

increased for crop insurance, it is predicted that if enough farmers take advantage of the insurance options available to them, there will be significantly less chance of the government having to provide emergency bailouts because of droughts or other conditions. Those usually are more expensive to taxpayers than the subsidies.

Farming always has been one of the highest risk occupations in terms of financial results.

If this new type of crop insurance can help reduce that risk, while also reducing emergency expenditures by the federal government, then virtually everyone should benefit.

THE NATIONAL MEDIA TREATS THE SOUTH DIFFERENTLY

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House the following article from the Lexington County Chronicle, Lexington, South Carolina.

[From the Lexington County Chronicle, Mar. 9, 2000]

WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, DAN RATHER?

(By Jerry Bellune)

Before you call me a racist, you should know that I cut my reporting teeth covering the civil rights movement of the early 1960s. It was a beat few white reporters wanted. And at one time, I was the only reporter in Charlotte, N.C., the demonstrators trusted.

When we went north in 1964, we found racism rampant there, too. One Yankee landlord refused to rent to us because, to her northern ears, our southern accents sounded African-American.

Jump ahead from the 1960s to the Year 2000. Southern schools have been desegregated. Discrimination is illegal. African-Americans have established more than a foothold in business and the middle class. In the arts and sports, they have become a dominant force.

Yet the national media seems ignorant of—or worse, indifferent to—the Deep South's dramatic social changes. They can't seem to balance changes in attitude with the other big Southern story—the Sun Belt's economic explosion.

This came home to me last week in two tragic stories. In Pennsylvania, a black man went on a rampage, killing three white people and wounding two others. In Michigan, the 6-year-old son of a jail bird took a gun to school and "got even" by shooting a white classmate to death.

Both stories were one-day sensations on TV and the local daily's front page. After that, both stories slipped deep into the inside pages.

That made me wonder how the two stories would have been handled had the races of the killers and their victims been reversed.

What might Dan Rather have had to say about a white man going on a rampage, singling out black victims. Or a white boy shooting a black classmate to death? Would the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson have descended on Michigan and Pennsylvania to lead street marches against the perpetrators of these "racist" murders?

If they are for civil rights for everybody, where are they now? And where are the TV cameras?

If either of these crimes had occurred in the South, would they have been reported as

examples of the climate of violence and racism in this backward section of our great nation?

HONORING DR. THOMAS M. MCFADDEN

HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Thomas McFadden, this year's recipient of the Community Association of the Peninsula's (CAP) Agnes R. Moss Volunteer Award.

The Agnes R. Moss Award is presented annually by the CAP Board of Trustees to the person who has been most instrumental in assisting the association to fulfill its goals. Dr. McFadden is being honored for his expertise, talent, and leadership in enhancing CAP programs.

The mission of CAP is to bring cohesiveness to all residents of the Peninsula and to respond to unmet community needs. CAP programs include the Norris Theatre for the Performing Arts, the Spirit of the Peninsula Telethon, Study Skills Workshops, the Multicultural Committee, and the Peninsula Cultural Organization.

Dr. McFadden's contributions to CAP and its programs are extensive. He has been a member of the CAP Board of Trustees since 1993 and previously served as its president for two one-year terms. In addition to his service to CAP, Dr. McFadden has been an active member of the community serving on several Peninsula advisory boards including the Palos Verdes Chamber of Commerce and the Skirball Institute.

I congratulate Dr. McFadden on receiving this award. He is a valuable member of this Peninsula community. His contributions are much appreciated.

HONORING MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND FEDERAL CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES WHO SERVED NA- TION DURING VIETNAM ERA AND FAMILIES OF THOSE INDIVID- UALS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES OR REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR OR WERE INJURED DURING THAT ERA

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 10, 2000

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 228.

This bill recognizes and honors the sacrifice of our Vietnam-era veterans, their families, and those who are still unaccounted for and remain missing.

It is important for our nation to never forget the service of these military personnel.

Over 3.5 million U.S. military personnel served in the Republic of Vietnam and Southeast Asia, and millions more served around the world during the Vietnam era.

