

veterans a day. It is for these brave veterans that I introduce this bill and ask my colleagues for swift passage.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
CHEMTRONICS, INC.

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important business in my district celebrating its 50th anniversary. In 1953, Bert Gross, James Lowry and Daniel Brimm joined together to start Chemtronics, Inc., a local small-business specializing in technology that could remove metal in a very rapid and controlled manner. Chem-tronics, Inc. was incorporated in October 1953, with company offices and chemical etching facilities set up in rented World War II surplus barracks on Gillespie Field in El Cajon, California.

Early sales efforts were focused on aircraft frames and skins but they soon realized that the chemical milling process could be applied advantageously to jet engine components as well. With this new opportunity, the company embarked on a campaign to earn a contract with General Electric Co., working on their TF-39 jet engine. From the middle 1960's into the early 1970's, Chem-tronics Inc., built around nine hundred of these parts.

By the early 70's, tools and trained personnel were developed for repairing and accurately reforming titanium fan blades for jet engines utilizing a process patented by the company. This activity has expanded in scope and size over the years and is now a major element of the business with its own specialized management and marketing staff, known as Aviation Repair, also located in El Cajon, California.

Chem-tronics, Inc., while still small, was becoming recognized as a high quality product-producing, vertically integrated, one-stop-shop facility. By 1975, Chem-tronics had products on space launch systems, most of the larger commercial airframes, and several of General Electric Co. and Pratt & Whitney Co.'s larger commercial jet engines.

During this same period of time, Daniel Brimm, who had bought out his earlier partners, developed a unique integral stiffening feature with chemical milling that he patented called Unistructure. This was a critical turning point in the success of Chem-tronics, Inc. Since 1976, Unistructure stiffened light-weight products have been designed and built for virtually every new By-pass Outer Duct for every military jet engine built in the USA. Driven by a company commitment to provide each customer with a one-stop-shop, Chem-tronics began to supply complete product design services in 1978, which included computer aided design and computer, aided manufacturing.

The trend of expanding Chem-tronics' technology has continued over the years with increasing levels of production, factory floor space, manpower and facilities. Major customers include General Electric Co., Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Rolls-Royce-Allison, Allied Signal, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and Boeing. Through these customers, Chem-tronics' products have become an important

part of military and commercial aircraft, such as the B-1B and B2 Bombers, Joint Strike Fighter, F22 Raptor, as well as the space shuttle and various space launch systems.

The current president, James Legler, joined the company in 1978. Through his leadership, Chem-tronics, Inc. has continued to grow as an aerospace industry leader in technology, quality products, and commitment to customer satisfaction. My fellow colleagues, Chem-tronics, Inc. represents the small-business spirit that made America great. Join me in congratulating this company for their success in creating jobs, providing critical services and products to our country's national security, and making the San Diego community proud for 50 years.

SYRIA ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY RESTORATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in cautious support of the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Act (H.R. 1828).

It is entirely appropriate that we send a strong message to the Syrian government that they have not done enough to weaken terrorist activities in their country. Syria's continued support of international terrorist organizations like Hizballah, Islamic Jihad and Hamas is unacceptable. The United States has given Syria ample opportunity to remove these terrorist threats, and we cannot stand idly by while terrorist operations continue.

In addition, the United States must clearly state that the Syrian occupation of Lebanon will not be tolerated. The people of Lebanon deserve to be ruled by the Lebanese, and not an occupying Syrian force with ties to terrorism. Syrian troops in Lebanon represent a destabilizing force that threatens the peace of Israel and the entire Middle East region.

The Syria Accountability Act must be used as a political lever intended to send an unmistakable message to Syrian President Assad that his government's support for terrorist organizations and occupation of Lebanon cannot be allowed. It must not, however, be interpreted as a catalyst for military action in Syria. Inflaming the dialogue about Syria's reported connections with al-Qaeda or Iraq will only lead to rash decisions unreflective of the best interests of the United States and our allies in the global war on terrorism.

