

Farm Bill informed us that they would "be in a position to make the final farm bill decisions in public meetings of the Conference the week of April 9," according to a joint statement released by the top conferees.

April 9th is far too late to begin implementing this complex legislation, as was March 22nd or even January 1st, and I believe that it is now essential to delay implementation of the Farm Security Act until next year.

The planting season has already begun in many states across the country. As each day passes by without a new bill, America's farmers are digging themselves into deeper and deeper holes.

We all know that farmers are not just planters, but planners, and most farmers thought it to be vitally important to have the farm bill in place at the end of last year. Now that it may be mid-summer before the USDA is effectively able to administer the provisions in the new Farm Bill, it could prove to be overwhelmingly detrimental for our agricultural community, especially in southeastern Virginia.

In addition to helping the farmers by delaying the bill one more year, we will be saving the government an estimated \$299 million dollars by delaying the new "peanut subsidy program" and continuing to use the current system, which has no net cost to the government.

A Farm Bill is certainly needed, but the timing is important. Implementing the new Farm Bill this late in the season would be an incredible injustice to our farmers.

#### INTRODUCING H.R. 4012 THE RURAL WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2002

#### HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, rural America. We often hear of the unique challenges that face those of us who live and work in the unspoiled expanses of this great nation. As someone who represents the least populated state in the country, let me say that we wouldn't trade those challenges for all the urban conveniences in the world.

There are, however, basic needs deemed necessary to conduct our everyday lives whether you live in Brooklyn, New York or Basin, Wyoming. One of those essential, and obtainable, requirements is access to modern and efficient telecommunications. Telecommunications is an important component by which we can run small businesses, visit distant relatives, or just order a pizza.

During the last two Congresses, I have been successful advocating for wholesale changes in the way the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates small and mid-size telecommunications companies. Those bills have passed the House but languish in the Senate.

The basic tenet of the bills is to ensure that the FCC writes separate regulations for companies that are smaller than their oftentimes much larger competitors. Common sense should tell us that identical regulations imposed on telecommunications companies regardless of size translates into the over-regulation of the small and mid-size companies. Al-

though the FCC initially fought these changes, I am pleased to report that most of the changes in the bills have ultimately been incorporated by the FCC.

This leads me to the introduction of the bill I bring before the House today. The "Rural Wireless Telecommunications Enhancement Act of 2002" will bring about significant changes by which the FCC regulates small wireless telecommunications companies.

If you've been fortunate enough to travel through the state of Wyoming, you may have been surprised to find that your wireless phone did not work or that it received marginal coverage at best. One way in which we can address the comprehensive development of wireless telecommunications infrastructure in rural areas is to stop the FCC from burdening small wireless companies with onerous, one-size-fits-all rules meant to regulate the largest wireless carriers. That way small wireless companies can put their resources into developing new technologies and deploying their infrastructure instead of spending it on high-priced Washington lobbyists and regulatory attorneys.

The goal of the "Rural Wireless Telecommunications Enhancement Act" is simple: to give rural wireless customers better service and more choices.

#### TRIBUTE TO CASEY ROATS

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to convey my deepest appreciation to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's 2nd Congressional District. Casey Roats will conclude his internship in my office this week to continue his studies at Oregon State University and assist in the operations of his family's business, Roats Water System, Inc. in Bend, Oregon. As he leaves our nation's capital, I wish Casey well in his future endeavors, and I know that his intelligence and discipline will bring him success in whatever calling he answers.

Casey was raised in Bend, Oregon, growing up in a family with indelible ties to central Oregon. He is, in short, a son of the American west. As a youngster he developed an interest in horsemanship, where he excelled as he does in every pursuit that I have witnessed him attempt. Casey's success in rodeo competitions provided him with the resources to attend his first year of college at Oregon State University. The travel required by these competitions allowed Casey to become familiar with much of eastern Oregon, which strengthened both his ties to the land and his appreciation for the western way of life. Moreover, his intimate knowledge of the issues that are so important to the people of Oregon has made him an invaluable asset during his tenure in my office.

Mr. Speaker, Casey's early involvement with the Oregon chapter of Future Farmers of America provided a foundation of civic participation that he continues to build upon. His contributions to the Mountain View Chapter and the Central Oregon District soon earned statewide attention, and Casey was elected

Vice-President of the Oregon Future Farmers of America for the 1999-2000 term.

Throughout his internship, Casey has endeavored to learn more about his native state, as well as the workings of the federal government. His interest in the latter has been insatiable, leading him to pepper my staff with thoughtful questions about how things work in Washington, D.C. and why. His fascination with the legislative process, coupled with a firm ideological underpinning, promises to carry him far in the arena of public service if he chooses to embark on such a career.

