

Conferees should also be made aware that their colleagues in the House agree that the intent of the provision was to allow the Secretary of Agriculture and the States appropriate flexibility in using the resources of existing agricultural conservation and forestry programs. In supporting this program during the farm bill, it was not our intent, nor is it today, to require new or earmarked funding. The USDA has not yet implemented this program because of what I believe is a misunderstanding regarding the concept of the program and the congressional intent contained within the farm bill. This confusion should be resolved so that this example of effective conservation policy can be realized.

Mr. KOHL. I thank my colleagues for their interest in this program, and I want you to know that I understand the importance the Delmarva Conservation Corridor Demonstration Program has to the State of Delaware and the entire Delmarva Peninsula. I can assure you both that I will support this project in conference and do all I can to see that it becomes a reality.

VITICULTURE ASSISTANCE FOR THE STATE OF
IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the State of Iowa has a blossoming viticulture industry, but the demand for technical assistance far exceeds the State's current resources. I have discussed this problem with the Senator from Utah and I appreciate his interest in the issue.

Mr. BENNETT. The Senator from Iowa has explained to me that his State is in need of specialized assistance through funding for a viticulture technician to provide on-site technical assistance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. A viticulture technician would help new producers with the basic knowledge needed about the industry. Such assistance will enable growers to benefit from increased production, and in turn, produce more successful vineyard businesses in Iowa.

This proposal has tremendous support from the Iowa Grape Growers Association, the Mississippi Valley Grape Growers Association, the Western Iowa Grape Growers Association, and the Iowa Wine and Grape Development Commission.

STUDY ON NORTH CAROLINA HORTICULTURE
INDUSTRY

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, the horticulture industry in North Carolina is a fast growing industry contributing significantly to the State's economy. Though local, State and Federal officials know that the industry is important, there has been no analysis done to quantify the impact of this industry on North Carolina's economy.

Perhaps a possible remedy might be to direct the USDA Economic Research Service to coordinate with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and NC State University to collect the economic data and do the statistical analysis necessary to conduct this study.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, let me say to the Senator from North Carolina that I appreciate the suggestion particularly in light of the budget constraints that we face. I will be happy to look into this matter to see if there is a workable solution that will achieve the desired result.

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for his consideration on this matter.

NATIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President I would like to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee regarding funding for the National Rural Development Partnership (NRDP) for federal fiscal year 2004.

Last year, Congress included in the Farm Bill the provisions of the National Rural Development Partnership Act, which I sponsored along with the Senior Senator from North Dakota and 43 of our colleagues. The Farm Bill's NRDP language authorizes annual appropriations of up to \$10 million. This authorization was included because of a recognition that the funding arrangement for the Partnership, which has been in place since its establishment a dozen years ago, has failed to provide adequate resources for the NRDP and the state rural development councils (SRDCs). That funding arrangement has depended on voluntary contributions of discretionary funds from USDA and four other federal agencies, as well as matching funds from the states and others.

The work of the NRDP and SRDCs is more important than ever. The current economic downturn has hit rural America hard. Drought and low prices have had a devastating impact on production agriculture, which continues to be the economic foundation of many rural communities. Other rural communities that depend on logging or mining have seen employment and economic activity diminish in those important industries. The nationwide decline in manufacturing has resulted in the closure of thousands of factories in rural areas, eliminating the sole or principal source of good-paying jobs in many rural communities. This situation has been aggravated by the fiscal challenges facing most State governments. As States slash budgets, the level of vital services upon which rural residents depend—from education and health care to transportation and libraries—has been greatly diminished. At this dire time in rural America, we must support organizations like the SRDCs which can help our citizens respond to the many challenges they face.

This year's committee report accompanying the fiscal year 2004 Agriculture Appropriations Bill includes language encouraging the USDA to continue its support of the NRDP and SRDCs by providing stable funding, technical support, and guidance practices as they have done over past years.

Similar language was included in the Senate subcommittee's report on the fiscal year 2003 Agricultural Appropriations bill.

I appreciate the support the Chairman and Ranking Member have shown for the NRDP and SRDCs. Besides continuing current USDA involvement, it is important to continue and intensify its efforts to secure support for the NRDP and SRDCs from other federal agencies and with rural responsibilities as it has done successfully in the past. This is consistent with the intention of Congress in the Conference Committee Report of the 2002 Farm Bill.

