

HONORING OUR NATION'S FARMERS AND CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, next week, March 17, 2002, we celebrate National Agriculture Week. From the apple orchards of upstate New York and cattle ranches of Texas, to the farm belt of the Midwest and rice fields of California, we are a nation built by farmers and ranchers. We take this week to honor those who produce our food and fiber, and to call attention to what needs to be done to protect our agricultural heritage, our way of life and our safe and plentiful food supply. It is the strength of this agricultural community that has made the United States the "bread basket of the world."

My home of California is our nation's most productive agricultural producers, producing more than \$27 billion worth of product each year. The people of our state and nation benefit from this agricultural bounty every day in affordable, high-quality food, fiber, flowers and forest products.

Farmers are good stewards of the land and take pride in their work to protect the environment. Farmers and ranchers care for the land in many ways—from sustainable forestry practices to sound and safe pest management programs and grazing programs.

Farmers are also good conservationists, and have written the book on doing more with less. In the last 30 years, agriculture's share of water has remained constant, but farmers and ranchers have boosted production on a tonnage basis an impressive 67 percent during the same period. Farmers provide habitat for many species of wildlife, including the waterfowl of the Pacific Flyway. Many farmers are working towards better and more environmentally friendly methods of pest control—such as box homes for bats and barn owls, or pest resistant plants and bacteria that combat pests while reducing the reliance on pesticides.

In addition to their environmental benefits, farmers, ranchers, vintners and other members of the agricultural community are an important part of California's economy. A University of California study recently found that farmers generate about \$59 billion in personal income for Californians or 6.6 percent of the state's annual personal income. California agriculture also contributes 1.1 million jobs to the state, about 7 percent of the total workforce.

It is my great honor and pleasure to represent many of the men and women of California Agriculture in this House. Please join me next week in recognizing their contributions and thanking them for all they do to make this great nation what it is today.

HONORING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

**HON. JOHN BOOZMAN**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2002*

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America, who recently celebrated their 90th Anniversary.

Girl Scouting began on March 12, 1912. The founder Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, for a local Girl Scout meeting. The group was brought together because of her belief that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

The Girl Scouts' mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to society. Through the years, the Girl Scouts have continued to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scouts' Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Today, the Girl Scouts of America has a membership of 2.7 million girl members and over 900,000 adult members. In the state of Arkansas the Girl Scouts is 18,000 girl members and 7,000 adult members strong. They promote many beneficial programs, such as in-school scouting, and also promote qualities including diversity and responsibility. This program is one of the few private programs to still teach patriotism and the democratic process. The qualities that girls learn from this organization helps to guarantee a brighter future for Arkansas and the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to honor the Girl Scouts of America.

STATEMENT IN HONOR OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY AND OUR SEPTEMBER 11TH FIREFIGHTERS

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2002*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 2002 the people of Kansas City will once again participate in the wearing of the Green and celebrate our Irish heritage. The tradition dates back to the 1800's and has grown to the third largest St. Patrick's celebration in the United States. This will be a St. Patrick's Day Parade like no other as participants and spectators will be wearing green, but seeing red, white, and blue. Our honored guests will be members of the New York's Port Authority, Police Department, and Fire Department.

On September 11, 2001, these brave first responders put their lives on the line for individuals in the World Trade Towers and surrounding structures. We at the Capitol watched in horror with the plane attack on Tower II, and felt the impact of the attack on the Pentagon. The world observed the courage and a selflessness of these men and women who rush to danger so that others will survive. Americans watched with pride and tears cognizant of the loss of life and families that would forever be altered.

