

of Derby to assist with the restoration of the historic Sterling Opera House. Built in 1889, the Sterling was the first structure in Connecticut to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the Opera House is suffering from 35 years of neglect. The State of Connecticut and the City of Derby have already committed a substantial sum of money to begin this restoration. The money in this bill will help the City to restore the Sterling Opera House to its original grandeur.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to support this measure not only because of what it means to my District, but also for what it means to America's veterans, our environment, and those who receive vital housing assistance in order to partake in the American Dream.

CONGRATULATING DR. VINCENT  
PETRUCCI

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Vincent Petrucci for receiving the 2000 Agriculturist of the Year Award. The award is given by the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce to an individual who exemplifies leadership and integrity in California's Central Valley agricultural business community.

Dr. Vincent Petrucci, a native of California, studied at U.C. Davis where he earned a BS degree in pomology and a MS degree in horticulture. In 1994 he was honored with an honorary degree of Doctor of Science by California State University, Fresno (CSUF).

During his 45-year tenure at CSUF, he developed the viticulture and enology programs at Fresno State, including the curriculum and facilities. Dr. Petrucci has served as a consultant to more than 34 different grape-growing countries around the world, including the former Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. He has participated in the International Office of the Wine and Grape (O.I.V.) and has served as vice president of the International Group of Experts on Raisins and Table Grapes for O.I.V.

Dr. Petrucci's multiple awards include the CSUF Outstanding Professor Award, the Nicolas Salgo Outstanding Teacher Award, the 1981 Wines and Vines Man of the Year Award, the 1990 California Restaurant Association Lifetime Achievement, and the Distinguished Achievement Award of U.C. Davis.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Vincent Petrucci on his 2000 Agriculturist of the Year Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Petrucci and wishing him many more years of continued success.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2500,  
DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE,  
JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDI-  
CIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2001*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2500, the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations Conference Report. I'd like to thank our Chairman, FRANK WOLF, and our Ranking Member, JOSE SERRANO, for putting together such a fair conference report under the significant funding constraints faced by the Committee.

As my colleagues know, one of the most critical functions of this bill is to provide resources for our law enforcement to assist them in enforcing the laws of our nation and keeping our citizens safe. The CJS bill contains the majority of funding for federal law enforcement personnel, and funds critical grant programs which get the resources out to the local law enforcement agencies which work so hard to keep our communities safe.

While we know that additional resources will be needed in the future, the bill provides significant funding to make sure that our federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Border Patrol, have adequate funding to do their jobs in light of the tragic events on September 11th. I am particularly pleased that the bill provides important, much-needed increases for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, including an increase in the number of border patrol agents and INS inspectors, while at the same time dedicating an additional \$45 million above base funding in order to tackle the existing backlog in the processing of immigration cases.

While I am pleased with the overall bill, I am disappointed that the Senate provision permanently extending Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act was not included in the final conference report.

245(i) allows certain eligible immigrants to apply for green cards in the United States, rather than returning to their home countries to apply. Without Section 245(i), people fully eligible for green cards will be forced to return to their countries of origin and barred from returning to the United States for up to ten years—ripping families apart and causing many employers to lose qualified and well-trained employees. The issue is not whether these immigrants are eligible for legal residence, nor when they can adjust, but rather from where they can apply to become permanent U.S. residents.

As my colleagues know, the LIFE Act, which passed last year, provided a window of just four months for people to file applications with the INS or Department of Labor. For various reasons, thousands of qualified immigrants were unable to benefit from this short extension by the April 30th 2001, deadline. In the rush to apply, many eligible applicants had their files returned by the INS because of technical mistakes after the deadline expired. In addition, many immigrants did not have

their papers filed properly, or even at all, by unscrupulous individuals purporting to be immigration lawyers.

Many members, including myself and the membership of Congressional Hispanic Caucus, believe that Congress should pass a permanent extension Section 245(i). While some may disagree with this view, it is clear that some sort of extension is long overdue. President Bush, the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have all publicly supported an extension of this important provision.