The committee report has spoken to the importance of the Department continuing to support the continued development and increased involvement of the NRDP and SRDCs. I would also appreciate the Committee's continued emphasis on importance of multi-agency cooperation with USDA to strengthen this vital effort to spur and strengthen our rural economies.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I concur with my colleague's sentiments on the importance of multi-agency involvement in rural development. I appreciate the Senator's comments and look forward to our continuing to work together to support this effort when this bill goes to conference.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, our subcommittee has a consistent history of supporting this rural development effort and promoting this kind of multi-disciplinary approach. That was the intent of our committee report and, I am sure, will continue to be an important focus of the subcommittee.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. I ask that there now be a period of morning business with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart and deep sense of gratitude to honor the live of a brave young man from Fort Wayne, IN. Specialist Brian H. Penisten, 28 years old, died in Al Fallujah on November 2, 2003, after the Chinook helicopter he was traveling in made a crash landing. Brian joined the Army with his entire life before him. He chose to risk everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway around the world.

Brian was the seventeenth Hoosier soldier to be killed while serving his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brian leaves behind his father, John Penisten, his mother, Mona, his

fiancee, Johnna Loia, and his son, Trevor. Today, I join Brian's family, his friends, and the entire Fort Wayne community in mourning his death. While we struggle to bear our sorrow over his death, we can also take pride in the example he set, bravely fighting to make the world a safer place. It is this courage and strength of character that people will remember when they think of Brian, a memory that will burn brightly during these continuing days of conflict and grief.

Before leaving to fight in Iraq, Brian Penisten told his mother that he was proud to be an American. Today, his family members him as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while serving his country.

Brian was born on March 30, 1975. He graduated from Bishop Dwenger High School, where he was a member of the wrestling team and was undefeated through the semi-State Championship in 1993. Friends and family members remember Brian for the inner drive he demonstrated in always challenging himself to be his best at whatever task lay at hand.

After joining the Army, Brian left home to begin full-time duty at Fort Carson in Colorado. He was assigned to the 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

As I search for words to do justice in honoring Brian's sacrifice, I am reminded of President Lincoln's remarks as he addressed the families of the fallen soldiers in Gettysburg: "We cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." This statement is just as true today as it was nearly 150 years ago, as I am certain that the impact of Brian's actions will live on far longer than any record of these words.

It is my sad duty to enter the name of Brian H. Penisten in the official record of the United States Senate for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy and peace. When I think about this just cause in which we are engaged, and the unfortunate pain that comes with the loss of our heroes, I hope that families such as Brian's can find comfort in the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces."

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God bless the United States of America.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Umberto P. Fedeli of Gates Mills, OH as a 2003 Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipient.

The prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor award is presented annually to "remarkable Americans who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their per-

sonal and professional lives," and "who have distinguished themselves as citizens of the United States, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage."

Umberto P. Fedeli is such an American. In addition to creating a business in Ohio and being active in numerous charitable causes, Umberto has maintained strong ties to the Italian American community. I've often said, "show me someone who is proud of their ethnic heritage and I'll show you a great American!"

Mr. Fedeli's parents immigrated from Lascio, Italy to the same neighborhood in which I grew up—the Collinwood neighborhood of Cleveland, OH. He learned many important lessons from his father, Umberto, Sr. including a philosophy of life which is based on integrity, loyalty, civic responsibility and a strong work ethic.

In his early 20s, Mr. Fedeli formed a partnership which led to the creation of his own insurance company, The Fedeli Group which he built to one of the top 100 insurance firms in the nation. Today his company employs 85 people and provides a range of insurance products and services—property, general liability, life, health, workmen's compensation and estate planning. It provides insurance for over 3,000 businesses and, remarkably, has averaged nearly 20 percent growth per year for 20 years.

The Fedeli Group has received many industry awards and has been named several times as winner of the Weatherhead 100's fastest growing companies in northeastern Ohio.

Through the years, Mr. Fedeli has been active in Ohio politics—serving on advisory committees for my campaigns, those of Senator MIKE DEWINE and countless other state, local and national candidates.

