

community. Since he assumed the leadership of the chamber, the organization has grown by leaps and bounds. Today, the chamber's membership includes 215,000 members, 3,000 State and local chambers, and 1,200 trade and professional associations. Additionally, the chamber represents 72 American chambers of commerce abroad in 65 nations.

Programmatically, Dr. Leshar was responsible for establishing the National Litigation Law Center that has successfully represented business interests in Federal court. He was also instrumental in developing the Quality Learning Services Program of the Federation Programs and Services Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This program is dedicated to delivering management seminars and continuing professional education throughout the United States.

Dr. Leshar has been effective in generating new membership and creating new programs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because of his success at making the chamber a more active part of American politics and business. He has energetically promoted the chamber's Grassroots Action Information Network [GAIN] that is dedicated to amplifying the voices of chamber members. He also created the "How They Voted" program, which ranks the voting records of Members of Congress on the basis of their stands on small business issues. Additionally under his watch, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce also launched BizNet—the American Business Network—featuring the shows "First Business" and "It's Your Business."

Leshar, whose two decades as president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have shown him to be an individual dedicated to promoting small business, individual initiative, and effective grassroots political action. Dr. Leshar's advocacy has had but one end—preserving the United States as a land of opportunity. I applaud Dr. Leshar's fruitful career, and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF HERMAN FEHL'S
RETIREMENT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 19 years as a devoted public servant of San Benito County. Mr. Herman Fehl has been recognized as a community leader and visionary in both the job training and community action arenas. It is my privilege to be speaking of this man's countless accomplishments today.

In 1978, Mr. Fehl began his public service as the director of San Benito's Comprehensive Employment Training Act program, which over time evolved into the Federal Job Training Partnership Act program. Three years later, Mr. Fehl, in conjunction with several members of the San Benito board of supervisors, successfully established the county as a Community Action Agency [CAA]. This led to Federal community services block grant funding for San Benito County.

In addition to forming the community action agency, in 1984 Mr. Fehl joined together with several community members to form the San

Benito County Community Services Development Corporation [CSDC]. This nonprofit corporation is dedicated to helping low-income families become self-sufficient. Mr. Fehl watched the CSDC's assets grow from \$30,000 to over \$6,000,000. Under his able leadership, CSDC developed the San Benito Business and Industry Park, which includes the Community Services Building. This is an award-winning one stop Social Services Center.

The newly reorganized Department of Community and Workforce Development is now recognized as the primary provider of comprehensive social services for the low-income community. Due to Mr. Fehl's excellent direction, the Department budget has grown to over \$3,000,000. Its extensive range of services include rental housing assistance, a homeless shelter, utility assistance, emergency food, and first-time homebuyers mortgage assistance, in addition to plans for on-site child care for job training clients.

If a measure of success is recognition from your peers, Herman Fehl's many contributions to the residents of San Benito have been generously acknowledged: Citizen of the Year 1988 for San Benito County; the 1990 League of United Latin American Citizens award for his devoted service to the Hispanic community in San Benito County; and Disaster Relief Coordinator for his heroic leadership during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, please join me saluting an outstanding public servant who has given so much to his community as both a leader and as a citizen. The residents of San Benito County will sorely miss Herman Fehl's commitment to its citizenry but joins me in extending him a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FARMLAND
INDUSTRIES' AG-21

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring my colleagues' attention to a model pollution prevention program and to recognize several Nebraska farmers and their cooperatives for their achievements.

On June 3, 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] awarded one of eight 1997 Pollution Prevention Award to Farmland Industries' AG-21 program for successfully implementing pollution prevention measures in agricultural production. Farmland was the only agribusiness firm to receive the award this year. An interdepartmental committee within EPA's Region 7 evaluated nearly 30 applications for their innovative approaches, techniques, and use of technology in meeting pollution prevention goals.

AG-21 is an innovative crop production process developed by the Farmland cooperative to raise the agronomic, environmental, and managerial standard for its cooperatives across North America. The program is a partnership between local cooperatives, their farmer members, and Farmland Industries. Each brings their unique skills and experience to the project, including support services, cutting-edge technology, and experience with environmentally sound management practices. The

program's goal is to use the best crop production techniques and the latest technology to maximize crop potential in an environmentally friendly manner.

