

outstanding American, who passed away earlier this year.

Dick Reiners was born September 24, 1907, on a small farm east of Lennox, SD, and passed away on January 15, 1995, at his rural home north of Worthing, SD. Throughout his life he was dedicated to his family, his community, and the land in which he lived.

As a father and husband, Dick epitomized the term "family values." He was faithful, honest, and loyal and he passed those values on to his children and grandchildren. As a member of the community, Dick was constantly active in improving the quality of people's lives. He served on numerous boards, including his church, his children's school district, the Farmers Home Administration, and the South Dakota Farmers Union. He was also actively involved in politics and labored tirelessly for the people he believed in.

As a farmer, Dick held a reverence for the land and its capacity for production. He was a hard worker and an eternal optimist.

Dick spoke his mind. He never gave up. He was always a kind and thoughtful man.

During my travels as a U.S. Senator, I am constantly humbled by the people of my State—people like Dick Reiners—and the basic principles by which they live their lives: a love of family, an obligation to community service, and a strong commitment to an honest day's work. Those who knew Dick Reiners learned much from him, and I am honored to say that he was my friend. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO THE 87TH ENGINEER BATTALION (HEAVY PONTOON)

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Army organization in recognition of its distinguished service to this Nation and extraordinary performance during World War II. The 87th Engineer Battalion was the first heavy pontoon battalion activated at Fort Benning, GA, on August 1, 1940. Also trained at Fort Benning, this battalion went ashore at Utah Beach in the Normandy landing to build the bridges needed to liberate France. Among the many rivers that had to be crossed were the Meuse, the Saar, and the Moselle. The 87th Engineers bridged them all.

This brought the 87th Engineer Battalion to the most awesome and difficult of all European rivers, the Rhine. Fifty years ago today, on March 24, 1945, the 87th Engineer Battalion made history when they constructed the longest pontoon bridge in the world across the Rhine River at Oppenheim. Despite shortages of personnel and equipment, the 87th was ordered to move Patton's 3d Army across the Rhine. They built a 1,237 foot span in 13 hours while under constant enemy attack. Their efforts resulted in the establishment of the second American bridgehead across the Rhine and contributed directly to the overall success

of Allied operations. When they were not building bridges, the soldiers of the 87th Engineer Battalion assisted in hauling thousands of tons of critical supplies from the beaches to the interior depots. Their successful accomplishment of this critical mission helped to maintain the Allied momentum throughout the war.

The soldiers of the 87th Engineer Battalion repeatedly distinguished themselves as professional soldiers, technically competent engineers, and great Americans whose performance of duty was outstanding.

For their efforts and impressive successes, it is my privilege to wish the World War II veterans of the 87th Engineer Battalion the best in the years ahead and join the Nation in expressing our heartfelt thanks for their dedication and selfless devotion and service to the United States of America.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY 1995

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, tomorrow marks the 174th anniversary of the opening of the struggle by the Greek people for independence from the Ottoman Empire. I am honored to be a sponsor of the resolution designating tomorrow, March 25, 1995, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.

Greek Independence Day celebrates the independence the Greek people achieved after almost 400 years of foreign control. In all those years of domination and repression, the people of Greece retained their passion for democracy. This passion is alive and well today.

The United States and Greece have a long history of shared democratic ideals and beliefs, when our Founding Fathers designed the American form of government, they took inspiration from the democratic traditions of ancient Greece. Later, Greek patriots in the struggle against the Ottoman Sultan followed the example of the American Revolution in their fight for freedom and their efforts to design their new government.

In this century, Greece has been an outstanding ally and leader in the fight for democracy; 9 percent of all Greeks, gave their lives to help stop the tyranny of Hitler. Together Greece and the United States fought against communism throughout the cold war and together we must work to solve the problems of the post-cold-war era.

On this special occasion, it is fitting to pay tribute to all the contributions that the Greek people have made to American life, both as valuable members of our own society and as members of a nation that was the birthplace of democracy.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION

Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to join the Greek American

community as they celebrate the 174th anniversary of the beginning of their revolution for independence from under the yoke of the Ottoman Empire.