As a Vietnam Veteran, I am proud of the service of these men and women.

I saw first hand their incredible commitment and unwavering dedication to our national defense and American ideals.

After a quarter of a century since the end of the Vietnam War, it is important for all Americans to reflect on the incredible sacrifices made by these veterans who stood up to communism in Southeast Asia and around the world.

Our Vietnam-era veterans are heroes for their incredible courage and bravery both here in the United States and while deployed overseas.

They fought for freedom during a time when public support for their efforts was divided.

They returned to a nation that unfortunately did not welcome them back with the gratitude they deserved.

This was after they had withstood some of the most vicious and difficult combat conditions imaginable.

The effects of these circumstances on the lives of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families can never be fully measured.

Therefore, let us never forget the honorable service of our Vietnam-era veterans, and the heavy price paid by their friends and families.

Their sacrifice paved the way for the freedom and security we enjoy today, and no American should take for granted their willingness to serve in support of our national security and to turn back the tide of totalitarianism.

This resolution serves as a strong reminder of our gratitude to our Vietnam-era Veterans and to our soldiers currently deployed around the world.

It sends a message that we will never forget the memory of those who paid the ultimate price for the cause of freedom, and maintains our commitment to those who remain unaccounted for and are still missing.

Let this bill strengthen our resolve on behalf of our Vietnam-era veterans and their families, and serve as an expression of our appreciation and gratitude.

As someone who serves on the House Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees, I salute our Vietnam-era Veterans and am proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

HONORING THE TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MERION IN MONT- GOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYL- VANIA

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Today I congratulate the township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on its 100th anniversary. On March 5, 1900 Lower Merion formed what has become a model township government in Montgomery County.

Lower Merion's roots extend to 1682 when Welsh Quakers were granted a tract of land by William Penn just outside Philadelphia. In 1713, Lower Merion established an independent Township with about 52 landholders and tenants. The 1850s brought rapid change to Lower Merion with the advent of the railroad and marked the birth of the area known today as the "Main Line." Philadelphians soon began settling in the township and commuting to Philadelphia. In 1900, the Township was incorporated as a Township of the First Class.

The citizens of the township of Lower Merion have many achievements of which to be proud. They have a deep sense of civic pride and involvement. In fact, the Township maintains a "Community Resources Leadership Bank" of citizens interested in participating in Township Boards or Commissions. This innovation and vision distinguishes Lower Merion and it remains one of the most progressive townships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Township officials in Lower Merion are deeply committed to the environment. Through open space conservation and environmental protection, the Lower Merion Township continually works to improve the quality of life for its residents. Lower Merion officials have demonstrated a strong commitment to their schools and community, and the township has one of the highest ranking school systems in Pennsylvania.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary municipality. This anniversary should serve as a tribute to hard work and dedication for all who have made the Lower Merion Township the place it is.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Santa Barbara. This past Sunday, I was honored to join the citizens of Santa Barbara in celebrating the rich history and legacy of our community.

Santa Barbara is a vibrantly diverse city that draws its heritage from the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican, American and European peoples. Although the incorporation of the city was in 1850, there are other milestones that preceded this date. The community was named in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, a Spanish employer, who came to the area on Saint Barbara's day. In 1782, the King of Spain directed that a presidio be constructed in Santa Barbara and in 1786, the Mission was founded. Both the Presidio and the Mission hold much cultural significance to the citizens of Santa Barbara today and serve as an important reminder of our shared history. In 1850, a charter was adopted by a vote of the citizens and established Santa Barbara as one of the five California charter cities. As a charter city, the citizens of Santa Barbara enjoy "home rule" and as a result, the city is a model of how a community can preserve and sustain a high quality of life for its people.