I'm proud to be able to share this news with my colleagues. AG-21 is a unique program with enormous potential. For farmers and all Americans, AG-21 will improve crop yields and quality, sustainability of crop production, and economic yields. Also, it will increase conservation of soil and water, protection of the environment, and protection of human health.

This is the future of environmental protection—it's not government regulation, but individuals working with their communities and businesses to protect the environment while feeding a hungry world. Congratulations to Farmland, its cooperatives, and my producers. Keep up the good work!

TAX RELIEF HELPS AMERICA'S
WOMEN

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of the historic budget agreement this Congress reached with the President earlier this week. For the first time in 16 years, the American people will receive a major tax cut.

What makes this plan so effective, Mr. Speaker, is that it reaches so many different groups of people across our Nation. I am especially pleased by what this tax cut means to America's women.

Our budget agreement is a direct result of Republican efforts to provide for America's families and that begins with helping America's mothers. The \$500-per-child tax credit goes straight to the heart of every family. The mothers of 41 million children will be keeping more of their own money. That means much more for school clothes, groceries, and savings for college tuition.

Mr. Speaker, we did not stop there. Our plan also helps those women who are successful entrepreneurs and business owners. With women now starting businesses at twice the rate of men, a cut in the capital gains tax will help them the most. Republicans want to ensure that those women who are now contributing to our economy as employers and investors continue to do so. But tax cuts not only help those women who already own small businesses, they help open doors for those who wish they could.

We have also reduced estate or death taxes and expanded individual retirement accounts. Because women generally live longer, we need to make it easier for women to save and to inherit family businesses. Republicans are ensuring that women of all ages can remain financially secure, even after the death of a husband.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that our plan to provide tax relief especially helps America's women. The truth is, cutting taxes helps everyone and everyone will benefit from this historic budget agreement.

**MUHLBERG SESQUICENTENNIAL
REMARKS**

HON. PAUL McHALE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. McHALE Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished liberal arts college in my district which opened its doors in 1848 as a military institution. I am honored and proud to announce today that during the coming academic year the college will celebrate its 150th anniversary. That college is Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA.

As I stand here in the House Chamber talking about Muhlenberg College, I can almost feel the presence of the Muhlenberg family. The first Speaker of this House was Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, the son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the founder of the Lutheran Church in America for whom this college is named. His brother John Peter Gabriel and several of their great-grandchildren also served here. In all, six Muhlenbergs served as Members of the U.S. Congress. Likenesses of these great German-Americans can be found on campus as reminders of the college's historic ties to the Lutheran Church and to a young America.

Muhlenberg values its Judeo-Christian traditions which have shaped the liberal arts curriculum offered to its students. The college's mission is to develop students who "will achieve responsible independence and display full respect for the freedom and diversity which characterize human beings." In the mutual pursuit of this mission, the members of the board of trustees, faculty, and administration remain firmly committed to the belief that a "liberal arts education is the most humanly satisfying and pragmatically viable." Students are reminded often that learning is done in a variety of settings with small classes, limited enrollment, a strong student-faculty relationship and a high degree of student involvement in the life and governance of the college. Muhlenberg students graduate not only with a degree, but a deeper understanding of life.

Influencing the ongoing success of Muhlenberg College and its students in president Arthur R. Taylor. In his inauguration address in 1992, this former president of CBS quoted John Henry Newman, who said many hundreds of years ago, "The purpose of all education is to find a life, not just a livelihood." As the most passionate champion for this small, independent college, he has set the course saying, "Let us be known in the future, as we have in the past, by the quality of the students we graduate * * * let us be known for those who will tackle the problems of the environment, disease and hunger, poverty and homelessness * * * known for those who will rebuild America * * * known for those who support society's causes."

President Taylor, together with the faculty and administration, has built a global reputation. Each year more and more applications are received from prospective students with over one-third of the accepted students ranking in the top 10th of their high school class. Students study abroad, they learn foreign languages, they prepare for business in the global marketplace. The quality of the Muhlenberg academic experience has been recognized by Phi Beta Kappa and 13 other national honor societies with chapters at the college.

Mr. Speaker, I take great pride in holding an honorary doctor of laws degree from this noble college. I leave you with president Taylor's own words: "Please understand that this old college, this old clipper ship, regardless of what storm may come, will sail on, top royals flying and gallants set." I know you will join me in applauding Muhlenberg College's 150th anniversary and saluting her next 150 years.

**CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH**

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. CALLAHAN Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Christ Episcopal Church, Alabama's oldest Protestant church, which this year is celebrating its 175th anniversary serving the people of God.

Located in the historic district in downtown Mobile, Christ Episcopal stands at its original construction site of 1822. Like the rest of Mobile, the church, too, has grown and changed over the years, constantly striving to meet the needs of its parishioners.

Originally Protestants from several different denominations came together at this site to worship as well as to serve the community. However, on February 26, 1828, a group met to establish and organize the Protestant Episcopal congregation. It was at this time that the church gained the name Christ Church and the cornerstone was laid for the present sanctuary in 1835.

Over the past 175 years, Christ Episcopal Church has continued to grow and prosper. During this time, it has withstood the winds of hurricanes, the pain of yellow fever, the heat from fires, and the rage of war, and in so doing, Christ Episcopal has truly become a landmark, not just in Mobile, but throughout Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, Christ Episcopal Church officially celebrates its 175th anniversary on Sunday, September 7, 1997. At this time, I wish to commend its parishioners and members for their hard work, dedication, and love of God, and extend to them my very best wishes for much continued success in the years to come.

**TRIBUTE TO FOREIGN LANGUAGES
IN SCHOOLS**

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to share some essays written by Colorado students regarding the educational benefits of learning different languages from around the world. Education is key to the continued success of this great Nation, and it is good to know that these students realize this crucial factor.

MATTHEW WEBER, SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, GRADE 2

I think that kids should learn different languages, because when they grow up, their

job might be going around the world and they probably won't know the language for the place they are in if they don't learn when they are small, so that's one of my thoughts. The other thought is that kids have fun learning different languages.

Here's another example, on Sunday a lady from Germany will visit me and I will want to know German to talk to her. Here's another example, I need to know more Spanish to talk to my foreign language teacher.

MALGOSIA WILCZKIEWICZ, BRECKENRIDGE
ELEMENTARY, 5TH GRADE

Languages around the world are important. Knowing another language can help other people that come from other places and don't speak your language. I came from Poland four years ago and didn't speak any English. Luckily there was a Polish boy that spoke Polish and could communicate to me and help me with my work. Other reasons that it is important to speak another language are because if you want to be an attendant and get trips to other countries; you need to be able to communicate with people. You need to talk to people to see what they need or want. If you want to be a translator for the President or someone else you need to know other languages to translate. These are just some reasons why other languages are important to me, but there are a lot more.

DANIEL MC VICKER, COLORADO ACADEMY, 11TH
GRADE

I am an eleventh-grade student at Colorado Academy, and I am concerned with the increased budget cuts in foreign language programs of our public schools. Even though I am not currently a public school student, I am concerned that, due to the changing nature of social and business interaction in the twenty-first century, our public schools will not be competitive enough in the "global village." Due to the Internet, more people are communicating faster and more easily and more cheaply with one another. Even now, we can see the progression of business on the "net." As other countries become more advanced with their technology the web will cease to be a solely English speaking dominated entity and become more like what its name implies: "World Wide." Students without a firm foundation in a language (or two) could easily become lost in the many business opportunities available on this revolutionary communications network, and lose out to other countries' students where part of the curriculum is the study of another language.

On a more personal note, my experience with learning French (and previous to my time at Colorado Academy, German) has been both pleasurable and helpful. Due to my exposure to both languages, my English vocabulary has been enriched, my knowledge of syntax and proper grammar has increased, and my knowledge of history has grown as well. Also, the knowledge of these two languages has been helpful in dealing with the cultures of the countries that speak those languages, in my visits to France and Germany. With an enhanced knowledge of the culture (thanks to my classes), I was more easily able to interact with the natives, utilizing another benefit of studying a foreign language.

Being knowledgeable of another country's culture is another reason to study a foreign language. In this time of "Global Economy," not knowing about the idiosyncrasies of another culture can be business suicide. Even with a translator, one can still do things with the body that can be considered very insulting to a foreign culture. If the person who accidentally does these things is trying to negotiate a business deal, he will have a lot of explaining to do if he has insulted those with whom he is trying to negotiate.