As a community, we have witnessed the bravery of our own first responders. Kansas Citians along with the rest of our Nation volunteered their services in the 9/11 rescue efforts. Locally, the firefighter's boot became the means for every citizen to contribute to the relief of the 9/11 survivors. I attended the New

York Giants v. Kansas City Chiefs game at Arrowhead Stadium, and witnessed an emotional tribute and the generosity as I, along with my firefighters, collected donations from fans. I consider this a privilege especially after having witnessed the devastation of ground zero. The representatives from New York who are participating in the Kansas City St. Patrick's Day Parade and the people of New York have the respect and admiration of us all.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, I will participate as one of over 200 entries in the third largest parade in the Nation. As a proud American, I ask that you join the citizens of Kansas City as we salute our heroes of 9/11 and especially our honored guests from New York participating in the parade:

From the Port Authority: Officers Frank Dowd, Bob Moore, Brian Dunwoody, John O'Donnell, and Patrick Harty.

From the New York Police Department: Detective Steve Eizikowitz, Detective Mike Davis, Kevin Douthit, and Patrick Kelly.

From the Fire Department of New York: Lieutenant Joe Huber, Carl Punzone, Bob Fraumeni, and Josh Lomask.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring our first responders throughout the United States, as we observe the courage of St. Patrick.

CONGRATULATING THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA ON THEIR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 14, 2002*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Scouting Caucus I wish to congratulate the Girl Scouts of the USA on the occasion of their 90th anniversary.

When I was a boy, I thought girls were icky. And as a boy I thought all Girl Scouts did was camp, sell cookies and do crafts. Well, I have dramatically changed my opinion about girls, and the Girl Scouts have changed as well.

Today, the Girl Scouts is three million girls strong, with 900,000 adults volunteers. Girl Scouts now can earn merit badges that develop skills in chemistry, math, marketing, sports, computer science, aerospace and the environment.

The Girl Scouts have developed programs that deal with the real problems young women face today. The Girl Scouts are actively working to discourage teen pregnancy, cultivate girls whose parents are incarcerated, mentor disadvantaged young women and encourage the academic achievement that will be so critical in their future.

These programs expose girls from all walks of life to all the wonderful possibilities open to them in work, play, and service to others. The Girl Scouts develop healthy interests, skills and habits that serve young women for a lifetime.

It is a long, long way from when Juliette Lowe founded the Girl Scouts on March 12 of 1912. But 90 years later the Girl Scouts are still teaching the basic values contained in the Girl Scout law: "to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I

say and do." These basic, timeless values prepare our girls to take on the mantle of leadership as they enter adulthood. And for that, I congratulate the Girl Scouts of America for their invaluable contribution to the success of our girls and the good of America.

THE FALLEN HEROES FLAG ACT OF 2002, H.R. 3968

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I introduce H.R. 3968, the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002. This Act provides for a flag flown over our Capitol to the immediate family of our nation's brave firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians (EMT's), and to other relief workers whose lives are lost in the line of duty. This Act ensures that our future generations of public servants who may pay the ultimate price for their service to our communities and our nation are accorded the honor, the dignity and respect that they deserve.

As we pass the six-month anniversary of the barbaric terrorist acts perpetrated against the people of our great nation, we are reminded, once again, of the heroic acts of bravery, devotion to duty and self-sacrifice that our firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians and other relief workers rendered to us. Their great heroism was not just exhibited by those who following their rescue efforts, re-entered the crumbling buildings with the certain knowledge that they would pay the ultimate price; but for those who labored at Ground Zero, day after day, searching not only for survivors, but for their brave colleagues and our fellow citizens who perished on that day.

All too often we take our firefighters, law enforcement officers, EMT's, and relief and rescue workers for granted. The events of September 11th provided us with a glimpse into their lives, hard work, excellence, devotion to public service and to our communities that our brave public servants give each and every day. We must never forget the great service that they provide to our nation!

Mr. Speaker, as is customary with our fallen military heroes, this act will provide the immediate family member of our fallen public servants with the symbol of our great nation—our flag, as a tribute for the respect, admiration and appreciation that must be accorded to our brave firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians and our relief and rescue workers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Accordingly, I urge all of our colleagues to join as co-sponsors of the Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002, as our way of honoring the work and lives of our brave, devoted and dedicated fallen heroes.

