

leadership, ability and devotion. Ninety-eight percent of the students read at levels above the state average; and the majority of second and fourth graders place in the 60th to 80th percentile of the Stanford Achievement Tests.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once noted that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Bob and Linda Barnes, the lives they've touched over their years at Springville Elementary School will ensure that their influence carries on far into the future.

But it's not just the children of the Springville community that have benefited from the Barnes' time and talents. Whether the Chamber of Commerce, the Salem Lutheran Church, the Concord Republican Committee, or countless other civic and community activities and organizations, Bob and Linda have always been there to provide a helping hand to their neighbors.

While I'm proud to honor the contributions of Bob and Linda Barnes both to the Springville Elementary School and their community, I'm also honored that they are among my closest and dearest friends. For many years we were next door neighbors, and through morning coffees and late-night conversations, I know how deeply Bob and Linda care about the children of the Springville community, and how sorely they will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting Bob and Linda Barnes for their years of service to Springville Elementary School; and in wishing them great health and happiness in their retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, September 13, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 405 through 407. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 405, "yes" on rollcall vote 406, and "yes" on rollcall vote 407.

HELP AMERICA'S FARMERS & RANCHERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the continuing crisis in the farm economy and share with this body a copy of a letter I recently received from a constituent in my Congressional District. America's farmers and ranchers are struggling to deal with some of the lowest commodity prices in decades. Current commodity prices do not even allow farmers to recover their costs of production, much less provide for the needs of their families. When one considers that drought and other damaging weather conditions are also dramatically affecting our crop and livestock production, it is clear that this is nothing short of an emergency situation. And the following letter from a constituent of mine reminds all of us that this situation goes well beyond mere

numbers, projections, and statistics. The fact of the matter is that real people are hurting; the livelihoods of real families and real communities are at risk. This letter from Mr. Bill Faris of Hayti, Missouri, the son of a farmer and someone whose family has farmed for generations, highlights the depth of the problems in farm country and explains why all Americans should be gravely concerned about what is happening out on the farm. I hope Members of Congress will keep Mr. Faris' comments in mind as they vote on farm relief measures that will be considered very soon.

BILL FARIS,

Hayti, MO, August 25, 1999.

Rep. JO ANN EMERSON,
*The Federal Building,
Cape Girardeau, MO.*

DEAR REP. EMERSON, This is a follow up to my earlier letters to you. I had the opportunity to hear you speak at the Rice Field Day on Aug. 18th as I work for the Univ. of MO Delta Center. I was encouraged by what you had to say as you are addressing the central issues facing farmers during this crisis, and it is obvious that you are truly concerned about the plight of our family farmers, and you are taking action to try and help our smaller farmers.

I want you to know I appreciate your efforts on behalf of farmers like my Dad. Unfortunately it is too late for my Dad as I am afraid it will be for many farmers this year.

Dad and I talked the other day, and he told me that he cannot farm after this year. Dad told me that he lost a little over \$50,000 last year due to the low commodity prices and adverse weather conditions and he knows that he will lose more this year than last year. At 72, after a lifetime of doing what he loves the most, farming, Dad knows he has to quit before he loses his home and our farm land. Dad said over the last five years he has used more and more of the money he had put back for his and my Mom's retirement to continue farming, but now he has to quit before he loses it all.

Ms. Emerson, it broke my heart to see the pain and frustration on my Dad's face, but it especially broke my heart to see the helplessness in my Dad's eyes, and to know that there was nothing I could do to help ease Dad's pain. The generations of Faris' farming the land end with my Dad. My Dad is a proud man, and he does not cry easily, but I could see the tears in his eyes as he looked over our land with the resignation that he would never farm it again.

Ms. Emerson, the really sad part of this story is that it will be repeated over and over again at the end of 1999. I fear that thousands of family farms will cease to exist, just as ours will.

I sense a helplessness and a lack of hope in our areas farmers, that I have never seen before. All the farmers laugh with no humor at President Clinton's announcement that many farmers are now eligible for low interest loans. Their standard commit is "what good is a no interest loan let alone a low interest loan when you are losing money each year." Their attitude is that our government seems to want the small farmer to disappear and all we will have left is large corporate farms controlled by a few large conglomerates, and I tend to agree with them.

My Dad is not a large farmer; he only farms 500 acres of wheat and soybeans, but his story is sadly going to be repeated over and over again in 1999. Dad is an excellent businessman, and he is one of the most frugal people I know, but low commodity prices have forced him out of farming. On average Dad lost approximately \$100 per acre in 1998, and he will lose approximately that much again in 1999. Cotton growers will lose more

than that, so you can see what a larger farmer will lose. Our pork producers are facing the same dilemmas as you well know.

