

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late Andrew Jackson Higgins and another Congressional Gold Medal to his workforce of 20,000 at Higgins Industries in New Orleans, Louisiana. These medals will recognize their contribution to the Nation, to the Allied victory in World War II and to world peace.

Let me briefly explain why the late Mr. Higgins and the employees of Higgins Industries deserve this long-overdue recognition.

Andrew Jackson Higgins designed and engineered high-speed boats and various types of military landing craft, later to be known as "Higgins boats."

Higgins boats were constructed of wood and steel and transported fully armed troops, light tanks and other mechanized equipment essential to all Allied amphibious landing operations, including the decisive D-Day attack at Normandy, France.

Mr. Higgins also designed, engineered, and constructed four major assembly plants in New Orleans for mass production of Higgins landing craft and other vessels vital to the Allied forces' conduct of World War II.

Higgins Industries employed more than 20,000 workers at his eight plants in New Orleans. They worked around the clock over 4 years. At peak production, they built 700 boats per month. By the end of the war, they had built 20,094 landing craft of all types, and trained 30,000 Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard personnel on the proper operation of these boats.

The slogan at Higgins Industries was: "The guy who relaxes is helping the Axis."

Beyond his genius in the design and engineering of the "Higgins boats," Andrew Jackson Higgins possessed a foresight and a social conscience unheard of more than half a century ago.

Long before the United States had entered World War II, the late Mr. Higgins began to stockpile the materials needed to produce the thousands of landing craft and PT boats. His foresight contributed greatly to America's readiness when it finally did enter the war.

For example, Higgins bought the entire 1940 Philippine mahogany crop, anticipating a need for a stockpile of wood to build landing craft when American entered the war.

Besides his foresight and ingenuity, Higgins instituted a progressive social policy at Higgins Industries, where he employed a fully integrated assembly workforce of black and white men and women. His policy was equal pay for equal work decades before integration and racial and gender equality became the law of our land.

Mr. Speaker, after review of Mr. Higgins' contributions and the output of Higgins Industries during the early years of World War II, it is easy to understand Eisenhower's admiration and praise. On Thanksgiving, 1944, then General Eisenhower reported home,

"Let us thank God for Higgins Industries' management and labor which has given us the landing boats with which to conduct our campaign."

Then again in 1964, President Eisenhower said of Andrew Higgins: "He is the man who won the war for us. If Higgins had not produced and developed those landing craft, we never could have gone in over an open beach. We would have had to change the entire strategy of the war."

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for our Nation and this Congress to recognize Andrew Jackson Higgins and his employees for their unparalleled contributions to our country, to victory in World War II, and to world peace.

Indeed, this tribute is just in time for June 6, 2000, the 55th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy, when the National D-Day Museum will be dedicated and opened in New Orleans.

There are not adequate words to describe the vision and patriotism of Andrew Jackson Higgins and his employees. He understood what is needed to win World War II long before America was a participant, and he went beyond the call of duty to be prepared to serve his country. Then, his employees undertook the Herculean task of building the boats that won the war.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of our colleagues to join me and award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late Andrew Jackson Higgins and a second Congressional Gold Medal to the employees of Higgins Industries. These forgotten heroes of World War II provided a decisive and essential contribution to the United States and the Allied victory in World War II, blacks and whites, men and women, working side by side, equal pay for equal work, building the boats that won the war.

Mr. Speaker, these silent heroes must be honored and should always be remembered and the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to them is highly in order at this time.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO DAILY DEFENDER ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend congratulations to the Chicago Daily Defender newspaper on the celebration of its 95th year. The Chicago Defender was founded as a weekly newspaper on May 5, 1905 by Robert Sengstacke Abbott. His goal was to use the power of the press to address concerns of blacks worldwide, with special emphasis on the United States.

During Mr. Abbott's lifetime, the Chicago Defender amassed impressive achievements. Some examples are the Great Migration, the mass exodus of blacks from the South to the so-called promised land of the North; the first black publication to reach a circula-

tion of 100,000; initiation of the Bud Billiken Parade, and much more.

