

Centennial year of NASS and the Association is meeting in celebration of this very special milestone.

In 1904, NASS was organized and approved for assembly at the World's Fair in the administration building of the Fair—Brookings Hall—which still stands today and is in constant use by Washington University. The year 2004 also marks the 150th anniversary of Washington University. I am pleased to honor this fine institution and recognize its importance in the history of NASS.

Having left the organization as its president-elect, I continue to remember NASS as the most helpful and personally fulfilling professional organization I have been a member of.

On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the United States Congress who also served as Secretaries of State—Sherrod Brown of Ohio, Tom Cole of Oklahoma, Katherine Harris of Florida, Jim Langevin of Rhode Island and Candice Miller of Michigan—I gratefully acknowledge the value of NASS to us personally and to the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND  
RETIREMENT OF CAROL MADISON—EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF  
THE ILLINOIS CENTER FOR AUTISM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the career and retirement of Carol Madison, Executive Director of the Illinois Center for Autism for 27 years.

The Illinois Center for Autism, ICA, is a non-profit, community-based mental health treatment, special education center, and vocational training site, dedicated to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of people with autism and help them achieve the highest level of independence possible in their home, school, and community. Students/Clients must be diagnosed as autistic and/or exhibit characteristics, such as severe communication disorders, severe behavioral disorders, uneven intellectual skills, and socially inappropriate behaviors.

Under Carol's direction and service as the ICA's first Executive Director, the Illinois Center for Autism was established in the fall of 1977 to provide a Special Day School Program. At that time, it was serving only eight children with autism.

In January 1978, the Illinois Center for Autism was incorporated as a 501c (3) not-for-profit corporation. The ICA's mission then was to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of children with autism. ICA received accreditation in 1992 from the North Central Association (NCA). To this day, ICA has maintained its accreditation and serves both adults and children throughout Southern Illinois.

In 1992, under Carol's leadership, the ICA began an innovative initiative. With Carol's careful hand guiding the program, the ICA opened a gourmet Italian take-out eatery called Pasta Fare. Pasta Fare provides an ideal site for food service training for the ICA's clients. They assist in all aspects of the business, learning to apply their functional aca-

demic, social and communications skills in a work setting. All clients at Pasta Fare are employees of the Illinois Center for Autism. Clients are transitioned into the community for further competitive employment opportunities and many are placed into food service and related occupations.

Not only has Carol and the ICA been able to prevent the unnecessary institutionalization of hundreds of people with autism, she and the Center have also helped them to become productive members of society.

Carol has devoted her life to serving the needs of the disabled community. She has served as a Site Visitor for the US Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools program and as a Hearing Officer with the Illinois State Board of Education from 1977–1987. She has consulted with the Madison County Association for Retarded Citizens and served on the Illinois State Board of Education Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities from 1992–1999. She has served as the Director of the National Association of Private Education Centers and was the Chairman of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission.

The future holds great promise for the Illinois Center for Autism and the people it serves and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Carol for the work she has done on behalf of hundreds of young people in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of Carol Madison and wish her and her family the very best in the future.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4766) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Fiscal Year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill. The bill includes several projects that will benefit my district.

Imperial County in my Southern California district is a desert farming community located on the California-Mexico border. The county is one of the top agricultural counties in California. It produced over \$1.2 billion of agricultural products in 2002. The county is a leading producer of agronomic and winter vegetable crops, as well as livestock.

This bill contains language that directs the Under Secretary for Rural Development to give consideration to projects that would directly benefit my constituents:

The Imperial Valley Sugarcane/Renewable Energy/Ethanol Project—Environmental and water conservation issues are of grave concern to the agricultural producers in my district. Alternative, higher-value commodities