Today, Santa Barbara boasts strong public and private schools, the nationally recognized University of California, Santa Barbara, Westmont College and Santa Barbara City College, as well as thriving small businesses, high-tech and tourism industries. But above all, as Santa Barbarans, we pride ourselves on the beauty of our environment and the quaint charm of our community. The importance of clean water, clean air and open spaces has long been recognized as a key to our community's success and we remain committed to protecting the unparalleled beauty that Santa Barbara possesses today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent Santa Barbara in Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the many achievements of the citizens of Santa Barbara and the contributions that the city has made to America. We wish the community of Santa Barbara 150 more years of success and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, due to what may have been a technical difficulty, I was not recorded on rollcall vote 114. Had I been recorded, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE SOUTHERLAND HEAD START PROGRAM ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Southerland Head Start program on their 35th Anniversary. For thirty-five years this school has been serving children in need and making sure that they have the resources necessary for a successful educational future.

In Beaumont there were originally two Head Start Centers, one at Dunbar and the other at South Park. Mavis Bryant was the director at Dunbar from 1965–1984, and Claire Collier was the director at South Park from 1966–1984. In 1984, the districts merged and the center became known as Southerland Head Start, where Claire Collier served as director until her retirement in 1994. Two principals/directors have followed Claire Collier, Charles Vanderburg served from 1994–1999, and Gloria Harrison is currently serving.

Southerland serves the community well, and there are currently 460 students enrolled in the program. Southerland's motto is "Touching Children . . . Reaching Families," and they truly live up to that motto. They reach out to children, improving their self esteem, health, and physical development. Children at Southerland learn and grow in an environment that promotes positive experiences and an understanding of the world around them.

I believe that we must provide an opportunity for every child in America to fulfill her or his potential through participation in an enriching and challenging learning environment starting at birth, and programs such as Southerland Head Start help us achieve that goal. I would like to thank Dr. Carrol Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mae E. Jones-Clark, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Gloria Harrison, Head Start Director/Principal, and all of the other people who are serving the school with unparalleled dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Southerland has served the children of Beaumont for thirty-five years, and I congratulate them as they celebrate this milestone of achievement.

LET'S CRAFT A FAIR DEAL FOR OUR VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I testified before the VA, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. In that testimony which follows, I emphasized our duty to provide adequate funds for the vital programs that serve our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the administration's budget for the year 2001 recognizes that the men and women who have served in uniform deserve an adequate budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA], and I believe that the efforts of many members of the House VA Committee and the efforts of our veterans' service organizations, specifically in formulating the Independent Budget, have been instrumental in producing a much better budget proposal than last year. I want to acknowledge these efforts.

The \$1.4 billion increase in the health care budget will assure our aging and disabled veterans who need medical care—especially long-term care, emergency care and specialized services—that their needs are a high priority. However, I join my colleagues and the authors of this year's Independent Budget in objecting to the proposal that \$350 million of new resources for medical care authorized by the recently passed Veterans Millennium Act be deposited to the Treasury. Funds collected from veterans for the provision of veterans' health care should be used to enhance the health care for veterans—not as a substitute for appropriated dollars.

I also want to emphasize my continuing concern that the VA is not adequately meeting the benefit and health care needs of veterans who served in the Gulf war and who now suffer from various diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. It has been almost 10 years since the men and women of our armed services were sent to the gulf! The veterans of the Gulf war are sick with illnesses whose causes and cures remain a mystery. We must not relax our efforts to fund necessary and appropriate research. I join the authors of the Independent Budget in supporting an increase in funding for VA medical research, and specifically request that the medical research budget be increased by \$65 million as recommended in the Independent Budget and that at least \$30 million of that increase be directed to research involving the health of Gulf war veterans.

As our veterans population ages, the need for long-term care increases. One means of providing access to such care is through the funding of State Veterans Homes. A new home will be opening in April in my congressional district, and already there is a waiting list. I want other areas to have the same opportunity as the veterans in the San Diego region will have with the opening of this new home. Therefore, I am opposed to the proposed decrease in funding for State Homes and urge this committee to provide adequate funding for this critical program.

I am also pleased that this administration has recognized what Members of Congress have known for years. Additional personnel are needed if the VA is to promptly and accurately adjudicate claims for compensation and