

operating loan over time. I would like to point out that my bill will not guarantee acceptance of applications submitted to the FSA. Farmers would still have to go through an application process, but if the individual is eligible and accepted he or she would have the opportunity to receive adequate financing through a farm ownership or operating loan. In order to preserve the family farm and continue America's tradition of promoting the family farmer, we must provide a mechanism which enables them to receive the funds necessary for ownership and operation of a farming business.

Congress appropriates money for the FSA Guaranteed Loan Program each year. Shouldn't we put this money to its best and most efficient use? Should we also be willing to step back and take a good look at what a family farmer in 1997 really is? Of course we should use these funds as efficiently as possible and in a way that positively affects our overall economy. As for the family farmer, they still exist and are successful, but they aren't the same as they were 19 years ago in 1978 or even in 1984. Why?

Well, let's take a look at some of the changes that have occurred over this period. First of all, markets have become global. Not only do our farmers have to compete with each other, but also farmers around the world in China, Japan, Russia, Canada, Mexico just to name a few. Technology and research have both been overwhelmingly successful in allowing us to increase our production with less land, enabling us to idle environmentally sensitive land that is less productive and therefore ensure that we never revert back to the "Dust Bowl" days of the 1930's. Capital intensive is a word that was not as common in the late 1970's and early 1980's as it is today. In fact, we cannot talk about agriculture today without mentioning how the industry has drastically shifted from a labor-intensive industry to an industry dominated by capital. Twenty years ago, who could have imagined that we would be using satellites to level our land or to tell us exactly where chemical application was needed? Who could have imagined that biotechnology would yield such complex seed developments? Who could have imagined that we would have the technology to so closely monitor the growth of our animals that we would have the ability to specifically and scientifically regulate diets in order to achieve faster growth with less fat? My point, Mr. Speaker is that agriculture has changed and so has the family farmer.

The Guaranteed Loan Program was designed to help the family farmer. In order to continue this goal, we must address the needs of today by providing the capital necessary to compete and be successful. The family farmer is a larger operator relative to 1978 standards. We need cap limits that reflect this change. If we truly want to help the family farmer, let's fix a program that has historically been successful in helping this critical sector of our country. Let us not stop the progress of our farmers. We should not deny any eligible person in our Nation the opportunity to own and operate a family farm in order to pursue their idea of the American dream. This legislation will help our farmers expand their opportunities, increase our markets, improve our competitiveness, and make possible those dreams.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GUARANTEED FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS; INDEXATION TO INFLATION

Section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1925) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$300,000" and inserting "\$600,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 1998, by inflation percentage applicable to the fiscal year in which the loan is to be made or insured)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this section, the inflation percentage applicable to a fiscal year is the percentage (if any) by which (A) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as defined in section 1(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the 12-month period ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year, exceeds (B) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as so defined) for the 12-month period ending on August 31, 1996."

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GUARANTEED FARM OPERATING LOANS; INDEXATION TO INFLATION.

Section 313 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1943) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$400,000" and inserting "\$600,000 (increased, beginning with fiscal year 1998, by the inflation percentage applicable to the fiscal year in which the loan is to be made or insured)"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this section, the inflation percentage applicable to a fiscal year is the percentage (if any) by which (A) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as defined in section 1(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) for the 12-month period ending on August 31 of the immediately preceding fiscal year, exceeds (B) the average of the Consumer Price Index (as so defined) for the 12-month period ending on August 31, 1996."

TRIBUTE TO PAUL CHOW

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Paul Chow. Mr. Chow is being honored by the Angel Island Association for his 25-year crusade leading the preservation and restoration of the Detention Barracks at Angel Island State Park.

In addition to helping prevent the demolition of the barracks, Mr. Chow founded the Asian-American Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee to restore the barracks and protect the Asian history and poetry carved in the walls. He was also instrumental in the creation of a museum at the former Immigration Station on Angel Island.

In recognition of his accomplishments in the areas of historical, cultural and natural preservation, Mr. Chow was the recipient of the Phoenix Award, presented by the Society of American Travel Writers. He continues to volunteer his time to guide hundreds of people through the Immigration Station, relaying personal stories about the struggles of his own family during their time at the station as they became citizens.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Paul Chow. His dedication and success to preserve a piece of history is admirable. I wish Paul and his family the best.

ROSAIRE "ROSS" RAJOTTE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend Rosaire "Ross" Rajotte on a distinguished and storied dual commitment of service to both his country and the community of Northbridge, MA. Remarkably, Ross Rajotte earned four Purple Hearts during World War II. He then returned home after the war to become a leader in municipal affairs, serving three times on the board of selectman, and as its chairman once, as well as helping establish both Northbridge's conservation commission and the planning and zoning board of appeals. An activist by nature, Ross Rajotte must also be recognized for his impeccable commitment of service to his community, which has witnessed Ross attend an incredible 50 consecutive annual town meetings. Ross' genuine concern for others is truly a product of his community's similar desire to promote the public good.