must become available to ensure the best economic and environmental use of the land and water. This rural development project could provide such an alternative to many of our farmers while producing sugar, ethanol, and renewable energy. My constituents are pursuing an economic development project to develop sugarcane production and processing capabilities, along with ethanol and renewable energy production, in the Imperial Valley. The number one crop in the Imperial Valley is alfalfa, which has a much lower dollar value than sugarcane. Due to a rural-to-urban water transfer that has reduced the number of acres that may be planted in the Valley, my rural constituents searched for an alternative to alfalfa—and found it in sugarcane. The economic conversion project includes development of sugarcane acreage in the Valley, as well as construction of a new sugarcane processing facility on the site of an existing sugar beet processing facility in the Valley. The current sugar beet facility, which currently only operates four months of the year, employs approximately 300 people (100 full-time and 200 seasonal employees). Opening the new sugarcane processing facility would allow year-round processing at the site, dramatically increasing the number of full-time job opportunities at the facility. The project would also allow the creation of a power plant reliant on renewable fuels, principally from residue from the production and processing of sugarcane. Further, the project includes plans for ethanol production from the sugarcane. Due to California's phase-out of MTBE as a gasoline oxygenate, the state requires a stable supply of ethanol, and a local supply will dramatically reduce transportation costs for ethanol purchasers. Sugarcane-to-ethanol production in the Imperial Valley will greatly benefit the economic well-being of my constituents—as well as reduce renewable and clean fuel costs for the nation while protecting environmental quality.

Environmental Technology Business Park—The County of Imperial is working to catalyze development of an EcoPark for location of renewable energy and “green technology” industrial projects. An investment in this project would leverage funding already allocated for development of biomass-to-ethanol projects in Imperial County over the past three years by local, state and federal agencies. The EcoPark is expected to attract more than \$400 million in private investment and sustain more than 4,000 jobs in the related industry and agricultural sectors. Further, a variety of new and established firms are interested in bringing additional technologies to the EcoPark, such as methane digesters, minibiorefineries for biodiesel, nutraceutical manufacture, liquid natural gas production, and solar power generation. The EcoPark will be a beacon of economic and environmental development for renewable fuels projects.

Desert Farming Institute and The National Center for the Study of International Trade in Agriculture—My constituents are interested in establishing a “California Desert Farming Institute” at the San Diego State University's Imperial Valley campus. The Imperial Valley of California is one of the most successful examples of desert farming in the world. San Diego State University-Imperial Valley campus, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, is located on the border with Mexico and thus a logical site for

a Center charged with studying the international aspects of agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated the campus as a "National Center of Excellence." The Institute's primary mission would be to compile, analyze, and disseminate information on desert farming and its commercial viability; to study the environmental and health issues related to desert farming; to compile, analyze, and disseminate information on international trade in agriculture, including trends in agricultural production around the world; and to form collaborative research partnerships with other institutions around the world to encourage research in the development of desert farming. A significant part of the world, including major parts of the United States, is desert land with little productivity. However, the application of state-of-the-art technology to farming and the development of modern agriculture have made desert farming a viable and, in some cases, a necessary activity. Any major expansion of desert farming could have a significant and positive effect on the global competitiveness of the American farmer, as well as positive impacts throughout arid regions of the world.

Neighborhood House of Calexico Youth Center—Throughout the past 66 years of its service, Neighborhood House of Calexico has targeted low-income families in the community, serving an average of 7,000 low-income persons per year. The Neighborhood House provides services such as day care, youth violence prevention, micro-business development, and shelter for homeless and abused women and children. The Neighborhood House Youth Center has been successful in interacting with at-risk youth, in diverting gang activities and helping youth obtain job skills, conflict resolution skills, increased level of interaction between adult role models and youth, and recreational activities. The City of Calexico is experiencing a significant increase in gang activity and potential for intensification with the downturn of availability of jobs, a 22 percent unemployment rate, and reduced level of training opportunity for youth and adults. Funding for this project would provide youth mentoring, assist youth in obtaining job training, and creating youth employment opportunities.

Calexico Telemedicine Center—Calexico, California is a very poor community located in rural Imperial County along the U.S.-Mexico border. Unfortunately, this community does not have a hospital. Pioneers Memorial Hospital and the Heffernan Memorial Hospital District, the two major healthcare providers located in other cities in the county, have partnered to open an urgent-care center in the vacant Calexico Hospital building, which could be wired for telemedicine. Locally, this project has the support of all the stakeholders, government leaders, health boards, and businesses. Funding for this project would provide for the equipment needed to start a telemedicine center. Imperial County has a low number of medical professionals, and the residents of the city of Calexico are especially medically underserved. Telemedicine will allow patients to have appropriate medical treatment without having to travel across the county, or to other counties, states, or even countries, for service.

