

populations along the coastlines have threatened the natural balance of these habitats. Dredging, draining, the construction of dams, sewage spills, and other forms of pollution have led to the degradation and destruction of many estuary habitats.

This measure exemplifies environmental policy based on partnership and cooperation, and not on governmental mandates and regulations. S. 835 encourages states, local governments, and community organizations to work together to identify estuary habitat restoration projects.

Estuaries are national treasures, and they deserve a national effort to protect and restore them. Responding to the growing threats to our bays, sounds, and other coastal waters presents a difficult challenge: federal resources are limited, the need is great, and the pressure on these areas is intensifying. The Estuaries and Clean Water Act takes the necessary steps to protect and restore these natural habitats.

The time to act is now. We are not doing enough to protect these valuable resources. Many estuaries are on the brink of extinction because of manmade pressures. We need to preserve these vitally important habitats. They are an integral part of this country's environmental balance. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

TRIBUTE TO SID YATES

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to join my colleagues in paying special tribute to my good friend and colleague from Illinois, Mr. Sid Yates. Mr. Yates was a good friend. He was there to welcome me here on my first day in Congress and I was glad to have served with him for over a decade.

Mr. Yates and I worked on many bipartisan issues to improve our nation and home state of Illinois. I was always appreciative of his friendship and admired his work both within the Illinois delegation and on the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Yates began his distinguished career as an attorney in Chicago. He was first elected to this House in 1948. As a member of this body, Mr. Yates was a quiet but strong voice.

Mr. Speaker, Sid Yates served this institution, his constituents and community well and he will be greatly missed. I extend my condolences to his wife and family.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE SIDNEY R. YATES

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret and sadness that America has lost a dedicated public servant, the Honorable Sidney Yates.

I served with Sid on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior when he

chaired the Committee and when he was the ranking member. Even though we had our philosophical differences, Sid was a fair chairman and an effective member of the committee. He supported priorities for my district in New Mexico even though he may not have been completely in agreement. But he knew it was important to my constituents so he went along with my request.

Over the years, Sid and I developed a friendship that was characterized by mutual respect, humor and a common goal of public service. We understood each other's priorities and respected one another for the principles we stood for and our commitment to serve our country in the legislative branch of the federal government.

His passion for the arts, his firm resolve to preserve our natural resources and his devotion to Native Americans personify Sid's legacy.

When Sid retired from the House of Representatives nearly two ago, members of this House gave Sid the appropriate acknowledgment for the many years of service to our country. I'm pleased that Sid was present to witness the appreciation for his service.

We will miss Sid. His family remains in our thoughts and in our prayers.

PROVIDING RESOURCES AND EDUCATION FOR KIDS ACT (PRE-K)

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today, kindergarten teachers estimate that one in three children enters the classroom unprepared to meet the challenges of school. Prekindergarten programs are key to helping these young people be ready to learn when they attend their first day of school. Many children, however, do not have access to pre-k programs. While several states, including Wisconsin, are expanding their prekindergarten programs, only one state in the country, Georgia, currently has a universal pre-k program.

To help states meet the challenge of providing quality prekindergarten programs, I introduced the Providing Resources and Education for Kids Act (Pre-K Act) on October 25, 2000. This legislation would provide grants to state education agencies to help establish or strengthen prekindergarten early learning programs that provide full day, full calendar year early learning services for children age five and under. To encourage states to participate and ensure their long-term investment, the bill creates a sliding scale over five years for the federal-state match.

Good quality early education helps children develop, enter school ready to succeed and improve their skills. In fact, studies of several state prekindergarten initiatives offer convincing evidence of the benefits of early education for children at risk of school failure such as higher mathematics and reading achievement, increased creativity, better school attendance, improved health and greater parental involvement. Further, prekindergarten programs have proven cost-effective over time. The Rand Corporation and a team of researchers at the University of Wisconsin estimate that the most effective prekindergarten

programs create savings to the government of \$13,000 to \$19,000 per child. This savings is realized in higher school achievement, less retention in a grade, a reduced need for special education, and less crime.