Mr. Abbott formulated the following nine-point platform for his paper in 1905:

Racial prejudice worldwide must be destroyed;

Racially unrestricted membership in all unions;

Equal Employment Opportunities on all jobs, public and private;

True representation in all United States police forces;

Complete cessation of all school segregation;

Establishment of open occupancy in all American housing;

Federal intervention to protect civil rights in all instances where civil rights compliance at the State level breaks down;

Representation in the President's Cabinet;

Federal legislation to abolish lynching.

□ 1715

Mr. Abbott passed in 1940. Upon his death, John Sengstacke, his nephew, took over operations of the newspaper. Despite the change, the achievements continued.

Under Mr. Sengstacke's leadership, the National Newspaper Publisher's Association, an organization of black newspaper publishers, was formed. This occurred despite skepticism about uniting the Black publishers into one organization.

Another accomplishment, despite belief that it would not work, was the conversion of the Chicago Defender from a weekly to a daily newspaper in 1956. Mr. Sengstacke was also instrumental in integrating the armed forces through several presidential administrations, integrating major league baseball, construction of the new Provident Hospital, and continuation of the Bud Billiken parade. Today the parade is sponsored by the Chicago Defender Charities and is second in size only to the Tournament of Roses Parade.

In 1997, John Sengstacke passed, leaving behind Sengstacke Enterprises, which includes the Chicago Defender, the Michigan Chronicle in Detroit, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the Tri-State Defender in Memphis.

Today the Chicago Defender remains a significant force in journalism. Its importance is noted by the fact that only two points of the original nine-point platform have been removed. They are representation in the President's cabinet and Federal legislation to abolish lynching. The presence of the remaining seven points and their existence since 1905 is the principal guiding force of this publication as it moves forward.

This paper, Madam Speaker, was an inspiration to many, even to myself as I was a young boy growing up in rural Arkansas, where we used to wait for the pullman porters to bring copies of the Defender to our town. As a result of

reading the Defender, it gave us contact with the outside world.

The Defender has been most fortunate to have outstanding journalists like Lou Palmer, Vernon Jarrett, Faith Christmas, Jennifer Strasburg, and countless others.

So as they celebrate their 95th year anniversary, I simply want to say to the Defender and all of its staff persons, continue the great legacy, continue the great work. They have been an inspiration, and they continue to be a bright star that shines.

CHICAGO DAILY DEFENDER COMMEMORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MORELLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, this evening I rise to pay special tribute to a publication of historic proportions in the city of Chicago.

Five years into the last century, the Chicago Defender created for itself a permanent place in the history of American journalism by becoming Chicago's most influential African American newspaper. Without fail, since 1905, the Daily Defender has provided news and information regarding African Americans and the Black Diaspora. In doing so, this newspaper fills an important void in Chicago's media because it tells the stories that much too often are not covered by other mainstream publications.

In the Defender's early years, its founder, Robert Sengstacke Abbott, realized several impressive achievements, including orchestrating the "Great Migration" campaign. This campaign brought about the mass exodus of African Americans from the racist South to the "promised land" of the north.

The continued visionary leadership of Mr. Abbott's nephew, Robert Sengstacke, has led to Sengstacke Enterprises which includes, not only the Chicago Defender, but also the Michigan Chronicle in Detroit, the Pittsburgh Courier in Pittsburgh, and the Tri-State Defender in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Defender family has become a responsive and generous corporate citizen over the many years. Their philanthropic arm, the Chicago Daily Defender Charities, has created, developed, and sponsored various community events, including the largest parade in the city of Chicago, the beloved Bud Billiken Parade. Each charitable effort has enriched the lives of our people, our city, and our Nation.