I and 47 of my colleagues in the Senate joined together to commemorate this historic event by cosponsoring Senate Resolution 79, a resolution commemorating March 25, 1994, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy.

From their first settlement in the 18th century in St. Augustine, FL, to one of the largest Greek communities in America, Astoria, NY, the Greek people have been an influential segment of American society. Their history, culture, language, religion, and of course native culinary artistry, have enriched all of America. Greece has contributed great things in the areas of arts, education, medicine, and philosophy, but no contribution was more precious than that of democracy.

Born in Athens during the age of Pericles and nurtured in the United States, the principles of democracy are now being practiced throughout the world. This new wave of democracy, would never have come to fruition had it not been for Hellenistic political thought. We will always be indebted to Greece for giving us this most precious gift.

AG WEEK

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President. This week is National Ag Week. It is the one week of the year that we take time out to applaud America's farmers for what they give to us every week of the year. Undoubtedly, they are the most progressive, most efficient, and most productive in the world.

American agriculture is an industry to be proud of. America exports more than 43 billion dollar's worth of food products every year—that is a trade surplus of \$17 billion. Agriculture also employs more than 21 million Americans.

But those numbers don't tell the whole story. Every day, Americans eat. So every day, we all depend on the American farmer. We expect the best from our farmers—and they deliver. We have a cheap, wholesome, safe, and dependable food supply. No doubt about it, we as consumers are getting a pretty good deal.

Agriculture has made exciting advances this last year. Most important, GATT and NAFTA have opened up new trade opportunities for American agriculture. Finally, America's farmers will gain access to millions of new customers around the world.

At home, Republicans are leading the charge to reduce the regulatory, paperwork, and tax burdens which depress the farmer's bottom line. As we work to rein in the Federal Government, we will focus on preserving the programs that advance American agriculture in the world market place.

Today, agriculture is on the verge of a new era. I believe that 100 years from now, historians will look back and recognize this time as a turning point in the history of American agriculture. Both locally and globally, things are changing fast.

Agriculture is now a global industry—an industry where American farmers will play an increasingly important role. The Census Bureau estimates that the world population will increase by 50 percent in the next 20 years. Today, 1 American farmer can feed 129 people. Tomorrow that farmer must feed more. America's farmers have already started preparing to meet these demands. Less than 100 years ago, the first gasoline tractor was built. Now, farmers are using satellite technology to customize planting and fertilizer use. That increases yields, reduces costs, and benefits the environment. These are the types of innovative programs we should encourage in the 1995 farm bill.

Mr. President, there is a saying in Kansas: If you do not eat, then do not worry about the farmer. So this week, National Ag Week, we recognize that each of us has a vested interest in the vitality of American agriculture. I look forward to working with my colleagues during this pivotal year to ensure that American agriculture remains a world leader in this new era.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, as America celebrates National Agriculture Week, I rise to pay tribute to our country's farmers and ranchers.

THE GROWING SEASON

This Tuesday was the first day of spring. The time of rebirth and renewal. All over the country, farmers are preparing to till the soil and plant the seeds that they hope will lead to a bountiful harvest. Ranchers see newborn calves and lambs. In Montana and across America, producers are getting ready for the future with hope and confidence.

They know only too well that lack of rain, too much rain, or other uncontrollable natural events can destroy their crop. They know they are in a risky business. And yet they continue to brave the risks and work long hours, because of the satisfaction that comes with working and living on your own land.

These are hard working folks. They are survivors who make up Montana's number one industry, creating nearly \$2 billion a year for our economy. And their work gives Americans the best, cheapest and safest food supply in the world.

BEFORE THE FARM PROGRAM

Today we take all that for granted. We think it is natural. But it is not. It is the result of careful policy, and cooperation between producers, consumers, and government.

As we begin to redraft our farm bill this year—and as some with short

memories call for eliminating farm programs completely—we should remember what happened before we had any farm programs.