As Governor-elect of Ohio in 1991, I appointed Umberto Fedeli to my gubernatorial transition team and after I took office, I was pleased to appoint him to the Ohio Turnpike Commission where he served as chairman for 6 years. Under his leadership, the turnpike's resources served as a catalyst for growth and economic development. In fact, as Governor, I noted that "Umberto's leadership will be remembered as the Turnpike Commission's most energetic and accomplished era." I still believe that today, Umberto Fedeli was the best leader of the turnpike aside from the man who created it.

Mr. Fedeli is very involved in his community and is a friend to countless people in northeast Ohio, across the State—and throughout our Nation. He values serving others above all else, including his family, his church, his clients and his community.

He has been named Man of the Year for both the Italian-American Sports Hall of Fame and the Americans of Italian Heritage. In 1995, he was recognized by the John Carroll University Business School as one of "Fifty of Its Finest."

Umberto serves as chairman of the Cleveland Chapter of Legatus, an international group of Catholic CEOs for which he also serves on the International Board of Directors. He was recognized as 2002 Officer of the Year for Legatus, and became a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, administered by the Holy See, in 1998.

He received both the Grand Illusion Award for the Ohio Cancer Research Associates and the National Multiple Sclerosis Norman Cohn Hope Award for philanthropic and community service. In 2000 he was honored by the Italian Federation with its Columbian Award and 2003 Man of the Year for the Christ Child Society.

In 1995, Umberto was instrumental in the formation of the Northern Ohio Italian American Foundation, a group of prominent business people who lend philanthropic support to various groups in northeast Ohio and which he presently serves as chairman.

In 1997, the Northern Ohio Italian American Foundation established the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Institute of Italian American Studies at John Carroll University.

Umberto is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, the Board of Trustees at John Carroll University and trustee of the Cleveland Catholic Diocese Foundation.

Mr. Fedeli cares deeply for others and gives witness to his faith in God every day by helping people he knows well and those he has never met. He gives witness to the second great commandment, "Love thy neighbor as thyself" at every opportunity.

He is a role model in every sense of the word: in terms of his devotion to his family, his success in business and his contributions to his "extended family" in the community.

He and his wife Maryellen, whom he describes as the only girlfriend he ever had, have been married for 19 years and have five children.

Umberto Fedeli is indeed a remarkable American of the highest integrity in both his personal and professional life. He has made many outstanding contributions to the Italian American community, to his local community and to America.

I am proud to recognize my friend, Umberto P. Fedeli and congratulate him on this wonderful honor.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of Daniel Bader, a fellow Nebraskan and staff sergeant in the United States Army. Sergeant Bader was killed on November 2 near Fallujah, Iraq when the Chinook helicopter he was aboard was shot down. Sergeant Bader was one of 15 soldiers killed and 25 wounded en route to the United States for two weeks of leave. He was 28 years old.

Sergeant Bader served in the 3rd Armored Cavalry, Tiger Squadron, based in Fort Carson, CO. He was deployed to Iraq on April 4, 2003.

A York, NE, native, Sergeant Bader was a dedicated soldier who was committed to his family and country. He

joined the military shortly after graduating from high school and "absolutely loved" his career in the Army, said his wife, Tiffany. In addition to his wife, Sergeant Bader leaves behind a 14-month-old daughter, Taryn Makenzie. Our thoughts and prayers are with them both at this difficult time.

Sergeant Bader and thousands of brave American service men and women confront danger every day in Iraq. Their tremendous risks and sacrifices must never be taken for granted. For his service, bravery, and sacrifice, I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring SGT Daniel Bader.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILLIP BOARDMAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Phillip Boardman on his selection as Nevada Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As someone whose life was transformed by education, I understand the importance of recognizing the work of good teachers, and I consider it an honor to speak today of Dr. Boardman's dedication to teaching and commitment to his students.

This award is a major accomplishment. The Professor of the Year Awards are the only national awards to recognize college and university professors for their teaching skills. But this is by no means the first time Dr. Boardman has been honored for his great gift as a teacher. He has previously received awards from the University of Nevada and the State of Nevada Regents.

A Professor of English and the Chair of Core Humanities at the University of Nevada, Reno, UNR, Dr. Boardman is an expert on English and Renaissance literature and has taught for three decades at UNR. Throughout his career he has taught courses on Shakespeare, C.S. Lewis, the Bible, medieval literature, linguistics, and composition.

