

sacrifice on behalf of one's fellow man. Individuals such as this exhibit compassion and charity at the very highest levels.

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HONORING THE DIXSON RANCH

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**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the consummation of placing the Dixson Ranch property in a Conservation Easement. This easement will ensure that the Dixson Ranch, which has been farmed for over a hundred years, will be in agricultural use in perpetuity.

The Dixson Ranch was purchased by Mr. A.W. Dixson on October 2, 1905, for \$12,000 in gold coins. The property consisted of 41 acres, and a farmhouse that was built in 1894. The Dixson family grew row crops on the farm, including several different varieties of lettuce, and eventually leased the ranch to the Kingo Kawaoka family, who farmed it until they were removed to the Japanese internment camps during World War II. In 1941, A.W. Dixson's son Gordon, Gordon's wife, Wilma, and their two young daughters, Sara, age 6, and Molly, age 4, moved to the farm.

After the war ended, Kingo Kawaoka's family moved back to continue farming in the area. A cousin of the Kawaokas, Noriharu "Bill" Kawaoka, managed the Dixson Ranch from 1954 until his death in 1992. In 1975 the ranch was designated as an agricultural preserve through a land conservation contract with the City of Arroyo Grande. This contract stated that the land would be used for farming purposes rather than property development. Additionally, the Coastal San Luis Conservation Resource District awarded the first annual Soils Stewardship Award to Wilma Dixson at age 89.

Today, the Ikeda Family leases and manages the farm, while Jim Dickens, the son of Sara Dixson, and his family live in the farmhouse, making them the 4th generation of Dixsons to live on the ranch.

The Dixson family is committed to soil conservation and agricultural land stewardship as well as sound economic planning. In order to ensure that they would be able to permanently protect their productive farmland, the Dixsons were awarded a grant through the State of California's Farmland Conservancy Program. The program promotes cooperation between government, non-profit organizations, and individual landowners in order to purchase agricultural conservation easements. This was augmented by a federal grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I believe this easement is a prime example of the public and private sector working together to ensure agriculture remains viable while simultaneously preserving open space, I am honored to have the Dixson Ranch in my congressional district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB RILEY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 408, H. Con. Res. 243, Expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding the Presentation of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 409, H.R. 2559, the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Amendments Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 410, H.R. 2910, the Norman Sisisky Post Office Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 411, H. Con. Res. 233, Expressing Congress' Profound Sorrow for the Death and Injuries Suffered by First Responders in the Aftermath of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

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HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JOHN E. SIRLES III

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**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. John Sirles for his 30 years of service to our nation as a civil servant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since February 1999, he has served as the Deputy District Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Chicago District.

Over the course of his career with the Corps, Mr. Sirles has received numerous awards. He's been awarded the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal, the Special Act Award, and the Superior Civilian Service Award. He's also received the Exceptional Performance Award on four separate occasions and the PMRS Performance Award five times.

But Mr. Sirles' legacy will not be the countless awards and citations he's received—his legacy will be the public works projects he's worked on and the countless number of individuals he's inspired over his three decade long career with the Army Corps.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Chicago Shoreline project. Mr. Sirles oversaw and led the completion of the third Project Cooperation Agreement, a critical component to a \$276 million project that will help protect downtown Chicago from flooding.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, an ongoing project with an extensive network of tunnels and reservoirs. This project will help reduce flooding to hundreds of thousands of households and improve water quality of the rivers and streams throughout Chicagoland.

Mr. Sirles helped champion these projects and many more during his tenure at the Chicago District.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Sirles. He's been an exemplary public

servant, and his record serves as an example for others.

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RECOGNIZING FOWLER PACKING COMPANY

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**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fowler Packing for setting a standard of excellence in fruit picking, packing and shipping. Fowler Packing's strict attention to detail and a willingness to try new innovations has resulted in the production of top quality Tree-Ripe fruit since 1966.

Sam Parnagian established Fowler Packing Company in the early 1950's. In 1966, Sam recognized an opportunity in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry and focused his company's attention to peaches, plums and nectarines.

Mr. Parnagian went on to influence major advances in western fruit packing. In the early 1970's he built and operated the first commercial hydro-cooler used in stone fruit packing. He was also a big promoter of plastic fruit trays, or "Panapack," as they are commonly called today.

In addition to marketing their own fruit, grown on an estimated 2500 acres, Fowler Packing also packs and markets fruit for more than 50 Central Valley growers. The "Sam-Son" label was created by Sam Parnagian and named after his four sons: Dennis, Phillip, Randy and Ken.

Today, Sam's sons continue Fowler Packing's tradition of quality and innovation. Fowler Packing recently switched from wooden to plastic bins in order to reduce the potential for fruit damage. Progressive ideas like these have made Fowler Packing a leader in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fowler Packing for their commitment to producing quality fruit in the California Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Parnagian family and Fowler Packing many more years of continued success.

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HONORING THE SANTA BARBARA GAY PRIDE FESTIVAL

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**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I wish to honor the impending Santa Barbara Gay Pride Festival that will be held in Santa Barbara, California on Saturday, October 20, 2001.

This festival celebrates the advancements the members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community have made. It has evolved over the years from a small picnic in a park to a major festival in Santa Barbara that more than 5,000 people are expected to attend. Gay Pride festivals are held in hundreds of cities nationwide, and this year the Gay Pride Festival will be celebrating the 31st anniversary of the world's first gay pride celebration.