The Senate passed a compromise extension of 245(i) more than 2 months ago, and the House was set to vote on this legislation on September 11th. It is my sincere hope that the leadership of the House will re-schedule a vote on this critical legislation as soon as possible. I look forward to working with Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SERRANO to ensure that an extension of 245(i) is passed before Congress adjourns for the year.

Mr. Speaker, having expressed my concern about the omission of section 245(i), let me now focus on some of the positive aspects of the bill and why I will support it. For example, I am very pleased that the conference committee was willing to provide funding for a variety of initiatives and projects that are of importance to Los Angeles and California.

The Los Angeles Conservancy works with a variety of community interest groups and developers on rehabilitation and restoration projects. The funding in this bill will assist the L.A. Conservancy with their renovation of historic St. Vibiana's Cathedral. In addition, the conservancy's Broadway Redevelopment project will rehabilitate a number of theaters in the historic area of Los Angeles. Both projects fit into an exciting downtown redevelopment plan that is strengthening the economic foundation of this once neglected area of downtown Los Angeles.

In addition to economic development funding, I am also pleased by the number of projects that have been included to help our nation's kids through the Department of Justice's juvenile justice programs and community-oriented police (COPS) programs. In Los Angeles, several groups that are working with teenagers will receive support for their promising efforts. The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) operates a family-based gang violence prevention program, Project JADE—the Juvenile Assistance Diversion Effort—is a well-regarded community-based organization working to expand its juvenile crime prevention program. Para Los Niños provides intervention for first-time juvenile offenders and their families, including after-school programs for at-risk youth. Another program included in our bill is LA's Best, a nationally recognized afterschool program which operates in schools throughout the city of Los Angeles.

I was also pleased to work in cooperation with Governor Davis and Republican and Democratic members of the California delegation to acquire funding for other projects of regional and statewide importance.

One of the proudest achievements of the California delegation is a project that honors the longtime service on the Commerce-Justice-State Subcommittee of our late colleague, Julian Dixon. Funds are provided to assist Julian's law school alma mater, Southwestern University School of Law, with construction of its state-of-the-art Julian Dixon Courtroom. The courtroom will facilitate the teaching of

advocacy and litigation skills. It will also provide Southwestern, which serves a significant populace of minority law students, with a community resource for jurists and lawyers. The university has committed to a better than one to one match for the federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, there are not many issues where 100 percent of the diverse 52-member California House delegation come together, but support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program is one of them. A united and unanimous delegation is responsible for seeing that \$565 million was provided for this important program that reimburses California and other impacted states for the costs associated with incarcerating illegal aliens.

Several other California projects also received attention. The California Center for Integrative Coastal Research, CI-CORE, is a new research initiative pulling together the strengths of several California State University campuses, including San Jose, San Francisco, Hayward, Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo, Sacramento, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego. With the increased burden placed upon California's coastal resources due to agriculture, industry and urban development, better understanding of the oceans and our coastal region is imperative in making informed commercial, recreational and environmental policy decisions. CI-CORE will provide timely, indispensable and appropriate environmental data to regulatory agencies that are responsible for the development and enforcement of management policies.

The University of California's textile research program will receive funding and designation as one of the member institutions of the National Textile Consortium (NTC). California is the leading manufacturer of apparel in the U.S. and is the largest employer in the apparel and textile trade, yet until now, no California university was included in the NTC. The inclusion of its research program, whose strengths include polymer science, fiber mechanics, fabric performance, and fashion theory, is long overdue.

The California Spatial Reference Center at Scripps Institute will also receive special attention. The center's research and activities support an accurate spatial reference system in California that is integral to decision-making by policy-makers at the local, state and federal level. As California faces significant seismic and geologic activity each year, an up-to-date spatial reference system is central to our ability to perform environmental monitoring, manage our civil infrastructure, and respond appropriately to emergencies of all kinds.

And finally, a modest amount of funding is provided to support the Central California Ozone Study. This study is being conducted to understand the relative role of local emissions and transported pollutants on air quality. The study is a collaborative effort by the California Air Resources Board, local governments, and industry, and has already received over \$8 million in state and local contributions. In light of the change in federal air quality standards for ozone, the deregulation of utilities in bringing new power generation to California, and the on-going process of developing State Implementation Plans for air quality, the Central California Ozone Study is a vital ingredient to ensure the cleanest air possible for all Californians.

