

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening, September 27, I was unavoidably detained and thereby absent for votes on rollcall Nos. 448, 449, 450, 451, and 452. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 448, "yea" on rollcall No. 449, "yea" on rollcall No. 450, "yea" on rollcall No. 451, and "yea" on rollcall No. 452.

IN RECOGNITION OF ELIJAH M. HUTCHINSON, EAGLE SCOUT

HON. NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Elijah M. Hutchinson, Boy Scout, from Greenpoint, Brooklyn who will be honored on October 10, 1999, for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scouts are awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout based on their faith and obedience to the Scout Oath. The Scout Oath requires members to live with honor, loyalty, courage, cheerfulness, and an obligation to service.

The rank of Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Scout can earn. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required. The merit badges an Eagle Scout must earn range from First Aid to Camping to Citizenship of the Community, Nation, and the World. What's more, each Eagle Scout must demonstrate leadership in the community, and must complete an Eagle Project that he must plan, finance, and execute. Elijah has accomplished all this and more.

In receiving this special recognition, Eagle Scout Elijah M. Hutchinson will, I believe, guide and inspire his peers toward the beliefs of the Scout Oath. I am proud to offer my congratulations to Elijah on this exceptional accomplishment.

PETE GRANILLO—THCC's 1999 HISPANIC BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Hispanic leader in the Tucson community, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo. Because Mr. Granillo has had such a positive impact on the business environment for Hispanics and because he has generously supported many charities within the Hispanic community, he has been named the 1999 Hispanic Businessman of the Year by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Granillo has been a recognized leader within the Hispanic business community for many years. His concern for improving the business opportunities available to minority contractors led him to found the National Association of Minority Contractor's Southern Ari-

zona Chapter. His work with this group has helped it grow into one of the most important business networks for Hispanics in Arizona. He currently serves as its President. Mr. Granillo's local success with the organization has brought him to national prominence and he currently serves as the third Vice-President to the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC)—National Chapter.

In addition to Mr. Granillo's own successful business activities and the success he has generated for the NAMC, he has been instrumental in expanding the influence and success of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the South Tucson Business Association. Both of these organizations have benefited greatly from his leadership and business acumen. Mr. Granillo has also encouraged Hispanic businessmen and businesswomen to work within the already established business networks. He has led the way in joining and in developing relevant membership opportunities within the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and in the American Subcontractors Association.

Fortunately for many charities, Mr. Granillo's business commitments have not taken all of his time and energies. He has been a member, supporter and contributor to the Old Pueblo Optimist Club, the Knights of Columbus and the South Tucson Weed & Seed Committee. His work with the South Tucson Weed & Seed Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, has helped the program achieve recognition as possibly the best Weed & Seed Program in the nation. Aside from his efforts with established community service organizations, Mr. Granillo has a personal project that he organizes each Christmas: a bicycle drive for the low income children of South Tucson. Through this drive, he obtains up to 100 new bicycles and then delivers them to the children on Christmas Day.

Mr. Granillo is a citizen worthy of national recognition for his many contributions to his community, his state and his country. I applaud his efforts to organize and address the concerns of minority business people, especially minority business contractors. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing one of our most enterprising and committed Hispanic business leaders, Mr. Peter Alonso Granillo.

REPUBLICAN BUDGET FOR MEDICARE DESTROYS PROGRAM'S ABILITY TO SERVE PUBLIC, FIGHT FRAUD, AND PROTECT NURSING HOME PATIENTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the HHS appropriations bill slashes Medicare's administrative budget. To quote from the Committee: "The bill makes available \$1,752,050,000 in trust funds for Federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which is \$390,785,000 below the fiscal year 1999 comparable level and \$264,077,000 below the Administration request."

The Administration had requested about \$200 million worth of user fees, which have no hope of passing in this Congress. As a result, the Appropriations Committee action is a devastating blow to the Nation's seniors and disabled.

If these figures were to become law, our ability to fight Medicare fraud, waste and abuse will be crippled. Our ability to visit nursing homes and other providers to check on quality and protect vulnerable seniors will be 40% of the amount requested by the Administration. It is no exaggeration to say that this budget will lead to the unnecessary death of older citizens.