I hope that Congress would consider this important issue before we adjourn for the year. If, however, we are unable to debate the Pre-K Act, I will work to make it a top priority when the 107th Congress considers the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4811, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS AP- PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss issues concerning the Republic of Macedonia. The largest population of Macedonian-Americans resides in my district. During the Kosovo Crisis, and throughout the wars in the Former Yugoslavia in the 1990's, Macedonia has shown remarkable strength and resilience which has allowed this democratic country to emerge as a point of stability in the Balkans as well as a strong ally of the United States. I believe we need to adhere to our financial commitments and reemphasize our support for Macedonia.

As many of you know, President Boris Trajkovski is engaged in a long-term economic development program following the aftermath of the Kosovo crisis. Also, I understand that the continued border instability is undermining the Republic of Macedonia's overall economic climate and risks future economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the managers of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for including language that strongly supports President Trajkovski's government's efforts to bring stability and economic prosperity to all Macedonians and to the Balkan region.

As a strong supporter of Macedonia, I support the manager's intent to encourage the Department of State to provide adequate resources to fund critical project components of President Trajkovski's Economic Stabilization and Development Plan.

RECOGNIZING DOLORES LARKIN, THE HOT DOG LADY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, recently the Contra Costa Times newspaper wrote an article about a person who has become a fixture in central Contra Costa County. Dolores Larkin has had an amazing career serving hot dogs at Caspers Famous Hot Dogs in Pleasant Hill, California.

For more than 45 years Dolores has done more than serve hot dogs. For all these years she has had to listen to people in our community who have had problems or are down on their luck. It is not unusual to go into Caspers and see Dolores counseling someone about their kids or talking to her own kids. Whenever you walk into Caspers, she always has a smile for you. That is why so many people go out of their way to get a dog at Caspers.

Mr. Speaker, I should know; I have eaten as many Caspers hot dogs as any person in the county. I started eating hot dogs at Caspers in Richmond. There was a rumor when we were young that the record number of dogs eaten in one sitting was 19. On a challenge I tried to break it and got to 14. Even today the debate goes on as to where the best hot dog was served. Was it Chris's in Oakland, Doggie Diner in Oakland and Richmond or Caspers with a "K"?

Mr. Speaker, time turned out to be the test; most of the others are gone now—they just could not compete with the great people at Caspers, especially Dolores who has been a great friend to so many in the community. It is wonderful to see her get this recognition. I submit the following article from the Contra Costa Times:

Hot Dog Lady's a Fixture at Pleasant Hill eatery
(By Katie Oyan)

PLEASANT HILL—Dolores Larkin rarely goes unnoticed.

People point and stare at her in the grocery store, at the doctor's office—even once when she was vacationing in Hawaii.

"Kids will say, 'Look mom, it's the hot dog lady!'" she said, "It used to embarrass me, but it doesn't anymore. I like it."

In November, the 68-year-old great-grandmother will celebrate her 45th anniversary as an employee at Casper's Famous Hot Dogs, a popular hang-out and fast-food joint on the corner of Vivian Drive and Contra Costa Boulevard.

The Concord resident doesn't sling dogs for the money. In fact, the only bad thing one of her managers, Ron Dorian, could say about Larkin is that she sometimes forgets to cash her paychecks.

Instead, the "hot dog lady" said she has stuck around for the company.

"I like my customers—that's why I'm here," said Larkin, wearing her long, dark hair in a pony-tail and bubble-gum pink earrings to match her Casper's apron.

Over the years, Larkin has made Casper's her second home. Of her five children, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, seven of them have worked with her at the restaurant, and some still do. To family, she's known as "Grandma hot dog."

Before coming to Pleasant Hill, Larkin spent five years at the Casper's on First Avenue in Oakland. In 1960, her boss sent her to the Pleasant Hill Casper's to train employees before the restaurant's grand opening. She has been there ever since.

And so have many of her customers.

Bob Wescott, a retired military pilot and researcher, has been a regular for so long, Larkin gave him his own key. Five days a week, he opens the store and starts the coffee, getting a cup ready for Larkin when she comes in.

"Another gentleman and his wife did it for years, but they got too old and said they couldn't do it anymore. I guess I just happened to be there," Wescott said.

A couple of retired Pleasant Hill police officers also lend Larkin a little volunteer labor. They come in each morning and re-

stock the restaurant's paper cups and lids. If there are any light bulbs that need replacing, they do that, too.

"Everyone thinks the world of Dolores," Wescott said. "That's why we do it. She's just an awful nice person, that's all."