We must remain committed engaging the Syrian government in diplomatic exchange. Only by talking can we expect to improve our bilateral relations with Syria and bring about a peaceful resolution to this challenging issue.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DAIRY FORWARD CONTRACTING LEGISLATION

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced legislation to make perma-

nent the authority for dairy producers and processors to have an important risk management tool known as forward pricing contracts. As the ranking minority member of the Agriculture Committee's subcommittee that has jurisdiction over dairy policy, I hope to move this legislation forward before the existing statutory authority expires next year. I am very pleased that my subcommittee chairman, Mr. Gutknecht of Minnesota, has joined me in introducing this legislation, along with 14 other of our colleagues.

Forward pricing contracts allow farmers and their customers the opportunity to freely negotiate a long-term contract for the sale of their agricultural products at a fixed price. This risk management tool gives farmers greater predictability for income streams, which in turn allows for better management of farm and business operations.

Buyers and sellers of many farm commodities rely heavily on forward contracts. According to a report by the GAO, forward cash contracting is the risk management tool most frequently used by producers outside the dairy sector. A majority of cotton (76 percent), corn (65 percent), and wheat (57 percent) producers use forward contracts to lock in their prices and revenue. Dairy producers have utilized this tool less, primarily because the legal requirements of the federal milk marketing order system have prevented dairy processors from offering this risk management tool to dairy farmers.

In 1999, Congress decided to amend federal law to remove this impediment to dairy forward pricing contracts. A pilot program was established, allowing dairy producers and processors to enter into voluntary agreements for the sale of a set amount of milk for a fixed price over a specified period of time. These contracts are based on a negotiated price rather than the minimum price set monthly under federal milk marketing orders.

The pilot program went into effect in July 2000, and is due to expire December 31, 2004. Although it has only been in place for a few years, it is an important tool for the dairy industry to have that deserves permanence. The bill that I introduced today would make this program a permanent authority and thereby ensure the availability of forward pricing contracts to any and all producers and processors who voluntarily want to use such a risk management tool.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and making it become law in the near future.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to let my colleagues know that October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans—and their family members—who are currently affected by Spina Bifida—the nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works every day—not just in

the month of October—to prevent and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

The SBAA was founded in 1973 to address the needs of the individuals and families affected by this disease and is currently the only national organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. As part of its service through 57 chapters in more than 100 communities across the country, the SBAA puts expecting parents in touch with families who have a child with Spina Bifida. These families answer questions and concerns and help guide expecting parents. The SBAA then works to provide lifelong support and assistance for affected children and their families.

Together the SBAA and the West Michigan Spina Bifida Association, the Spina Bifida Association of Southeastern Michigan, the Spina Bifida Association of Upper Michigan, and the Southwest Michigan Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association work tirelessly to help families meet the challenges and enjoy the rewards of raising their child. I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and these local Spina Bifida organizations in Michigan for all that they have done for the families affected by this birth defect, especially those living in my state.

Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Spina Bifida affects more than 4,000 pregnancies each year, with 1,500 babies being born with Spina Bifida each year. There are three different forms of Spina Bifida with the most severe being Myelomeningocele Spina Bifida, which causes nerve damage and severe disabilities. This severe form of Spina Bifida is diagnosed in 96 percent of children born with this condition. Between 70 to 90 percent of the children born with Spina Bifida are at risk of mental retardation when spinal fluid collects around the brain.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75%. Progress has been made convincing women of the importance of consuming folic acid supplements and maintaining diets rich in folic acid. However, this public education campaign must be enhanced and broadened to reach segments of the population that have yet to heed this call.

Although folic acid consumption reduces the risk and incidence of Spina Bifida pregnancies, we will still have babies born with Spina Bifida who need intensive care and families that need guidance and support in caring for and raising these children. The result of this neural tube defect is that most babies suffer from a host of physical, psychological, and educational challenges, including paralysis, developmental delay, numerous surgeries, and living with a shunt in their skulls in an attempt to ameliorate their condition. Today, approximately 90 percent of all babies diagnosed with this birth defect live into adulthood, approximately 80 percent have normal IQs, and approximately 75 percent participate in sports and other recreational activities. With proper medical care, people who suffer from Spina Bifida can lead full and productive lives. However, they must learn how to move around using braces, crutches or wheelchairs, and how to function independently. They also must

be careful to avoid a host of secondary health problems ranging from depression and learning disabilities to skin problems and latex allergies.

