernesta later traveled to Washington DC, where
he brought his message to Congress and
inspired action the same way he inspired the
community who rallied around him and his
family back home. Even as his voice eluded
him and his body began to fail him, it was
clear that his spirit remained strong.

I had looked forward to seeing him again
this year, and his presence is dearly missed
today, as it will be for years to come. There
are not enough words to appropriately honor
his legacy or to comfort his family on their tre-
mendous loss. But I know his advocacy was
not in vain. It is because of people like Josh
that we are making progress, bit by bit, and I
look forward to the day when we can cele-
brate his memory with a cure for ALS.

REMEMBERING ORLANDO ZAPATA
TAMAYO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today
to honor Orlando Zapata Tamayo who
would have turned 45 years old today, had his
life not been cut short by the murderous Cas-
tro dictatorship.

Orlando Zapata Tamayo was a member of
the pro-democracy Movimiento Alternativa
Republicana and the Consejo Nacional de Resistencia Covica. He was ar-
rested several times, including on March 20th,
2003 during Cuba’s notorious “Black Spring.”
During his many years in prison, he suffered
beatings, humiliation, and long periods of soli-

tary confinement. Zapata Tamayo began a
hunger strike on December 3rd, 2009 to pro-
test inhumane prison conditions and arbitrary
extensions of his sentences. His hunger strike
lasted more than 80 days. During that time, he
was deprived of water, suffered abhorrent pris-

one abuse, and ultimately died at the hands of
the Castro regime on February 23rd, 2010.

Sadly, the two years since his death have
been years of increased repression and more
murders by the Castro regime. The number of
political arrests doubled between 2010 and
2011, and the first three months of 2012 have
even proven even more brutal and repressive
than the same period last year. While we con-
tinue to mourn the loss of Zapata Tamayo, his
spirit and mission have nonetheless strengthened
Cuba’s courageous pro-democracy movement.

Shortly after Zapata Tamayo’s death, other
pro-democracy activists continued his cause
such as Jorge Luis Garcia Perez (“Antunez”),
who founded the “Orlando Zapata Tamayo
Front for Civic Resistance and Civil
Disobedience.” In so many ways, he still lives.
Among the pro-democracy activists that honor
him and continue his mission, Mr. Zapata
Tamayo is an enduring symbol of persever-
ance in the face of brutal repression.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to
Orlando Zapata Tamayo. Although his life was
brutally cut short, he will forever be a blessing
to Cuba’s courageous pro-democracy move-
ment and to the activists that will not allow
his sacrifice to be in vain.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to
honor Hamilton College on the occasion of its
bicentennial.

Hamilton is one of this Nation’s finest liberal
arts colleges. It is known for its rigorous aca-
ademic curriculum to prepare students for lives
of meaning and purpose. The College is re-
nowned for teaching students to express their
ideas with clarity and precision, to think cre-
atively and analytically, and to act ethically
and with conviction.

Hamilton College was originally founded in
1793 as the Hamilton-Oneida Academy by the
Reverend Samuel Kirkland, missionary to the
Oneida Indians. Rev. Kirkland’s vision was to
educate the children of the Oneidas alongside
the children of the white settlers streaming into
Central New York following the American
Revolution. He presented his plan of education
in 1793 to President George Washington who
“expressed approbation” and to Secretary of
the Treasury Alexander Hamilton who lent his
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compete 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 Calvin Coolidge; 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 A. McFaul, and Howard 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 distinguished 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 hundredth 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 recognize the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture. It was 150 years ago to this day that President Abraham Lincoln established the USDA.

As Americans, we have been blessed with the most successful agricultural economy on earth. U.S. consumers spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable income on food—the lowest of any developed nation in the world. In Europe, consumers spend double that percentage and, in developing countries, consumers often spend more than half of their income on food. As Americans, 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 challenges on a daily basis to provide our nation with a safe, abundant and affordable food supply. More and more, our producers will be depended upon to feed not only Americans here at home, but a growing world population. I am confident our producers, our research institutions and the private sector will be able to harness innovation to meet the daunting challenge of feeding a world population that is expected 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. It is with great respect for the farmers and ranchers in Southern Missouri I represent, and those in industry and our research institutions, that I recognize agriculture’s great success story over the last 150 years.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to federal office, I have been a champion for women’s equality and have introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, ERA, for the last 15 years. I firmly believe that this important legislation until women are included in the Constitution.

Despite determined efforts by many dedicated activists, the ERA has never become part of our Constitution. On the 40th anniversary of the Congress passing the Equal Rights Amendment, I was joined by a number of speakers who spoke about the importance of equality for women. I submit their comments below to demonstrate the wide support for this Constitutional amendment. It is my great hope that we will soon realize a time when my bill does not need to be reintroduced and speeches and events to raise awareness of the ERA are not needed; simply put, a time when the ERA has been adopted and true equality has finally been achieved.

REMARKS ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

SARAH BEAR
REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

On my way in today on the metro, I was carrying one of those green ERA signs, a woman came up to me and said “Wow—that ERA sign is old.” No kidding! Too old in my opinion. Hopefully we can soon put all these signs in the Sewall Belmont House as historical artifacts no longer needed for lobbying! Meanwhile, in a number of states and localities the issue of ERA is back on the political map. In the last 15 years, I have encountered that believe the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed. They are shocked when I break the unfortunate news to them that it has not, in fact, been passed. Shouldn’t this, in and of itself, be surprising? The ERA stands for both gender equality and an issue that has been close to my heart for many years.

The Equal Rights Amendment is our number one priority. It is time to ensure that they have an equal place in American life. It is fitting for our Constitution to include in its basic law the principle that discrimination based on sex has no place in American life. It is for our daughters and granddaughters to be reminded that their parents and grandparents took a stand to protect their futures and to ensure that they have an equal place in modern America.

In closing, let me stress that the ERA is still the right thing to do, not only in principle but in every day practice. Thank you for your continued, dedicated efforts.

JANET KOPHENHAVER, F.E.W.
REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

I want to thank Rep. Carolyn Maloney and all the co-sponsors on the ERA bill for their continuing support of women’s issues. I am so happy to be here representing Federally Employed Women. The enactment of an Equal Rights Amendment is an issue that has occupied our number one legislative priority and our members have been busy sending letters to their Representatives urging them to co-sponsor this critical bill.

On my way today on the metro, I was carrying one of those green ERA signs, a woman came up to me and said “Wow—that ERA sign is old.” No kidding! Too old in my opinion. Hopefully we can soon put all these signs in the Sewall Belmont House as historical artifacts no longer needed for lobbying! Meanwhile, in a number of states and localities the issue of ERA is back on the political map. In the last 15 years, I have encountered that believe the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed. They are shocked when I break the unfortunate news to them that it has not, in fact, been passed. Shouldn’t this, in and of itself, be surprising? The ERA stands for both gender equality and an issue that has been close to my heart for many years.

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SARAH BEAR
REMARKS BY SARAH BEAR, EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 22, 2012

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