The Defender has provided a medium for several talented award-winning African American journalists, including Dr. Metz T.P. Lochard, W.E. DeBois, Langston Hughes, and Vernon Jarrett. Their outstanding work provided the foundation for the journalistic standard that the newspaper continues to meet today.

So on this day, I rise to congratulate the Chicago Defender on 95 years of consistent, vital, exemplary work. It is my hope and my express desire that the Defender will continue to publish into the next century and beyond.

OCCASION OF THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FARMERS FOR AFRICA ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Madam Speaker, in this era of global economies, nations are becoming more interconnected and interdependent on one another. It is critical, therefore, that the economies of the developing nations are not left behind. It is critical that these nations have stable and efficient economies.

It is vitally important, therefore, that we assist in integrating Africa into the global economy. Boosting economic development and self-sufficiency for Africa are keys to achieving this end.

It is for these reasons and others that I was pleased to vote for the African Trade Development Act of 2000.

Generally we only hear about Africa when issues of hunger, welfare, and natural disaster emerge. It is true that hunger estimates in Africa range in upward of 215 million chronically undernourished persons. Yes, we need to be concerned and provide as much assistance as possible. However, there is an old cliché that says, "Give a man a fish, and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish, and he will eat forever." At no other time is this cliché more appropriate for African countries.

As a Nation we have the resources, the capacity, and the capability to teach the tools needed to ensure that their economies grow in strength and prosperity. One of the tools we can teach involve agribusiness. Agriculture is a primary sector in the economy for many African nations. It is here that we can provide the tools necessary to technologically upgrade the agriculture methods and processes. The proposed legislation, Farmers for African Act of 2000, provide these tools.

Farmers from the United States can help. Our farmers have the tools and skills to help. They have the ability to train African farmers to use and adopt state-of-the-art farming techniques and agribusiness skills.

In African countries like Mozambique, farmers need our help. Ravaging flood waters have left the lands devastated and thousands homeless and hungry. Their farmers need help. Our farmers can help. We ought to help.

Farmers in Zimbabwe need help. In that country, thousands of persons have received parcels of land to farm but do not have the agriculture skills or training to be successful. These farmers, too, need our help. Our farmers can help. We ought to help.

In Ghana, one of the most stable and productive countries in Africa, farmers

there, too, need our help. American farmers, through their efficiency in using the most modern technologically sound agriculture and agribusiness techniques, can help African farmers.

This will not only help boost African crop yield and efficiency so that these Nations can produce enough goods to feed themselves, but it will also improve the competitiveness of African farmers in the rural market.

In addition, through the establishment of partnerships between Africa and American farmers, we can also create new avenues for delivering goods and services to African countries in need.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting farmers. Join me in supporting farmers in Africa and America. The legislation I and others have introduced today is designed to establish a bilateral exchange program between Africa and America, one that benefits both continents.

Madam Speaker, the legislation is budget neutral. Let me repeat that. The legislation is budget neutral, because it is funded through the existing product purchasing programs.

The nations that will be helped by this program will purchase products from the United States, and part of the revenue from those purchases can be used to fund the activities contemplated by this bill. It will not cost American taxpayers anything.

It will help 45 agriculture and African nations as well as highlight the importance of increasing trade and exchange opportunities with Africa.

This is timely legislation. It is necessary legislation. Please join us in supporting this measure. With this legislation, America will assist in providing the tools that would enable African countries to be competitive in the global economy. The legislation provides the tools in helping African nations eat forever.

THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, THE END OF GEOGRAPHY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. METCALF. Madam Speaker, during 1969, C.P. Kindleberger wrote that the "nation-state is just about through as an economic unit." He added that the U.S. Congress and right-wing-know-nothings in all countries were unaware of this. He added, "The world is too small. Two-hundred-thousand ton tank and ore carriers and airbuses and the like will not permit sovereign independence of the nation-state in economic affairs."

Before that, Emile Durkheim stated, "The corporations are to become the elementary division of the state, the fundamental political unit. They will efface the distinction between public and private, dissect the democratic