

The importance of people like Bill Moge cannot be overstated. He left a positive and indelible mark on Chicopee High School, its students and its athletes. The Western Massachusetts community will sorely miss him.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to extend my sympathy to the family of Bill Moge, his six children, ten grandchildren and one great grandchild.

HONORING THE SECOND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT LATINO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues of an important constituency in the Second Congressional District of North Carolina: the growing Latino population.

Three years ago, I formed the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee to reach out to North Carolina's Latino community and provide responsive representation to the needs and concerns of this rapidly expanding community. North Carolina has undergone tremendous demographic changes over the past decade, and the Latino population is the fastest growing group in our state. During my service in the U.S. House, I have worked hard to serve the needs and represent the interests of all the people of the Second District. I established this committee to reach out to some of our newest residents, to open up lines of communication, and forge strong bonds among all groups of people.

Mr. Speaker, the Latino Advisory Committee, small upon its inception, has grown to over 70 members today. Among those who have joined the Committee are the Honorable Carolina Zaragoza-Flores, the Consulate General of the Mexican Consulate in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Ms. Maribell Diaz, the Executive Director of the Hispanic Task Force of Lee County, North Carolina. I am pleased that the members of the Hispanic Advisory Committee represent a crosssection of our state's diverse Latino population.

I rely on their insight and knowledge to advise me on issues important to their community. For instance, during our last meeting held on August 23, 2001, members of the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee raised a number of diverse concerns. Mr. Speaker, prior to the terrorist attacks of September 11, immigration and amnesty proposals were hot topics in Washington, and the Bush Administration was contemplating major changes in U.S. immigration policy. Latino Advisory Committee members expressed concerns that any immigration and amnesty proposal should address a number of key points: family reunification, earned access to legalization, border safety and protection, an enhanced temporary worker program, and fairness for immigrants and legal residents. However, as we all know, the terrorist attacks put immigration liberalization proposals on the backburner. It is my hope that the Congress will not forget the plight of America's immigrant families, who still need our help.

Latino Advisory Committee members also raised concerns about extension of the Sec-

tion 245(i) Visa Program. Mr. Speaker, the Section 245(i) Visa Program allows illegal immigrants to apply for permanent residency while remaining in the country. Our members expressed serious concerns that the expiration of the Section 245(i) Visa Program would unnecessarily rip immigrant families apart. I believe that Congress must answer the call for fairness and justice in our immigration laws and extend the Section 245(i) Visa Program. Immigration has played a critical role in America's history, and immigrants have been essential to the development of our economy and our society. I was disappointed that conferees to the Fiscal Year 2002 Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations bill elected to omit a Senate provision that would have permanently extended this worthy program. It is my sincere hope that Congress will extend the Section 245(i) Visa Program soon.

Mr. Speaker, the next meeting of the Second Congressional District Latino Advisory Committee will be held on February 20. I look forward to another lively discussion with our members about ways in which I can better serve them in the U.S. House. I extend my sincere gratitude to each member of the Latino Advisory Committee for their participation in this group. The most important job I have as a Congressman is to be the voice of the people. In the Second District we have many different voices and more than one language, and contributions of our Latino Community help bring us all together as one unifying chorus. I encourage each of my colleagues to consider establishing similar committees in their own districts.

HONORING MS. ELIZABETH BROWN CALLETON

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Elizabeth Brown Calleton for her forty years of contributions to women's health care and family planning in the San Gabriel Valley community.

Ms. Elizabeth Brown Calleton graduated from Smith College in 1956 with a Bachelors degree in government. She continued her education and received a Masters degree in 1962 from Columbia University in Public Law and Government. A decade later, Ms. Calleton began her professional career as an Administrative Assistant in Planned Parenthood in Pasadena, California and in 1974 she became Associate Director. She has been the Executive Director since 1979.

In addition to her commitment to Planned Parenthood, Ms. Brown Calleton was past President of League of Women Voters of the Pasadena area chapter and has served on the board of Young and Healthy, Women At Work, and Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California.

Her contributions have been recognized by many including the Women of Achievement, Magna Carta Business and Professional Women, and the Pasadena-Foothill YWCA.

