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CONGRATULATING COW CREEK
BAND OF THE UMPQUA TRIBE OF
INDIANS ON THEIR 20TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians on the twentieth anniversary of their federal restoration. Saturday, April 27, 2002, will be a day of joyous celebration of their renewal.

In 1954, the Termination Act severed the trust relationship between the Federal Government and the small tribes and bands of western Oregon, including the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe. If you can imagine losing your home and having your identity expunged by an action of Congress, you can begin to understand the consequences of termination for the Cow Creek Umpqua.

The termination of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe was only one of many catastrophic events in the history of their relationship with the United States Government. By 1954, they had been stripped of their homelands, survived relocation, and suffered the loss of their reservation lands. Yet, despite great tragedy and unimaginable loss, the Cow Creek Umpqua endured.

In 1982, the Cow Creek Umpqua were restored as an Indian tribe and established formal relations with the Federal Government. The Recognition Law was a tribute to the indomitable spirit of countless tribal elders and tribal leaders, like Ellen Furlong Crispen and Sue Crispen Shaffer, who refused to let the Cow Creek Umpqua be extinguished.

Recognition of the Cow Creek Umpqua enriched the lives of tribal members, and local communities gained a strong and active partner in their efforts to help youth and families. The Cow Creek Umpqua Foundation and the Tribal Council have given nearly three million dollars to the Special Olympics, local schools, community organizations, and civic projects.

The history of the Cow Creek Umpqua is an impressive story of remarkable perseverance in the face of overwhelming challenges. I am pleased to offer my warmest congratulations on this historic anniversary and my good wishes for continued.

HONORING THE 22ND ANNUAL
RADIO VISION RECOGNITION DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the volunteers of Radio Vision in Orange County, New York for their 22 years of devout service in my Congressional district. Radio vision is a radio reading service for over

600 blind and visually handicapped listeners located in the Mid-Hudson region of southeastern New York. This outstanding organization informs its listeners of local events and news, which is broadcast by Radio Vision's dedicated volunteers.

To the more than 8 million Americans with visual impairments, programs such as Radio Vision are valuable assets.

Radio Vision, an outreach service of the Ramapo Catskill Library System, is a radio reading program for the blind, visually handicapped and print impaired listeners 24 hours a day in the lower Hudson Valley region.

Radio Vision allows listeners daily to stay informed with news of their community and the world-at-large and thus enables them to participate in discussions of local and current events. This service is made possible by the dedication of volunteers that have helped make this service a success since 1979, and it is supported by Outreach Funds from the New York State Legislature.

Many of us take the gift of sight for granted, especially with our ability to watch television or read newspapers in order to learn of the daily worldwide events. We are incapable of knowing what it is like to be blind and have no other means of gathering information without the sense of sight. Radio Vision provides the blind residents of our Mid-Hudson region the opportunity to find out news and current events, since the means of conveying information via television and newspapers to the blind is impossible.

It is our duty in the United States Congress to help the citizens of our nation with disabilities and to support the programs that focus on creating a better life for others.

Moreover, I have cosponsored H.R. 1601, which would have amended the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating their ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test.

Last year, I supported the Medicare Vision Rehabilitation Coverage Act which would have provided for coverage of vision rehabilitation services under the Medicare Program. These bills will increase older individuals' access to vision rehabilitation services and increase Medicare reimbursement for vision services, respectively.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring Radio Vision, their cause, and the honorable deeds of those devoted volunteers at Radio Vision to the attention of Congress and I invite my colleagues to join me in praising their continuing efforts in helping the blind.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. Udall of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Mr. BACA's motion to instruct conferees to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. I applaud Mr. BACA's efforts on this issue and am happy to support him in this worthy endeavor.

In addition, I would also like to applaud President Bush's effort to restore food stamps for legal immigrants, which is of critical importance to so many families all across this country. Unfortunately, conferees from the President's own party voted to block the Administration's proposal to restore food stamps to legal immigrants on April 10th.

Instead, they voted for a far more stringent proposal that would make it virtually impossible for immigrant families to qualify for food stamp benefits. This opposition is preventing more than 350,000 people from benefiting from this program that helps poor families feed their children.

Mr. BACA's proposal contains the same provisions that were in the Administration's proposal, which passed the Senate by the overwhelming vote of 96 to 1. These provisions include allowing legal immigrants access to food stamps after 5 years, allowing individuals with 16 quarters of work to be eligible for food stamps, and restoring food stamp benefits to children and other vulnerable populations regardless of date of entry.