After decades of poor prognosis and short life expectancy, breakthroughs in research combined with improvements in health care and treatment children with Spina Bifida are now living long enough to become adults with this condition. However, with this extended life expectancy people with Spina Bifida now face new challenges in the fields of education, job training, independent living, health care for secondary conditions, aging concerns, and other related issues.

I am proud to Co-Chair the newly established Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus with my colleague Representative CHRISTOPHER SMITH. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus will bring increased attention to this condition and advance initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our nation. The Spina Bifida community and our nation owe a tremendous debt to the SBAA for its work over the past three decades. Much more work still needs to be done, and I am confident this fine organization and its chapters will lead the effort for decades to come. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

CHICAGO SAYS REPEAL THE PATRIOT ACT

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the record a resolution passed by the City Council of Chicago calling on Congress to actively work for the repeal of sections of the PATRIOT Act that "violate fundamental rights and liberties as stated in the U.S. Constitution and its Amendments." This resolution was passed on October 1, 2003.

I supported this resolution and I want to thank Aldermen Helen Shiller, Joe Moore, Fredrena Lyle, and Ricardo Munoz for introducing it. I would also like to recognize and thank the City Council of Evanston and the President and Board of Trustees of Wilmette for passing similar resolutions.

I voted against the PATRIOT Act two years ago and I continue to remain skeptical of its effectiveness at keeping us safe. I believe the PATRIOT Act violates our civil liberties, our right to due process, and unnecessarily targets immigrants. Therefore, I am pleased to join with the Chicago City Council in affirming the rights of all people living within Chicago and the country and in saying that we must repeal the PATRIOT Act.

The following is the resolution passed by the City Council of the City of Chicago:

RESOLUTION ON THE USA PATRIOT ACT AND RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Whereas, the City of Chicago houses a diverse population, including citizens of other

nations, whose contributions to the community are vital to its character and function; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution guarantees certain fundamental rights including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and privacy; protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; due process and equal protection to any person; equality before the law and the presumption of innocence; access to counsel in judicial proceedings; and a fair, speedy and public trial; and

Whereas, the USA PATRIOT Act signed by George W. Bush on October 26, 2001, in the opinion of many American, contains a number of provisions that undermine the above mentioned rights and which fundamentally alter our civil liberties without increasing our security; and

Whereas, examples of the provisions in the USA PATRIOT Act and Executive orders that may undermine the constitution and the rights and civil liberties of Chicago residents include:

A significant expansion of the government's ability to access sensitive medical, mental health, financial and educational records about individuals; and lowers the burden of proof required to conduct secret searches and telephone and Internet surveillance

Giving law enforcement expanded authority to obtain library records, and prohibits librarians from informing patrons of monitoring or information requests

Giving the Attorney General and the Secretary of State the power to designate domestic groups, including religious and political organizations, as "terrorist organizations"

Granting the Attorney General the power to subject citizens of other nations to indefinite detention or deportation even if they have not committed a crime

Authorizing eavesdropping on confidential communications between lawyers and their clients in federal custody

Limiting disclosure of public documents and records under the Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, the Department of Justice interpretations of this Act and these Executive Orders particularly target immigrants, including Hispanics, people of Middle Eastern and South Asian descent and citizens of other nations, thereby potentially encouraging racial profiling by law enforcement and the unintended consequence of increase in hate crimes by individuals in our community; and

Whereas, almost 200 other cities throughout the country have enacted resolutions reaffirming support for civil rights and civil liberties in the face of government policies that threaten these values, and are demanding accountability from federal agencies regarding the use of these new powers; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the City of Chicago joins the almost 200 other U.S. cities and affirms its strong opposition to terrorism, and also affirms that any efforts to end terrorism not be waged at the expense of the fundamental civil rights and liberties of the people of Chicago, the United States and the World; and be it further

Resolved, That the City of Chicago affirms the rights of all people, including United States citizens and citizens of other nations, living within the City in accordance with the Bill of Rights and the U.S. Constitution by lawfully resisting every effort to erode those rights and protections including: freedom of religion, speech, assembly and privacy; protection from unreasonable searches and seizures; due process and equal protection to any person; equality before the law and the