Although Ms. Calleton worked hard to make significant inroads on the area of women's health care, she was also able to be a great mother and grandmother to her three children and her four grandchildren.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman for her contributions in the area of women's health care to the San Gabriel Valley community.

LET'S FIND A CURE FOR SCLERODERMA

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 7, I introduced H. Con. Res. 320, a bill to help the more than 300,000 Americans who suffer from Scleroderma. Scleroderma is a chronic, often progressive autoimmune disease in which the body's immune system attacks its own tissues.

The disease manifests itself in two forms: localized Scleroderma, effecting the skin and underlying tissue, and systemic Scleroderma, also known as systemic sclerosis, a potentially life-threatening disease that attacks internal organs including the lungs, heart, kidneys, esophagus and gastrointestinal tract.

Scleroderma can vary a great deal in terms of severity. While for a few individuals it is merely a nuisance, for many it is a life-threatening illness. For most, it is a disease that affects how they live their daily lives.

The wide range of symptoms and localized and systemic variations of the disease make it especially hard to diagnose. The average diagnosis is made 5 years after the onset of symptoms. Once diagnosed, however, people with Scleroderma can only look forward to symptomatic relief, as there is no known cure.

Symptoms may include swelling, hardening and thickening of the skin, blood vessel spasms with severe discomfort in the fingers and toes, weight loss, joint pain, swallowing difficulties, nonhealing ulcerations on the fingertips and extreme fatigue. In its more advanced forms, Scleroderma can prevent patients from performing even the simplest tasks.

Among the goals of my legislation is to help adequately fund research projects regarding Scleroderma; hold a Scleroderma symposium that would bring together distinguished scientists and clinicians from across the United States to determine the most important priorities in Scleroderma research and to establish a national epidemiological study to better track the incidence of this disease.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing awareness and find a cure to this devastating disease.

HONORING SENATOR MITCH McCONNELL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ERNIE FLETCHER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the well of the United States House of Representatives to wish a Happy 60th Birthday to a statesman and one of my esteemed colleagues in the United States Senate. During his first 60 years, Senator MITCH McCONNELL has influenced thousands of people, in both Kentucky and throughout the United States.

Born on February 20, 1942, Senator MCCONNELL demonstrated his leadership and political skills at an early age. He was elected student body president of his high school, student body president of the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences, and president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Kentucky College of Law. After graduating from law school, Senator MCCONNELL quickly ascended Washington politics as an intern for U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, chief legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Marlow Cook, and deputy assistant general under President Gerald R. Ford.

After serving in Washington, Senator MCCONNELL returned home to Kentucky to help build the Republican Party he loves so much. He was elected as County Judge-Executive in Jefferson County in 1978 and to the United States Senate in 1984. He is the only Republican in Kentucky history to be elected to three full terms in that esteemed body.

Since arriving in the Senate, Senator MCCONNELL has achieved recognition as being one of Washington's most influential people. He is the Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee, the Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, a senior member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator MCCONNELL's committee assignments position him well to champion issues that matter to Kentuckians.

Perhaps one of the biggest honors of Senator MCCONNELL's political career came in January 2001. As the Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, he directed the planning and production of President George W. Bush's Inauguration as the 43rd President of the United States. Not only did he serve as emcee of the 2001 Inauguration Ceremony and escort President Bush throughout the day's historic events; he also helped coordinate the "Bluegrass" Inaugural Ball.

Along with the long list of accomplishments in his political and professional life, Senator MCCONNELL is a committed husband to his wife, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and a loving father to his three daughters: Elly, Claire, and Porter.

On Senator MCCONNELL's 60th Birthday, I think it is important to thank him for the guiding light he provides to other folks in Kentucky. I speak personally and on behalf of a number of Republican candidates who have been inspired and helped by Senator MCCONNELL's leadership. He taught us that Republicans can win in Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker I would ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing him a very happy birthday and continued service for Kentucky and America.

TRIBUTE TO WALLACE E. GOODE,
JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Wallace E. Goode, Jr., who will be awarded the

Franklin H. Williams Award by the U.S. Peace Corps this month.

Most Americans visualize the Peace Corps as groups of student volunteers working in the "developing world." A far away world dogged by poverty and disadvantage, a place we only visit through somber images of undernourished children and devastated villages on television.