Speaker Gingrich must still be here. He is the one who said: "HCFA will wither on the vine." This budget achieves that goal—it destroys our ability to administer a compassionate and effective Medicare program.

TRIBUTE TO KARL BOECKMANN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Karl Boeckmann, who will be presented with the prestigious Nelle Reagan Award for Distinguished Community Service by the Olive View-UCLA Medical Center Foundation for his tireless efforts to better his community.

President Kennedy once said, "For of those to whom much is given, much is required." The Nelle Reagan Award was established to honor outstanding individuals, those who have exemplified leadership, volunteerism, and service. For over twenty years, Karl has generously committed his time and resources to many philanthropic causes, such as the John Wayne Cancer Institute, Goodwill Industries, and New Directions for Youth. He has been honored with the William Shatner Partners with Youth Award, the 1996 Humanitarian Award from New Directions for Youth, and the Ellis Island Award.

As a fellow Certified Public Accountant, I know how important honesty, accuracy, and integrity are to Karl.

He exemplifies these characteristics, and reaches out on a daily basis to work toward the empowerment, education, and care in the development of our children.

Coupled with his own efforts to better his community, Karl's wife, Thyra, shares with him active commitments to ChildHelp, USA, where Thyra has served as a Los Angeles board member and executive vice-president, as well as a member of the Coordinating Council national board. Karl credits Thyra as his source of inspiration for his many humanitarian efforts.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Karl Boeckmann, a citizen who has shown an unwavering commitment to the betterment of his community and is deserving of our recognition and praise.

HONORING CAMPOS BROS. FARMS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony and Fermin Campos for

making Campos Bros. Farms into a worldwide operation. Campos Bros. Farms provide almonds of tremendous quality, guided by traditional values of dedication, integrity and personal attention.

Campos Bros. Farms is located in the heart of California's fertile San Joaquin Valley, in the small farming village of Caruthers. Fermin and Tony Campos moved to Caruthers from Spain in 1955. Almond growers the world over know of its almond paradise.

Campos Bros. Farms maintains strict standards for each almond's color and size, and any defects are effectively removed. The Campos Bros. maintain their own testing facility for yeast, mold, aflatoxin and other quality issues affecting the international sale of their almonds. Campos Bros. Farms exceed every standard established by the United States and California Departments of Food and Agriculture, and has been recognized for its excellence in technical quality control.

Quality almonds are the result of ideal growing conditions, timely harvest and careful handling. From the front office to their state-of-the-art almond processing facility, Campos Bros. Farms is a family-run business that's clean, orderly and organized. Campos Bros. Farms takes great pride in the fact that it has never missed a shipment, or even been late with one.

Campos Bros. Farms has been an active supporter of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Fresno, Boys Town of Italy, Central Valley Public Television and the surrounding elementary and high schools.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tony and Fermin Campos, the founders of Campos Bros. Farms, for their outstanding service to the community with quality almonds. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Campos Bros. Farms many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO THE MURRAY, KENTUCKY LIONS CLUB

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the 60 years of service performed by the Murray, Kentucky Lions Club located in the First Congressional District of Kentucky.

The Murray Lions Club was founded on September 14, 1939. On September 28, 1999 the Lions will celebrate their 60th Anniversary with a reception and banquet at Murray State University. The program will highlight the Club's six decades of service to the citizens of Murray and Calloway County, including but not limited to providing thousands of eye glasses to children, diabetic supplies, scholarships at Murray State University, and medical equipment to the Murray-Calloway County Hospital Blood Bank.

Mr. Speaker, the Lions also will celebrate the charter night for the Murray State University Lions Club. This new organization sponsored by the Murray Lions Club will complement the rich history and deep tradition of service to community above self by recruiting university faculty, staff and students as Lions Club members dedicated to the service of others.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of people helping people has been one of the distinguishing characteristics of the American experience and of our nation's greatness. It is with appreciation and admiration that I submit this statement in recognition of 60 years of service to community performed by the Murray Lions Club.