Mr. Speaker, I insert into the RECORD two newspaper articles about Ross Rajotte, one from the Worcester Telegram and Gazette and one from the Northbridge Times, detailing Ross Rajotte's outstanding and distinguished service.

[From the Northbridge (MA) Times, May 15, 1997]

FIFTY IN A ROW—ROSS RAJOTTE STARTED ATTENDING TOWN MEETING IN 1947—AND HASN'T MISSED AN ANNUAL SINCE

(By Rod Lee)

Standing on the Whitinsville Town Common for middle schoolers' Civil War Monument Rededication Ceremony last Thursday morning, Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte was still sky-high from having attended his fiftieth consecutive Annual Town Meeting less than forty-eight hours earlier—an unprecedented mark at least within the Blackstone Valley and possibly throughout the Commonwealth and the nation.

Rajotte had reason to rejoice: not only did two of the three articles he submitted by petition for the warrant win voter approval on the floor of the Northbridge High School auditorium last Tuesday evening, he was also singled out for praise by Town Moderator Harold D. Gould Jr. and received legislative proclamations and standing ovations from fellow residents in recognition of his remarkable achievement. He is to Northbridge Town Meeting in terms of longevity what the fabled and now-retired runner Johnny Kelley is to the Boston Marathon.

Most persons in their mid-seventies like Rajotte, or approaching that age, and a few who have even passed it, admit they cannot fathom such stalwartness.

Even Whitinsville Attorney Joseph Jundanian, who will turn eighty-two in September, shakes his head in wonder when he contemplates Rajotte's record.

"I'm not that faithful," Jundanian said. "I started attending in the 1950's, but I haven't gone to every meeting. Ross, he's a living legend."

"I'm perhaps the oldest active public official in the state of Massachusetts because I was nominated for the Northbridge Housing Authority in 1956 and am still a member. I've had cause to be at Town Meeting on most occasions. But Ross is a very active person, and deserves a great deal of credit."

Another Town Meeting "old-timer," Jerry Bagdasarian, says that compared to Rajotte,

"I'm a newcomer. I've been attending probably twenty years, no more than twenty-five. I was always more involved in the national scene until my brother Peter told me what happens locally is more important. I give Ross a lot of credit."

Brunham P. Miller says he has been attending Town Meeting "since moving back to the area in 1957"—and so has racked up nearly forty appearances of his own. But Miller has missed several of those, one because he was ill and at least one other because he was away. He has known Rajotte a long time and admires his commitment.

"I served with Ross on the first Charter Commission," Miller said. "He was active then and still is. He's so dedicated and concerned about town government. What he believes in he believes in strongly, and he works hard to bring it about."

Robert McConnell, who serves as assistant town moderator and who's been a teller at Town Meeting for a number of years, said he began attending "sometime in the 60's" and says he considers it amazing "how loyal Ross has been all that time. When I was first on the Finance Committee," McConnell said, "I honestly didn't realize the man's good intentions. I thought he was a pest. I came to realize he has the best interests of the town at heart and whether you agree with him or not on an issue, he always treats you the same."

New Northbridge Town Manager William Williams, who attended his first Northbridge Town Meeting, said he has never met anyone quite like Rajotte.

"I have encountered people like him, but this is the first time I've met someone who brings such objectivity to their attendance, and not just a negativity. I've seen people who are veterans of Town Meetings, but usually they're 'Rogue's Gallery'-type characters."

"Two of my articles passed!" Rajotte beamed last Thursday, seemingly as pleased by this hoopla over his fiftieth. Article 26, which asked voters for the appropriation of \$600.00 to print a large-book real estate and personal property valuation list, was approved. So too was the last article on the warrant, Article 30, which called for selectmen to ask members of Congress and the State Legislature to file bills not to allow public funds to be used to perform abortions. Article 28, seeking establishment of a five-member Consumer Advisory Board appointed by selectmen, was rejected.

One highlight of Spring Annual Town Meeting was approval by voters of a \$11.3 million School Dept. budget that represents a 13.5 spending increase over FY '97—and \$40,000 to fund consultant services towards determining a site for a new high school.

[From the Worcester (MA) Telegram and Gazette, May 6, 1997]

RAJOTTE HITS "TREMENDOUS" MILESTONE
(By Jim Bodor)

NORTHBRIDGE.—No one will ever call Rosaire J. "Ross" Rajotte a quitter.

During World War II, he was injured four times—earning four Purple Hearts—before he finally left the battlefield.

He caught a piece of shrapnel in his chest in Germany, a piece of mine in the head in France, and a bullet in the back of the neck in France.

But it wasn't until shrapnel ripped off part of his right foot in Germany that he was forced to end his tour of duty.

Back home in Northbridge, Rajotte's persistence has manifested itself on the town meeting floor.