I have enjoyed working with our chairman, ranking member and all the members of the

Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary Subcommittee this year on the wide variety of programs and agencies within our jurisdiction. Our work is a constant balancing act, but I believe a good balance has been achieved. I urge support of the conference report.

#### CONDOLENCES TO BETRU FAMILY

### HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, as a fellow American, I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to Yeneneh Betru's friends and family, as well as the numerous and untold victims of the tragedies that occurred on September 11th. Dr. Betru was aboard the American Airlines Flight 77 bound from Washington Dulles Airport to Los Angeles which crashed into the Pentagon.

A native of Ethiopia who was raised in Saudi Arabia, Yeneneh Betru came to the United States for an education. "Ever since he was a little kid, he always wanted to be a doctor" said his brother Sirak, "he always wanted to help people." Yeneneh realized his dream before his life tragically ended. Dr. Betru was a pioneer in the hospitalist movement and he personally trained hundreds of hospitalists. His passion and legacy was a project distributing dialysis equipment to Ethiopia.

May we honor his legacy and cherish his memory forever and always.

#### HONORING A DAY OF UNDERSTANDING

### HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge Sunday, November 18, 2001 as a Day of Understanding. In a society where so many diverse ethnicities and beliefs coincide with each other every day it is important that we take the time to realize and appreciate all the different cultures that are represented throughout the United States.

The County of San Luis Obispo in California has resolved that November 18th be recognized as a Day of Understanding, in order to promote understanding among many different faiths. As a nation, we need to take this opportunity to listen and learn about one another's faiths, and attempt to understand different cultures and practices.

Religious intolerance and lack of understanding has long contributed to wars between different groups throughout the history of mankind. It is time to recognize and appreciate cultural differences instead of condemn and remain ignorant about them. In a free society, peoples of divergent faiths should endeavor to understand and respect one another's different religious and spiritual heritages, beliefs, hopes and dreams, and it is my hope that by acknowledging the Day of Understanding we are taking the first step in making this possible.

I encourage you to pause this Sunday, November 18, and take the time to ask a neighbor, friend, or co-worker about his or her cul-

ture or religion that may be different than yours. We should all attempt to learn more about and appreciate the multitude of cultures that surround us every day, and I am so pleased that the citizens of San Luis Obispo County have taken the initiative in creating this wonderful Day of Understanding.

#### RECOGNIZING TEDD RICHARDSON FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important member of the El Paso community.

Mr. Tedd Richardson, an El Paso businessman, is well known around the city for his gracious contributions to the under-served. He conducts an annual Christmas dinner to serve the less fortunate and he has currently expanded his Christmas tradition to my home community of Canutillo. Mr. Richardson recently toured the Bill Childress Elementary School in Canutillo. He was so impressed by the progress of their school grounds improvement project that he made a generous donation to help fund and further the progression of the project.

Mr. Richardson also vowed to help raise the \$19,000 necessary to complete the project, and in addition has challenged other local businesses and individuals to match his contributions. This project is empowering students and is teaching a life lesson in the importance of civic responsibility. Mr. Richardson has promised to continue working hand-in-hand with the Bill Childress Elementary School.

Mr. Tedd Richardson is an exemplary citizen. He believes in helping people to help themselves. I believe that Tedd Richardson is a model citizen who insists that his contribution to his community be more than average. His dedication to education and establishing a future for El Paso children has not only made him an individual of distinction, but has also earned him a special place in the minds of families and schools all over the city. I am proud to recognize Mr. Richardson, and hope the model of his citizenship reflects in all people around El Paso.

#### HONORING WAYNE BEMIS

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2001*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wayne Bemis on the occasion of his retirement as Forestry Instructor at Reedley College.

Mr. Bemis was born in New Hampshire. At the age of eight, he and his family moved to San Diego, California. In 1953, he graduated from Grossmont High School. After completing a two-year forestry program at Lassen Junior College, he enrolled at California State University, San Diego. He interrupted his college education for two years when he joined the Army, where he served at Fort Bliss, Texas. After proudly serving his country in the U.S.