In those days, producers lived through drastic cycles of boom and bust. A hard-working and prosperous family one year could be destitute the next.

As Mike Malone recalls in his book "Montana: A History of Two Centuries":

During 1929-1930, a new ordeal of drought and depression began in Montana . . . By midsummer of that terrible year, twenty-eight of Montana's fifty-six counties had filed for aid from the Red Cross. Most of those counties lay in the arc of dry-farming and stockgrowing lands that reached from the High Line north of the Missouri River to the southeast along the Dakota state line . . .

An amount of wheat worth \$100 in 1920 brought only \$19.23 in 1932. Beef cattle sold for \$9.10 per hundredweight in 1929; in 1934, the price was only \$3.34. Sheep brought \$8.14 per hundredweight in 1929 but only \$3.12 in 1934.

Daniels County, in the state's northeastern corner, typified the crisis. During the good years of the late 1920s, the country seat, Scobey, had advertised itself as the world's largest wheat shipping point. By the spring of 1933, 3,500 of the county's 5,000 people needed relief assistance.

SUCCESS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

This disaster was only the worst in a series. The heartland suffered equally traumatic disasters in 1893, 1907 and 1920. But this time, Franklin Roosevelt responded by creating the first Federal farm support programs.

Since then, we have had good times and bad. But farm programs have prevented crises on that scale. And during this time, American farmers have created a productive revolution unmatched in history.

They have revolutionized agricultural productivity. They have used hard work and state-of-the-art research, to develop new sustainable farming techniques, thus protecting our natural resources. And they continue to be most productive agricultural producers in the world.

According to USDA's Economic Research Service, farm output per unit of input increased by 26 percent between 1982 and 1991.

As a result, Americans spend the lowest amount of their disposable income on food of any nation in the world. Just 9.3 percent, less than a dime in a dollar of income.

THE 1995 FARM BILL

Today, if the Congress goes too far in a thoughtless rush to eliminate farm programs simply for the sake of cutting, we could return to those days of boom and bust.

Less severe consequences could include lower soil and water quality. Loss of wildlife habitat.

Lower farm incomes, and thus higher rates of outmigration from rural America. From the consumer's point of view, if we are not careful, America could wind up depending on imports of food to give our citizens enough to eat each day.

We must help our producers make American agriculture more competitive and more profitable in the international market place. We must continue to develop new sustainable farming techniques. We must make sure the children and grandchildren of today's rural families can still live and work on their own land.

Mr. President, I look forward to the job. The FFA, the national youth organization for the improvement of agriculture, begins their creed with the statement, "I believe in the future of farming." I believe in that future, too.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in honor of Greek Independence Day, a national day of celebration marking 174 years of freedom for the modern Greek people. The achievements of ancient Greece in art, architecture, science, mathematics, philosophy, drama, literature, and most importantly—democracy—have become legacies for succeeding ages to emulate. Modern Greece, born of these same roots, also has given much to the present day world and especially to the United States.

Many Americans can trace their heritage back to the glory of Athens. Greek-American Dr. George Kotzias developed medicine to combat the scourge of Parkinson's disease. Maria Callas, the Brooklyn-born opera soprano, provided us a legacy of beautiful music. Young Pete Sampras reminds us of the important contribution the Greeks have made in the field of athletics as he continues his outstanding command of the game of tennis. Greek-Americans have also contributed to the might of America's business and industry showing true entrepreneurial spirit. In Operation Desert Storm, Lt. Gen. William "Gus" Pagonis, U.S. Army, retired, successfully commanded the most complex sea, land, and air mobilization executed by a military force since the Second World War. And, of course, in this body today are two of the most outstanding Greek-American citizens in this country, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE and Senator PAUL SARBANES.

On Monday, I will be visiting with a number of other Greek-American leaders to commemorate Greek Independence Day. Foremost among them will be his His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos, the spiritual leader of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America.

On this day, it is important to remember that American democracy would not exist today had the Greeks not believed in the power of the people to govern. As Pericles said some 2,000 years ago, "our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of the minority, but of the