Dr. Boardman's contributions to teaching have not been limited to the university classroom. He has also delivered scores of presentations to high school classes, senior centers and libraries. He was the executive co-producer of the The Western Tradition Lectures, a videotaped series of nine lectures by UNR instructors.

Dr. Boardman has also made substantial contributions to scholarship. Not only has he edited books and written numerous articles and reviews, he will soon complete his major 25-year project, *The Arthurian Annals: The Tradition in English from the Beginnings to 2000*.

Despite his strong commitment to his teaching and scholarly responsibilities, Dr. Boardman also finds time to assist his colleagues in their development as instructors. He was the author

of a successful National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, matched during 1994-1998, to establish an endowment fund to support teacher stipends and faculty development at UNR. He has also written several articles on how to approach teaching medieval literature and culture.

Dr. Boardman has led a distinguished career in an important and noble profession. Please join me in congratulating him on his selection as the Nevada Professor of the Year.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable to our society.

Gregory Beauchamp, a 21-year old gay male, was the last homicide victim of 2002 in Cincinnati, OH. On December 31, Mr. Beauchamp was headed to a nightclub to ring in the New Year with friends. At about 9 p.m. a blue Cadillac pulled up alongside them, and the four or five African American men inside started yelling anti-gay epithets, according to survivors of the attack. Shots were fired from the vehicle, killing Mr. Beauchamp. The murder was reported as a hate crime.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

THE FORD FOUNDATION AND THE DURBAN CONFERENCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues troubling reports that indicate one of America's leading philanthropic foundations has meddled in world diplomacy in a deeply disturbing way.

Let me say that I think my colleagues know very well that I have great respect for the good works done by America's non-profit sector, including philanthropic foundations. So much respect, in fact, that, as my colleagues know, I am working with some of them to get a conference committee to convene with the other body so that we can complete work on the CARE Act and provide a range of incentives that would boost contributions to charities and foundations at a time of great need.

And so it pains me that I must come to the floor today to apprise my colleagues of allegations that have been reported with regard to some of the activities of one of America's leading

foundations, the Ford Foundation. The reports—published initially by the Jewish Telegraphic newswire service and picked up by many newspapers around the country and in this week's New Republic magazine—describe how the Ford Foundation gave million of dollars to dozen of Palestinian organizations that have been in the forefront of the anti-semitic and anti-Israel campaign that is ongoing around the world.

In particular, these reports describe how the Ford Foundation funded Palestinian non-governmental organizations, NGOs, that were responsible for transforming the 2001 United Nations Conference on Racism held in Durban, South Africa into a forum of virulent anti-Semitic and anti-Israel hate. According to the investigation and reports—which interviewed dozens of individuals and reviewed 9,000 pages of documents—Ford contributions financed the development of the anti-Israel strategy and its public relations strategy for dissemination.

According to the reports, Ford has extended more than \$35 million in grants to more than 270 Arab and Palestinian NGOs in the 2001-01 period alone, and since the 1950s, Ford has distributed nearly \$200 million to Arab and Islamic NGOs in the Mideast, and many Palestinian operatives who were involved in the Durban Conference admit that "Ford has made it possible for us to do much of our work" and that "Our biggest donations come, of course, from Ford."

At least two groups identified in the news reports—the Palestinians Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment and the Palestinian NGO Network—received more than \$2.5 million from Ford in the last few years and were key players in hijacking the agenda of the Durban conference.

And let me just remind my colleagues how badly the Durban conference was hijacked. It was so bad that Secretary of State Powell declared the conference to be "a transparent attempt to delegitimize the moral argument for Israel's existence," and Secretary Powell withdrew our country's delegation from participation.

As The New Republic's editor in chief writes—"the Ford Foundation's . . . reckless generosity is empowering foreign haters and apologists for killers."

In fairness, the Ford Foundation has denied the charges made in these reports. Ford's vice president has said that his institution was "shocked by the extremist rhetoric of some participants on Israeli-Palestinian issues." Moreover, Ford has said that it shares our government's commitment to "ensure that grant funds are not diverted for terrorist and other purposes."

I appreciate these statements by Ford, but I don't believe they have put this matter to rest. The news reports are too specific and well documented to be dismissed by such generalities.