I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct conferees and help ensure that all legal immigrants, especially children, are eligible for food stamps. Legal immigrants who work hard, live by the rules, pay taxes, and even serve in our armed forces deserve access to food stamps. Lets do the right thing and pass this motion to instruct conferees.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES
ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY
ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. Waters. Mr. Speaker, today, we are voting on H.R. 3839, "Keeping Children and Families Safe Act." Preventing child abuse, providing family support to decrease the numbers of abandoned infants, and establishing transitional housing for domestic violence victims are all critical pieces of keeping people safe. Making sure they have adequate food is another.

Congress has an opportunity to do just that through the Farm Bill. Last week, Rep. BACA introduced a Motion to Instruct the Conferees to restore food stamp benefits to legal immigrants. It would allow children to be eligible for food stamps regardless of when they entered the U.S., and to reduce the work requirement for adults from 40 quarters to 16 quarters. I support this Motion to Instruct and urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Nationwide, 37 percent of all children of immigrants lived in families that had trouble affording food. In 1999, the incidence of food insecurity in immigrant households was almost three times that of White non-Hispanic households. Extensive research has shown that children who do not have adequate diets have poor health, slow development, and difficulty concentrating in school.

This Motion to Instruct does not take an extreme stance. We're talking about legal immigrants. These are people who work hard, pay their taxes, and contribute a great deal to our Nation. The Motion to Instruct also requires

people to work 16 quarters, or approximately four years, before they can become eligible for food stamps.

Importantly, restoring benefits to legal immigrant children will also help reach citizen children. Over 85 percent of immigrant families are "mixed status" and include at least one citizen child. Seventy-four percent of those families left the food stamp program from 1994 to 1998.

Once someone has come in legally, and has worked hard to support this economy, they should be entitled to a little support for their families and their children. They should be eligible for food stamps. While we're working at keeping children and families safe, let's not forget that adequate food is the first step.

Support the Baca Motion to Instruct the Conferees.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, "You give but little when you give of your possessions," the Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran once wrote. "It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Danny Thomas lived this truth. His generosity of spirit endures at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital forty years after he established this essential institution.

"As a member of the Professional Advisory Board since 1996, I was honored to work with Danny Thomas to further the Hospital's mission. It is one of the world's leading centers of research and treatment for life-threatening childhood illnesses, particularly cancer. Remarkably, no child pays for St. Jude's services. I am proud that the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities raise the funds to cover all costs of patient care."

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of restoring food stamp benefits to legal immigrants, recently arrived children, the disabled and refugees. This is the right thing to do, it is the decent thing to do and I urge my colleagues to act today to accomplish this.

Legal Permanent Residents pay taxes and their labor helps to drive our economy. Food stamps can provide these needy families with a temporary safety net during difficult times.

Food stamps provide a crucial safety net that allows working men and women to feed their families during hard times. Hunger does not limit itself to American citizenship; therefore, we should not create a policy to systematically deny food assistance to needy immigrants in this country.

Immigrants come to this country to work hard and make a better life for themselves and their family. Cutting off needed benefits to those who legally reside in this country is both unnecessary and cruel. I have both co-sponsored and voted for legislation to restore the benefits to legal immigrants since I was first elected to Congress.

Most of the legal immigrants in this country are employed. These workers, like all other residents, pay taxes. In many cases, they are the fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers of American citizens. Their labor helps to drive our economy and they deserve help when they need it.

Immigrant workers can also be the most vulnerable during an economic downturn. Prior to September 11th, the Hispanic unemployment rate was rising faster than the national average. The terrorist attacks and subsequent economic impact only worsened the situation for

Latinos in this country. Food stamps are not a permanent fix; they are a temporary means to provide the neediest people the most basic resource to survive.

I will continue to fight for equal rights and just treatment for immigrants throughout my tenure in Congress.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support of the Baca motion to instruct conferees and urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

My colleagues, President Bush proposed the restoration of food stamps for legal immigrants who have been in this country for five years in his fiscal year 2003 budget. Following the President's lead, our colleagues in the other body voted overwhelmingly to include the President's proposal in the Senate version of the Farm bill.

We are here tonight however, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on the conference of the Farm bill regrettably voted to block the Bush proposal to restore food stamps for legal immigrants and supported a more stringent proposal instead; which would make it virtually impossible for immigrant families to qualify for food stamp benefits. The opposition to the President's proposal will prevent more than 50,000 people from benefiting from a program that helps poor families feed their children.

Restoring food stamp benefits for low-income legal permanent residents and children is the right and responsible thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the Baca motion to instruct.