Congress must act now, Ms. Emerson, or a way of life that is very dear to me will disappear. Give our farmers legislation that gives them a level playing field in the world markets. Farmers do not need rhetoric from Washington; they need help, and they need it now.

I hope you get a chance to address this issue at our Field Day on Sept. 2nd, and I hope that you can give our farmers some much needed encouragement. I am from Missouri, and our legislators have to show me that they truly care about the plight of our small family farms. I know that you care because you are doing something, please keep up the good work and please keep telling our farmer's story in Washington.

I do not believe many of our legislators realize how serious the problem is, but I know you do.

Again thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of our farmers, and I wish you health and happiness—especially in your new marriage.

Respectfully yours,

BILL FARIS.

STOP THE KILLING IN EAST TIMOR

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, the violence and bloodshed in recent days in East Timor has shocked the world. Pro-Indonesia thugs have run rampant in this tiny former Portuguese colony, killing pro-independence Timorese. The political leadership in Jakarta totally failed in its guarantee of safety to the local Timorese populace, and has become the source of shame both for the government and the Indonesian military.

It is clear that an international peacekeeping force will be necessary to restore order in East Timor. As the Omaha World Herald correctly noted in a September 14, 1999, editorial entitled "First, Stop the Killing," this bloody repression must be stopped. "This is too early to talk about resolving the sides' differences. For now it is enough simply to separate them and try to calm the situation."

Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to this colleagues the excellent editorial in the Omaha World Herald.

FIRST, STOP THE KILLING

Few Americans take any joy in the prospect of sending peacekeeping troops into the violence and intrigues of East Timor. But the situation is relieved greatly by the announcement that Indonesian President B.J. Habibie now welcomes them.

International pressure was mounting to somehow stop the bloodletting. Having to subdue both pro-Indonesian militias and troops, while at the same time strong-arming the legitimate Indonesian government, would have been a daunting prospect. Now Habibie has conceded the obvious—his defense forces can't control the situation—and so relief may be in sight within a few days. Australia, which is literally in the neighborhood, expects to send a force of up to 7,000 on short-notice deployment.

This is appropriate, given the geography and the fact that Australia has been among the staunchest advocates of intervention. It

will be at least as appropriate when other nations of Asian ethnicity in that part of the world can supplement Australia's effort. So far, at least, this is a regional problem in need of regional solutions.

For these reasons, it also is right for the United States basically to stay out—at least for the short term, and possibly for the long. U.S. armed forces taking part are likely to number in the hundreds. Their role would be in support functions—what National Security Adviser Sandy Berger characterized as “airlift to bring forces to the region, logistical and transportation capabilities, communications capabilities.”

The boiling over of East Timor can't be justified, but in hindsight the degree to which it caught the international community napping is a little surprising. Indonesia, which sprawls over 17,000 islands and encompasses hundreds of ethnicities and languages, is a nation that for half a century has been held together by smoke, mirrors and the threat of just what is happening now; violent repression.

East Timor's U.N.-sponsored vote for independence was perceived by the militias and the military as a foretaste of similar efforts in other independence-minded regions, of which there are several. And since by the military's and militia's perception, they have only one tool with which to “repair” the situation, that's the tool they're using.

The whole world is watching the rivers of blood that are the result. It cries out to be stopped. This is too early to talk about resolving the sides' differences. For now it is enough simply to separate them and try to calm the situation.

Down the road, better solutions are needed—in part for humanitarian reasons, but also for practical ones. Indonesia is flung across a vast reach of water linking the Pacific and Indian oceans, and through this maze of islands threads a major oil-shipping lane. The effects of disrupting that could ripple through economies worldwide.

For now, though, the most urgent need has just one focus: Stop the killing. It's heartening to see events there aimed toward that end.

THE INFLUENCE OF CUBAN AMERICANS

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend to you the attached article written by Mr. Frank Calzon, entitled “Blame Castro, not the Cubans.” Mr. Calzon is the executive director of the Center for a Free Cuba in Washington, DC, and is a tireless fighter for democratic causes. I believe Mr. Calzon makes an excellent case in his article and I encourage my colleagues to learn from it.

BLAME CASTRO, NOT THE CUBANS

Although prejudice can be found anywhere, Americans might be shocked that bigotry has raised its ugly head in the upper reaches of the Clinton administration.

The pugnacious debate about Cuba has grown uglier since The New York Times quoted unnamed administration officials asserting that Cuban Americans hold U.S.-Cuba policy hostage. If this were said about the NAACP's interest in South Africa, or the Jewish-American community's concerns about Israel, cries of outrage against such bigotry would resound across America.