This is the first year that the festival will be held in downtown Santa Barbara, rather than

outside the city center. By moving to a larger venue, the Santa Barbara Gay Pride Festival hopes to educate the community at large, as well as to promote inclusion among many different religious, ethnic, social and business groups. Another goal of the festival is to promote awareness among the larger community, as it is hoped that with awareness comes respect.

Gay Awareness Day has been established to reflect on the progress made by the LGBT community, as well as an opportunity to celebrate acts of courage and determination in the pursuit of civil rights. The mere size of the festival demonstrates how much advancement the gay community has made over the last three decades and I can only hope that celebrations like this will continue for years to come.

**CONGRATULATING AMERICAN LEGION POST 82 ON THE OCCASION OF THE NEW MEMBER INITIATION CEREMONY**

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate American Legion Post 82 of Inglewood, Tennessee, on its recent initiation ceremony welcoming thirteen new members.

On September 30, 2001, the President of Unit 82 hosted an initiation ceremony and reception for these new members alongside thirty longtime members. This was the first initiation for new members conducted by the unit in more than 5 years.

During the ceremony the principles of the American Legion are expressed using candles and the pledge of loyalty. These fundamental precepts include the promotion of justice, freedom, democracy, and loyalty.

Additionally, each new member was presented with an American flag, an auxiliary pin, a copy of the United States Constitution, and the by-laws and regulations of Inglewood Unit 82.

Through patriotic organizations such as the American Legion, Americans can be assured that democracy and justice will be passed to future generations and that the light of freedom will continue to burn brightly.

**PASSING OF MR. LARRY D. CALLAGHAN**

**HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor and remember Mr. Larry D. Callaghan for his tremendous contributions and a lifetime of servitude. Mr. Callaghan was a man who possessed a greatness of character and lived a dedicated and selfless life, which has served our nation and our nation's veterans in a most honorable way.

Larry's patriotism and valor became evident in Vietnam as a scout squad leader with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, part of the 119th Infantry Brigade. In July 1968, while on

a combat mission, he sustained a spinal cord injury caused by a land mine explosion. He was recognized for his service with the Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and the Purple Heart.

Larry continued to distinguish himself as a leader aspiring to help others by joining the Paralyzed Veterans of America in 1968. During the past 30 years, he was actively involved in the New England Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America and served on the Executive Committee as a national vice president from 1989 to 1994. Most recently, Larry served as PVA national senior vice president last year.

I offer my condolences to his wife Beth and his children John and Megan. I hope that they can take comfort in the fact that a nation is in their family's debt for the dedicated compassion and service that Larry has shown in his life—one that is marked with greatness.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all of my colleagues will join me today to remember and honor the life of a very remarkable man.

**NORMAN SISISKY POST OFFICE BUILDING**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, precisely because he was a man dedicated to the ethic of the working class, Norm Sisisky would be proud that a United States Post Office will bear his name.

As a patriot dedicated to justice, he would share the horror we all feel in the wake of the ongoing anthrax attack that has so profoundly touched the lives of our postal workers, their families and our communities.

Norm and I came to Washington together in the same class in the House of Representatives. We traveled together from time to time with the House Armed Services Committee.

On long trips to military interests around the world, you get to know people very well. For nearly our entire service together in Congress, we served on the House Armed Services Committee.

We sat beside each other for all of that time on the committee, and often put our heads together on issues witnesses addressed during their testimony. Norm was a constant source of inspiration and humor at our hearings.

At the same time, he was the consummate businessman. He could figure out quickly what the hidden costs were to taxpayers in any plan brought before our committee, and he could find the holes in plans any witness presented.

Norman Sisisky was dedicated to Virginia . . . to the Navy . . . and to the betterment of our fighting men and women. He was much beloved by his staff, his friends and the people he represented in Virginia.

Most of all, Norm was the ultimate patriot, whose highest calling was watching out for the interests of his district and the United States Armed Forces.

It is utterly appropriate that we honor his memory and the quality of his service by passing the Norman Sisisky Post Office Building Designation Act.

H.R. 1552—THE INTERNET TAX NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1552, the Internet Tax Nondiscrimination Act, which extends the moratorium on Internet taxation. The current moratorium expires on October 21.

As we now know the Internet has had a global economic impact on the way business is transacted and some of the rapid expansion of the Internet is due to the fact that it has remained free from restrictive taxes.

There is growing concern, however, that as e-commerce continues to flourish, states and localities are losing more and more of their sales tax revenue because we lack a uniform system of collecting sales taxes on Internet purchases. Collecting these taxes is further complicated by the diverse and extensive web of taxing authorities throughout the country.

We need a nondiscriminatory tax system dealing with these complexities which will be fair to the states, and that at the same time continue to foster the expansion of e-commerce. The development of such a plan requires a thoughtful, careful, and innovative approach among participants at both the state and federal levels.

Extending the ban on Internet taxes for two years will give all involved entities more time to assess the impact of e-commerce on state revenues and to develop an equitable system of taxation and collection. By doing so, we can continue to reap the benefits e-commerce has to offer, while not sacrificing important and necessary revenue to states and localities.

**RECOGNIZING JOSEPH DITOMASO**

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Joseph DiTomaso for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. The Friends of Agricultural Extension will recognize Joseph at their annual awards dinner.

Joseph is a U.C. Davis Weed Science Extension Specialist. He has continually been developing his program on the subject of "Control of Yellow Starthistle." The emphasis of his research has shifted from defining the biology and ecology of this serious pest to developing integrated system approaches to its long-term management, as well as to that of other non-crop weeds.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Joseph DiTomaso for being named an Extension Specialist Award finalist by the Friends of Agricultural Extension. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Joseph many more years of continued success.