H.R. 3968

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fallen Heroes Flag Act of 2002".

SEC. 2. PROVIDING CAPITOL-FLOWN FLAGS FOR FAMILIES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RESCUE WORKERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the immediate family of a fire fighter, law enforcement officer, emergency technician, or other rescue worker who died in the line of duty, the Representative of the family may provide the family with a Capitol-flown flag, together with the certificate described in subsection (c).

(b) NO COST TO FAMILY.—A flag provided under this section shall be provided at no cost to the family.

(c) CERTIFICATE.—The certificate described in this subsection is a certificate which is signed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Representative providing the flag, and which contains an expression of sympathy from the House of Representatives for the family involved, as prepared and developed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "Capitol-flown flag" means a United States flag flown over the United States Capitol in honor of the deceased individual for whom such flag is requested; and

(2) the term "Representative" includes a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Clerk shall issue regulations for carrying out this Act, including regulations to establish procedures (including any appropriate forms, guidelines, and accompanying certificates) for requesting a Capitol-flown flag.

(b) APPROVAL BY COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION.—The regulations issued by the Clerk under subsection (a) shall take effect upon approval by the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated from the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives for fiscal year 2003 and each succeeding fiscal year such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect October 1, 2002, except that no flags may be provided under section 2 until the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives approves the regulations issued by the Clerk of the House of Representatives under section 3.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EDITH BRISKER VILLAGRIGO

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness and deep respect in paying tribute to a woman with the courage to envision a peaceful world. Mrs. Edith Brisker Villastrigo passed away on Sunday, August 26, 2001, in Silver Spring, MD.

Mrs. Villastrigo's commitment and dedication to peace in the world, as well as to other issues affecting women spanned for more than four decades.

Mrs. Villastrigo immigrated to the United States from Gomel, Russia, in the 1920s. Her long record of activism began with union organizing in Chicago, Illinois, and Pittsburgh, PA.

A visionary and advocate for peace, Mrs. Villastrigo helped lead the Women Strike for Peace organization, opposed the Vietnam War and challenged the Nixon administration and its policies by protesting at the Washington Monument.

In the 1980s, she fought for peace on an even broader scale, helping to lead protests against Star Wars and nuclear proliferation. Her passion inspired us all.

Mrs. Villastrigo's death represents a tremendous loss to the peace community as well to her family, friends, admirers, and supporters. But as we mourn her death, we also remember the legacy of hope and inspiration Edith left behind as a true leader and voice for peace.

Her passion and mission for peace show us how one person's vision, dreams and actions can inspire and make a difference for all who seek peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to the late Mrs. Villastrigo's children, her sister, her grandchildren, her friends and supporters throughout the world.

To Mrs. Villastrigo—may the world receive the love, peace, and compassion you gave it. God Bless.

IN HONOR OF UCI UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENTS

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor eight undergraduate science students from the University of California, Irvine for their award-winning work at the student poster competition at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's (AAAS) Annual Meeting.

Biological sciences majors Rafael Gonzalez, Matilde Gonzalez, Sylvia Jaramillo, and psychology major Bonnie Sue Poytress won first place recognition for their posters. Biological science majors Cheryse Furman, Kathi Lynn Hamor, David Hernandez, and Sarah Lopez earned honorable mentions for their entries.

The AAAS is the world's largest organization of scientists. The AAAS Annual Meeting offered an interdisciplinary blend of more than 130 symposia, plenary and topical lectures, poster presentations and exhibits. The poster session included about 300 posters presented by national and international undergraduate and graduate students.

Scientific posters provide a visual snapshot of a research project, using a brief amount of text and extensive visuals to explain the work. These posters are usually presented with others of a similar topic and are judged for the quality and originality of the data.

I am extremely proud to represent such talented minds! Please join me in honoring these eight UCI undergraduate students for their hard work and achievements.