While critics might object to the influence of Cuban Americans, interest groups (ethnic, regional, professional, corporate, etc.) are simply a fact of life. When Cuban Americans write to their members of Congress, they are exercising their right to petition the government for redress of grievances. When my sisters attend a political rally, they are enjoying the right of assembly guaranteed by the Constitution. Until now, I believed that when my parents register and vote, they are fulfilling a civic responsibility. But now I know that “a senior government official” thinks that what they are really doing is “holding U.S. policy hostage.”

To note the virulent attacks on the Cuban-American community is not to assert that its members are exempt from responsibility for the shrillness of the debate. We are not. But it might be instructive to remember that whether it was workers attempting to unionize 100 years ago, African Americans demanding an end to discrimination in the 1960s, or women struggling to achieve equality today, the victims of great injustices are sometimes a nuisance to those not interested in their plight.

What could Cuban Americans say that would be so objectionable?

That the administration's accords with Fidel Castro have been negotiated in such secrecy that sometimes not even the Cuba desk at the Department of State is informed.

That the “adjustments” in Cuba policy are often presented as *fait accompli*, ignoring the Congress and U.S. laws.

That the government's spinning and lawyerly hair-splitting over-shadow Cuba policy, promoting a mind-set that believes in giving Castro the benefit of the doubt. The most recent example: the suggestion that a legal opinion is needed to determine whether the embargo statutes prohibit not only American sales to the Cuban government but also sales through the Cuban regime.

The debate provides a sobering commentary on the values held by some American elites on the eve of the 21st Century.

For some, Castro is the one remaining beacon in a pantheon that once included Josef Stalin, Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh. As long as Castro or North Korea's Kim Il Sung, the son of the deceased Kim Il Sung, remain in power, it can be said that the socialist experiment has not been a complete fiasco.

Yet the American people have an instinctive aversion to tyranny and object to providing assistance that could lengthen Castro's rule. Most Americans agree that the problem is Castro, not the Cuban Americans. Because Castro refuses to base U.S.-Cuban relations on any—sort of reciprocity—and certainly because of his abhorrent human-rights record—those seeking to soften the sanctions rely on “spinning” policy, redefining the meaning of the law and slandering the Cuban-American community.

How did it come to be, that without further congressional action, the Cuban Adjustment Act—which protected Cuban refugees since the mid-1960s—now has a different meaning?

Furthermore, what prevents other laws from being subjected to similar whims of the executive branch?

What prevents other communities—blacks interested in South Africa, Irish-Americans concerned about Ireland and Jewish-Americans following events in Israel, for instance—from being accused by unnamed government officials of holding American policy hostage because they disagree with the government?

The implications of this issue obviously extend beyond Cuban Americans.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES E. MOORE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Lieutenant General James E. Moore on January 30, 1999. General Moore served bravely in battle, and served the community equally well in overseeing the closure of Fort Ord Army base.

General Moore was born into the military, at Fort Thomas Kentucky on June 28, 1931. He grew up both in the United States, much of those years near Salinas California, and in China. After graduation from West Point, he earned his master's degree in education from Columbia University. He also graduated from the Air Command and Staff College and the Army War College. He commanded a combat battalion in the 25th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands of Vietnam in 1966 and 1967. His leadership skills were recognized when, in 1985, General Moore was assigned the command of the combined field army in Korea, the largest field army in the free world. His honors include the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Air Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badges, Legion of Merit with an Oak Leaf Cluster, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Senior Parachutist's Badge and Ranger tab. General Moore was a man of modesty and compassion, putting the troops ahead of himself, even letting the soldiers eat first when he joined them in the mess hall. He has been described by colleagues as a gifted, natural leader.

When General Moore retired in 1989, he and Joan, his wife, returned to the Fort Ord area. Within a few months, the Army announced base closure plans, with Fort Ord one of the first designated for conversion. Then-Congressman Leon Panetta, aware of General Moore's accomplishments and his willingness to be of service to the community, urged him to establish a task force that would undertake the monumental job of coordinating federal, state and county agencies with the 12 cities in the area and with the military. There were no precedents for the undertaking. Working on a volunteer basis, General Moore spent over two years overseeing comprehensive studies, discussions and negotiations, finally producing a 600-page document that has become the blueprint for military conversion and reuse planning.

Although he continued to participate peripherally in the continuing reuse planning, General Moore again went into retirement, looking forward to reading, traveling, photography and his hobby of building model sailing ships. The appreciative community honored his contributions with a dinner at the Monterey Conference center.

Lieutenant General James E. Moore is survived by his loving wife, Joan; his three daughters, Elizabeth, Susan and Mary; and his four sons, James Moore IV, Robert, Michael, and Matthew; a step-mother Annie; and his sister Patricia, and eleven grandchildren. He was a born leader, a mentor, a man who generously gave and received great respect. He undertook the most challenging tasks with a positive attitude, so it is no wonder that his achievements were many. Everyone who had