However, the developing world is not necessarily that remote. In fact, it may reside within our own borders. Wallace Goode fully understands this, as Executive Director of the Chicago Empowerment Zone and an individual with a solid record of serving and helping in areas that need it most. Mr. Goode has a crucial role in the revitalization effort, as he manages the push for community self-sustainability for distressed neighborhoods in Chicago.

The Peace Corps mission pinpoints "to help; to learn; to teach" as core duties.

Mr. Goode learned as a student at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, IL, a grad student at the University of Vermont and as a doctoral candidate at Loyola University while studying Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

Early in his career of helping and giving, Mr. Goode served as Director of Rural Development in Central Africa, Community Development Field Officer in the Solomon Islands and Trainer for the U.S. Peace Corps.

Furthermore, he helped to teach others as a Dean at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, Assistant Dean of Students at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL, and a Manager at International Orientation Resources (IOR) teaching fellow managers and executives how to approach business with other cultures and cross-cultural conflict resolution.

Today, he continues to advance the Peace Corps legacy of civic service by addressing Chicago's Empowerment Zone revitalization initiatives, of economic empowerment, affordable housing, public safety, cultural diversity, Health and Human Services, and Youth futures.

Each year, the Franklin H. Williams Award honors the outstanding leadership contributions that Peace Corps volunteers of color have made in the area of community service. And I can't think of a better, or more deserving recipient, and that is most likely how the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association felt when they nominated him.

Mr. Speaker, seldom do we get to sing the praises of individuals whose hard work and positive deeds improve the world. Thanks to the Peace Corps, Mr. Wallace Goode's inspiring example will not be unsung.

FARM BILL PAYMENT
LIMITATIONS A NECESSARY STEP

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the February 12, 2001, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial emphasizes the importance of reviewing the purpose of farm programs. It also expresses support for limiting farm payments, which would benefit family farmers and restore public confidence in farm programs.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Feb. 12, 2001]

WHY A FARM BILL? TO EVALUATE SUBSIDY
CAP, WE NEED TO REVISIT FUNDAMENTAL
QUESTIONS

A U.S. Senate amendment aimed at lowering the cap on farm subsidies to \$275,000 a year for the biggest farms is a move in the right direction, although it may not be the revolutionary step its backers have portrayed.

The new limit is designed for a worthy purpose. It would prevent huge corporate farms from receiving multimillion-dollar payments, thereby removing a factor that has tarnished the subsidy program in the eyes of many Americans.

This isn't a major issue in the Midlands, where most farms are family-operated and where federal payments are much more modest.

But in the South, where large corporate operations exist, the amendment is bitterly opposed. Currently the farm program has a theoretical limit of \$460,000. Corporate farmers with platoons of lawyers and accountants have found many options, including the breaking up of one operation into separate units, at least on paper. In effect, there is no limit. One Arkansas operation harvested \$49 million in federal funds from 1996 to 2000.

Some observers say that Southern opposition to the cap will be enough to sidetrack the farm bill.

If debate must be extended, it would be useful if some members of both houses of Congress addressed the underlying philosophy. America has had a subsidy program for so long that its purpose is sometimes forgotten. It originated in the 1930s as a way to help small and medium-sized farms survive a period of surplus-depressed prices. But in recent years it has morphed into a safety net for an ever-widening array of food and fiber producers, whether or not they were family farmers. In effect, it subsidizes surpluses, perpetuating a cycle of low returns and pressure for more subsidies.

Congress might start by putting up the fundamental questions for review: Why do we have a farm program? To help the little guys or the big guys? To encourage surplus production or discourage it? To ensure raw materials for processors? To protect all elements of the agricultural industry from the perils of weather and market? Is the farm bill corporate welfare or community stabilization?

Once the philosophy is established, perhaps a rational debate can take place. With or without it, the lower cap backed by Nebraska's delegation and others seems sound.

Nothing in this amendment reduces the overall cost of the farm bill, which in its present form would add about \$74 billion in spending over the next 10 years. But it does aim at keeping the program from being increasingly a form of income-protection for mega-farmers. In that context, the amendment deserves respect and the sponsors are right to give it a try.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MONE-
TARY FREEDOM AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Monetary Freedom and Accountability Act. This simple bill takes a step toward restoring