LISTEN TO THE MIAMI HERALD ON AGRICULTURE SPENDING

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to your attention the following insightful editorial, which recently appeared in the Miami Herald. I believe they make an excellent case as to why financed sales to the Cuban dictatorship would not benefit the Cuban people.

FOOD SALES TO CUBA WILL BENEFIT ONLY THE REPRESSIVE REGIME

The idea of allowing U.S. firms freely to sell food and medicine to Cuba seems unsailable from afar, a humanitarian gesture toward deprived people, as well as good business for American farmers.

But that's a huckster's pitch being promulgated by U.S. business interests that either misunderstand the way Cuba's politically regimented economy works, or that are trying to break the U.S. trade embargo. Congress shouldn't fall for the pitch to legalize unrestricted food and medicine sales to Cuba.

This isn't about humanitarianism: Selling supplies to the totalitarian regime responsible for so much human misery in no way ensures that any benefits would trickle down to the people of Cuba. This is about money—including money for the regime's repressive machinery.

In Washington this week, the U.S. farm lobby is bringing to a climax its orchestrated campaign against trade sanctions in general and to open Cuba to grain sales specifically. Dreaming about yearly sales that they think could reach \$2 billion within five years, farm groups appear eager to extend plenty of credits and take Cuban sugar or rum in barter. Listen to David Frey, the Kansas Wheat Commission administrator: "With Cuba's stressed economic situation, we are talking about a long-term deal before they are paying cash for a lot of wheat. There will be a time when they will be able . . . to pay cash."

Mr. Frey and his allies are deluding themselves if they believe that selling wheat to a government with no hard currency and a history of stifling business partners is going to save America's farmers. Equally deluded are those well meaning people who think that selling such materials will alleviate the suffering of the average Cuban.

Remember that this is the regime that ruined Cuban agriculture and other industry in the first place. While Cuba's fertile soil and waters no longer produce enough to feed its ration-card weary people, the regime serves lobster to tourists. While Cuban children can't get asthma medication on any given night, foreigners paying for surgery get first-world medicines.

Measures to allow licensed sales of food and medicine were attached to an agriculture appropriations bill by the Senate last month. U.S. Reps. Lincoln Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, both from Miami, helped kill the deal by attaching a provision

that would make such sales contingent on Cuba having free elections.

That should end it. Better access to food and medicine isn't going to solve Cuba's biggest problem. Ridding itself of an odious state will.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MATTSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and acknowledge Bob Mattson. He passed away after 38 years of service and contribution as athletic director and coach at Hollister High School.

Bob was born in Oakland, CA, on November 29, 1925. He served 2 years in the U.S. Navy in World War II and earned a bachelor of arts degree in education from Stanford in 1950. Bob then completed his teaching credential at San Francisco State and a master's degree from San Jose State. Mr. Mattson moved to Hollister in 1953 as a teacher, coach, department chairman and athletic director. He retained those responsibilities until 1983 and then worked as part-time athletic director until full retirement 3 years later. Bob and his wife of 47 years, Diane, are the parents of two children, Bo and Maureen.

Bob had a distinguished career as athletic director and coach of the basketball, wrestling and football teams at Hollister High School. Devoted and well respected, Bob Mattson was an "intense coach of high moral character and he tried to instill that in his players" (Principal Larry Williams, Hollister High School). As a member of the Hollister Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow, Bob enjoyed local and district involvement. He served on a variety of club committees including being appointed to the San Benito County Board of Education as a representative, vice president, and president. Bob had also been appointed to the South County Regional Occupational Program Liaison and devoted several years of service to the community. Bob contributed greatly to our community through serving 25 years as a director for the Root-Hardin Youth Fundraising. On January 1, 1994, Bob was honored with the dedication of the Mattson Gym at the High School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the valuable contributions of Bob Mattson, spanning 38 years, to our community. His leadership and commitment as a role model, teacher and coach as well as an involved member of the community is certainly worth noting. Bob's presence as athletic director will be missed and his years of achievement and devotion will not be forgotten.

CIVIL AVIATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under