One of the first fast food chains in the Bay Area, Casper's migrated to the East Bay from Chicago in 1934. In addition to the one in Pleasant Hill, there are 10 Casper's restaurants—in Albany, Richmond, San Pablo, Walnut Creek, Dublin, Concord, two in Oakland and two in Hayward.

Among the other stores in the chain, the Pleasant Hill Casper's is known as "the country club" for its friendly, comfortable environment, Larkin said. Devoid of a playland or flashy banners, a couple of counters and a handful of wooden tables give the restaurant its old fashioned appeal. "Floy," the philodendron in the front window, is named after a coworker who died about five years ago. "We raised our kids together," Larkin said.

The Pleasant Hill Casper's is also the most successful in the chain, selling about 200,000 dogs a year.

People go out of their way to stop there for a \$2 or \$3 meal. Larkin said the most popular item is the Casper's dog, a natural-casing frankfurter that comes on a steamed bun with mustard, relish, tomatoes and onions. Employees also serve 10-inch spicy polish, smoked Cajun and turkey frankfurters.

Red Skelton is the most famous person Larkin can remember serving.

He came in two or three times, she said. Congressman George Miller stops in once in a while, too.

In her spare time, Larkin makes cakes for her friends' birthdays and weddings. Her other hobby is "kids."

"My last girl was born on my day off, she said. "I worked all nine months."

About 10 years ago, a mathematician who dropped in for a hot dog figured out that if someone were to line up end-to-end all the hot dogs that Larkin has served, they'd stretch from here to San Diego.

By now, they'd probably stretch halfway back again.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 835, ESTUARIES AND CLEAN WATERS ACT OF 2000

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the House leadership for bringing this important legislation before us. The Estuary Habitat and Chesapeake Bay Restoration Act of 2000 clarifies Congress' commitment to restoring one million acres of estuaries over the next decade and promoting a partnership between federal, state, and local governments, and the private sector.

The conference report we consider today includes one area that is particularly important to Southern California and the residents of the district I am honored to represent. This area is the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Los Angeles County has lost more than 93 percent of its coastal wetlands. The Los Cerritos Wetlands are one of only three sizable areas of coastal wetlands remaining that could be restored to provide better habitat for fish and wildlife. Furthermore, these wetlands are among a limited number

nationwide existing in an urban environment. It will offer numerous benefits to school children, university researchers, and simply improving the quality of life in a major city such as Long Beach.

Thus far, state and community agencies have worked closely together in the spirit of cooperation and coordination called for in the Estuary Restoration Act. The Wetlands Recovery Project—a partnership of federal, state, and local government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector—has made acquisition of these wetlands its top priority. The restoration of the Los Cerritos Wetlands will provide an important addition to improving the environment in our region.

Again, I thanked the House leadership, my good friend Representative WAYNE GILCHREST, Chairman BUD SHUSTER, and the other members and staff who—through this legislation—have made an important contribution to the Nation and to Southern California.

DAIRY MARKET ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. This is a bill to restore stability to America's dairy markets. I introduced the Dairy Market Enhancement Act of 2000, H.R. 5372 earlier this year. The bill establishes a fair and accurate reporting system for manufactured dairy products, requires independent verification for price reporting, and implements measures to ensure compliance with reporting and verification requirements. Senator RUSS FEINGOLD (D-WI) introduced the companion bill in the Senate. This bill S. 2773 now goes to the White House where the President is expected to sign it into law.

Recent reporting errors have highlighted the need to make reporting of dairy products mandatory, verifiable, and enforceable. While I recognize that this legislation will not solve the problem of low milk prices, it will go a long way toward assuring an accurate Federal order price and stabilizing month-to-month fluctuations for farmers.

The bill requires that the U.S. Department of Agriculture use the current survey format as a starting point for mandatory reporting. In order to ensure accuracy, the bill allows the Secretary of Agriculture to require that reporting companies make their records available for department audit. Any willful and intentional violation of requirements to make accurate and timely reports is punishable by a civil fine of up to \$20,000 under the terms of the bill. It also requires that USDA guard the confidentiality of information from each reporting company.

Because the determination of the federal order price is based on the price of components such as butter, cheese, and dry milk, it is important to have processors report price and inventories. This bill makes such reporting mandatory to assure that farmers are paid a price that reflects the current demand for milk and milk products. This is good legislation and I'm glad my colleagues in Congress join us in recognizing its merits.