This bill also contains language to uphold funding for the Agricultural Research Station in my district. The Brawley Research Station performs crucial research work under the arid saline conditions of the Imperial Valley in support

of U.S. agriculture in desert and arid environments. For example, crop salinity trials are conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Salinity Lab based in Riverside, California. The salinity work done at Brawley could not effectively be performed at Riverside because smog negates the scientific validity of the findings. Such research has worldwide application as saline soils are a constant challenge to farming practices in many regions. Further, the station is strategically located to provide quick response support to biosecurity and agroterrorism detection work. It is situated less than 90 miles from six border crossings, one of which is the busiest passenger crossing in the world. The constant supply of host crops and high international traffic puts Imperial County on the front line of protection of the American food supply from foreign introduction of diseases, insects, and many invasive species. The Brawley Field Station currently headquarters research facilities and personnel from USDA and the California Department of Food & Agriculture, which can quickly implement control and eradication programs in coordination with local authorities—thereby making use of the best capabilities of local, state, and federal agencies.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and these important agricultural and rural development projects.

DEPLORING MISUSE OF INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BY UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 14, 2004*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today the House passed H. Res. 713, a resolution to condemn the recent decision by the International Court of Justice in opposition to Israel's security barrier. I voted for this resolution, not out of support for Israel's security barrier, but because the International Court of Justice overstepped its bounds in issuing this decision.

Make no mistake, I strongly oppose the route of Israel's security barrier, because it deviates significantly from Israel's internationally recognized eastern border. In so doing, the fence encroaches on Palestinian lands and fully encloses some villages, overtly harming many Palestinians by turning these areas into isolated enclaves. I fully support Israel's right to defend itself. But this resolution is not one of support for the fence, it's one of opposition to the politicized ruling by the International Court of Justice. If we're going to achieve peace in the Middle East, we've got to get rid of the politics that have tainted this issue for so long on both sides.

Prior to the International Court of Justice ruling, Israel's High Court issued a ruling calling for Israel to take into account the humanitarian needs of the Palestinian people. The High Court stated that the path of the fence must be adjusted—even if this change results in less security for Israel—and the Israeli government stated its willingness to comply with this decision. Given the High Court's ruling, the

decision rendered by the International Court of Justice was both irrelevant and moot, and demonstrated political partisanship rather than a desire to truly affect change in the Middle East.

In the end, Congress must do much more than pass resolutions that carry no real weight. Instead, the U.S. should be the lead negotiator to achieve peace in the Middle East. When we take sides on this issue, we diminish our ability to play the role of impartial negotiator. The Bush Administration should be providing leadership in the Middle East by ensuring that both the Israelis and the Palestinians live up to their commitments as stipulated by the Road Map, and by bringing both parties to the negotiating table. Only by re-establishing trust, respect, and cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians will we be able to achieve a lasting resolution to this devastating conflict.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 2004*

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, Friday, July 9, 2004, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 355, 356, 357, and 358. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 355 on Agreeing to the Gordon Amendment to H.R. 3598; rollcall vote 356 on Agreeing to the Jackson-Lee Amendment to H.R. 3598; rollcall vote 357 on Agreeing to the Larson Amendment to H.R. 3598; and rollcall vote 358, the Motion to Recommit with Instructions, H.R. 3595, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 355, 356, 357 and 358.

IN MEMORY OF SSGT DUSTIN "BOB" PETERS

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 15, 2004*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and courageous spirit of SSgt. Dustin "Bob" Peters of Shirley, AR. SSgt. Peters, just 25, was killed in the line of duty on Saturday, July 11, 2004 near Bayji, Iraq.

After graduating from Shirley High School in 1996, SSgt. Peters entered the Air Force where he attended technical training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and graduated as a vehicle operator journeyman. He completed assignments at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri and Anderson Air Force Base in Guam.

SSgt. Peters arrived to Little Rock Air Force Base in 2000. After returning from Iraq in July of 2003, he volunteered to return to Iraq for a second tour of duty to serve with a young group of soldiers, most of whom had never been to combat. His sole purpose in returning to Iraq was to protect this group of soldiers. One friend of SSgt. Peters remembers fondly, "Peters was respected and loved by fellow airmen. They admired this young staff sergeant. He knew his job very, very well."