Mr. Speaker, Casey exudes competence, and he welcomed visitors to my office with the same friendly and forthright manner that is so common of Oregonians. My trust in him to complete tasks flawlessly and without supervision was vindicated time and time again. My staff reports that Casey ranks among the finest items ever to serve in my congressional office. Simply put, Casey was a delight to work with and always demonstrated a high level of professionalism and attention to detail during his service on Capitol Hill.

It goes without saying that Casey will be difficult to replace. While I am deeply sorry to see him leave, I am confident that he will continue to make central Oregon proud in whatever career he chooses in the future. Thank you, Casey, for a job well done.

#### EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

#### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the life and work of Susan B. Anthony, and to celebrate the 182nd anniversary of her birth, which took place last month. Susan B. Anthony is remembered as one of our greatest foremothers in the drive for women's rights. However, what many have forgotten, or chosen to ignore, is that she was amongst our Nation's first and most passionate pro-life advocates. For Anthony, the rights of the unborn were inseparable from the rights of women, and opposition to abortion was an essential part of the cause of women's rights.

This month as we honor the women who have strived to improve the lives of women in America and throughout the world, let us remember the life and achievements of Susan B. Anthony and what she has done to guarantee full rights for both women and their unborn children.

#### CELEBRATING THE 46TH ANNIVERSARY OF TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 2002*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, March 20, 2002, the Republic of Tunisia celebrates the 46th anniversary of its independence.

Since adoption of its first Constitution in June 1, 1959, Tunisia has made great progress in embracing procedural and substantive democratic reforms by holding contested presidential and legislative elections that provide for the opposition party to hold seats in parliament; expanding freedom of expression among its people; providing a free public education for all children; and promoting the equality of women, including the election of women to parliament.

As a result, the Republic of Tunisia has reaped the benefits of becoming a world trading partner through bilateral free trade agreements, trade agreements with European Union, and nearly two decades of sustained economic growth.

The relationship between the United States and Tunisia dates back to the 18th century when our two countries signed a treaty of friendship. Strong ties of cooperation continued after Tunisia gained its independence in 1956 and continue today as Tunisia joins us in the fight against terrorism. Today, we commemorate the independence of the Republic of Tunisia and celebrate our special relationship with the Tunisian people.

### “FROM FRONT LINES TO BACK ROADS”

#### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to call to the attention of our colleagues an article in the March 11, 2002, edition of the Washington Post which tells the story of a decorated flight surgeon with the Army's elite Delta Force who now spends his time in the rural areas of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia as a beloved country doctor making house calls.

His name is John O. Marsh III, better known as Rob, the son of John O. Marsh Jr., better known to many of his former colleagues in this House as Jack. I am proud to represent as part of Virginia's 10th District areas which used to be included in the 1960's in the old 7th District, which was ably represented by then Congressman Jack Marsh. As many of our colleagues will recall, Jack went on to serve in the administration of President Ford and as Secretary of the Army under both Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

We congratulate Dr. Rob Marsh, who has followed in his father's footsteps in his service to the people of his nation and to his state.

The Post article follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 4, 2002]

FROM FRONT LINES TO BACK ROADS—DELTA FORCE DOCTOR NOW DELIVERS CARE IN RURAL VIRGINIA

(By Carol Morello)

MIDDLEBROOK, VA.—The only doctor in this crossroads of a Shenandoah Valley village does not volunteer details of his years with an elite Army unit, or how he almost died in Somalia of mortar wounds. And his patients are too polite to probe.

But while waiting in the clinic to see Rob Marsh, many of them study the watercolor prints on the walls, depicting soldiers rappelling into battle and downed Black Hawk helicopters. How, they wonder, did this decorated combat physician come to treat the

aches and pains of farmers and factory workers in the valley?

“They remind me every day where I came from, and why I'm here,” explains Marsh while driving over gravel roads and one lane bridges in his pickup truck. He's making house calls. And he won't send a bill. It's not very efficient, he allows, but this is what a good country doctor does.

They didn't have a doctor before Marsh moved here six years ago with his wife, Barbara, and their children—now two boys and two girls, ages 3 to 9. “I feel that's why I was saved, to come back here and do this,” he says. “This is my calling.”

At a time when rural America is starved for physicians to provide basic health care, Marsh practices medicine with a care and attention that seem lost to another era. How many doctors are left whose patients drop by just to leave a home-baked cake or to show off photographs of the animals they've raised in 4-H?

Marsh's practice in a University of Virginia satellite clinic is all the more extraordinary when contrasted with the life he used to lead as a flight surgeon for Delta Force, the Army's secretive Special Forces unit.