Year after year, decade after decade, he has argued the pros and cons of every budget, zone change and land purchase to come before the town.

Tonight, Rajotte will attend his 50th consecutive annual town meeting, extending a local record that many believe will never be surpassed.

"There probably has never been a public official as devoted as Ross Rajotte," said Spaulding Aldrich, himself a town meeting veteran of about two decades. "Whether you agree or disagree with him, you have to respect him because he does it because he loves his town."

Rajotte's string of annual town meetings began in 1948, and was inspired by his service in the U.S. Army.

"When I was in the Army they used to talk to us about responsibility, and participating in your government," he said. "So I went when I got home and I liked it and I kept going."

Rajotte has been a member of the Board of Selectmen three times, serving as chairman once. He is credited with starting the town's first Conservation Commission and its first planning and zoning boards of appeals.

He has belonged to several veteran's committees, and has sponsored more than 100 articles at town meeting.

He also has filed countless bills with the state Legislature, on everything from prohibiting public funding of abortions, to mandating that dogs wear diapers in public.

"I never thought I would live this long to do all this," Rajotte said in his lilting French-Canadian accent, which is instantly recognizable to town meeting devotees. "I'll go as long as I can."

Numerous health problems have threatened Rajotte's streak in recent years. A pesky bout with pneumonia, for instance, put him in the hospital as recently as last week.

But his enthusiasm for town government is limitless. He once recruited two softball teams from a nearby ball field to reach a quorum at a town meeting. And he is the sponsor of three articles at this year's town meeting.

One calls for the town to reprint the list of property values in town; another calls for the creation of a consumer advisory commission to protect the elderly from scams; the third calls for the town to notify Congress that it opposes public funding of abortions.

Town Moderator Harold J. Gould, a veteran of 23 town meetings, said Rajotte's streak is particularly amazing at a time when interest in local government seems to be waning.

"Obviously it's a tribute to the individual and his interest in the town and town government," said Town Moderator Harold J. Gould. "To be able to hold a string together like that for 50 years is a tremendous thing."

ADDRESS BY AL HENRY

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit into the RECORD an address delivered to students of Newnan High School in Newnan, Georgia by Al Henry, who is a teacher at the school. This address was delivered May 19, 1997, by Mr. Henry on the occasion of the Academic Teams Reception for Newnan High School.

Having served in the United States Navy for 22 years, upon graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956, and having served in the education field for 16 years, Mr. Henry has come to understand the qualities that young

men and women need to develop in order to become the leaders of tomorrow and to impact the lives of others. Among other points, he encourages individuals to make personal decisions of integrity by doing what is right in a world that often teaches our youngsters early on to do what is expedient. He teaches our youngsters that all professions have high ethical standards, and it is the duty of each individual to learn to follow them faithfully. Finally, his address urges individuals not to speak ill of others or to undermine the community with rumors and unverified stories. Rather, he urges them to respect one another by living and working with selfless humility.

ADDRESS BY AL HENRY TO ACADEMIC TEAMS RECEPTION NEWNAN HIGH SCHOOL—MAY 19, 1997

GUIDELINES FOR LIFE

Every student here tonight is a future leader of his generation—a person who can make a difference in the lives of others. Tonight I want to give you 10 pointers to guide you throughout your life. What qualifies me to give you pointers? I'm certainly not as smart as many of you, but I have lived longer, and have experienced much in my life, made mistakes and learned from those mistakes. So, perhaps, I am a little wiser.

1. Be a person of integrity

Always do what is right rather than worrying about your rights. Integrity heeds the quiet voice within, rather than the clamor without.

2. Lead by example

Set higher requirements for yourself than for those who work for you. The most precious and intangible quality of leadership is trust—the confidence that the one who leads will act in the best interest of those who follow—the assurance that they will serve the group without sacrificing the rights of the individual. The leader must also trust those in his charge to do their job.

3. Uphold high standards

Be responsible, accept your responsibility and know that you are accountable to others as well as to yourself for doing your job to the best of your abilities in accordance with the high standards of your profession—all professions have high ethical standards. Learn what those ethical standards are and follow them faithfully.

4. Strive for excellence without arrogance

While striving to uphold high standards, and thus seeking excellence, remember that excellence with a dose of humility conveys our respect for those around us; others will always recognize true excellence in action. Study art and the humanities. The math and sciences alone are insufficient to a complete education. It is easy to be an arrogant scientist without the humanities. The humanities and the arts give us wisdom, not data. They inherently enlighten us without overloading us with information. The cognitive study of math and science must be combined with the effective study of arts and the humanities for the sake of humanity and humanness. Remember that the aim of education is the knowledge not of facts but of values.

5. Do your best

This is a minimum requirement in all endeavors. If it is worth doing, do it right and do it well.

6. Treat everyone with dignity and respect

The greatest asset of any organization is its people. Treat each other well, look after each other, take care of each other, and together you can achieve great things. Remember that respect begets respect and that