His office is filled with mementos of war zones where he mended wounds and lost friends before settling on a farm near here. A bookshelf holds the iconic Delta Force dagger inside a triangular frame along with the motto “Oppressors Beware.” In two examining rooms, drawings of Delta Force battles share wall space with osteoporosis posters. Even his clock is on Zulu time. His Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars and Purple Heart are stashed at home and in his truck.

What is missing is anything that smacks of the Hollywood version of what happened to Delta Force and Ranger troops in Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993. Marsh has not seen the blockbuster film “Black Hawk Down.”

“I don't have to go watch a reenactment of seeing 18 of my friends die,” he says.

Nor did he consent when producers asked him to be a consultant. “I couldn't leave my patients,” he explains.

Friends and colleagues say a common thread runs through Marsh's work in polar-opposite environments.

“His dedication to the military was just as intense as his dedication is now to his patients,” says Lewis Barnett, the former head of the University of Virginia's family medicine program. “He's a devoted servant.”

Marsh, 46, had wanted to be a Green Beret ever since a third-grade visit to Fort Bragg with his father, John O. Marsh Jr., then a Democratic congressman from the Shenandoah Valley who later became secretary of the Army under presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. The son is John O. Marsh III, but everyone knows him as Rob.

The quickest route into the Green Berets was as a medic, so Marsh enlisted and eventually received a degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School.

He had his share of close calls. During the Persian Gulf War in 1991, for example, a medic who replaced him on a helicopter flight into Iraq was killed when the chopper crashed.

But nothing compared to his experience in Somalia two years later. U.S. troops set out to capture two aides to a local warlord. Army Rangers and Delta Force operatives became pinned down during a night of pitched combat.

The casualties arrived at the airport base in waves. First a handful, then by the dozens—some 60 serious casualties in all. Marsh and two other physicians worked through the night and into the next day. Eighteen Americans and hundreds of Somalis died in the fighting, chronicled in the book “Black

Hawk Down” by Mark Bowden, and the movie of the same name.

For Marsh, the worst was yet to come. Two days later, he was standing on the tarmac with other officers when a mortar hit. The man next to him was killed. Twelve soldiers were wounded, including Marsh.

Here is what he remembers before losing consciousness: “A flash. Noise. I remember feeling pain.”

Shrapnel shredded his abdomen. A shard pierced an artery in his leg. Yet even as he lay bleeding from his nearly fatal wounds, he ordered soldiers to carry the injured to his side so he could perform triage. “They were my people. I wanted to know who was hit.”

Marsh's father, who vividly recalls his son's arrival at Andrews Air Force Base two weeks later, believes the experience made him a better doctor: “It's given him empathy and insight into people who are sick.”

Even before his injury, Marsh had talked of returning to the valley, which he always considered home, though he was largely educated in Arlington public schools.

The university's health system was looking to open a rural office in this area and show medical students the life of a country doctor—a breed that has largely vanished over the last 50 years as physicians have gravitated to specialties and urban areas.

“Rural areas can be hard on the family,” says Claudette Dalton, an anesthesiologist who heads the university's community education program. “There are no cultural attractions. You have to drive 10 miles to the Piggly Wiggly to get groceries.”

Marsh saw it differently.

“He goes where the need is greatest,” says Dalton. “There aren't many physicians who will take on all comers as patients.”

One day recently, Marsh spent the afternoon crisscrossing the back roads of this cattle-raising area south of Staunton. He made a half-dozen house calls, most to elderly, housebound patients. Testing the memory of a stroke victim, he asked her how many chickens her daughter owns. At the home of a cancer patient struggling to pay for his arsenal of medicine, Marsh left a supply of salesman's samples. In the run-down farmhouse of a man who had been acting confused, Marsh found an addling blend of outdated drugs, some of which had expired in 1986.

He would not ask for payment.

“If I sent them a bill for \$150 for a house visit, they would pay,” he explains. “But I probably wouldn't keep them as a patient.”

They are not just his patients, he says, but “my friends.”

That's why he attends their funerals, serves on their volunteer fire and rescue unit, makes apple butter with the Ruritan club, and is an elder in his Presbyterian church.

“You can become very close to everyone, very quickly,” he says of this hamlet of 200, so small it lacks even a stoplight. “If you're a good doctor, you treat people right and get involved in the community.”

It's a philosophy he's passing on to the coming generation of doctors. “He believes we should make sure we give more to our community than just medicine,” says Frank Petruzella, a U-Va. medical student who spent a month working with Marsh. “He's very involved in all aspects of people's lives.”

Marsh has been involved in Carl Sprouse's life for a decade. They were in Delta Force together, and Sprouse now lives down the road.

“When my father had complications after open heart surgery, Doc Marsh would stop by at 11 or 12 at night to see him in the hospital,” recalls Sprouse. “He wasn't his doctor. He just has compassion for people. He was a good soldier. He's a great man.”