

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."

SSgt. Peter's exemplary service did not go unnoticed; his military decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster and with Valor, and an Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

SSgt. Peters gave his life to serve our country and will forever be remembered as a husband, father, son, and hero. My deepest condolences go out to his wife, Heather, their son, Dalton, his mother, Linda Bennings, and his father, Dennis Peters. I know SSgt. Peters was proud of his service to the U.S. Army and to our country. He will be missed by his family, fellow soldiers, and all those who knew him well.

CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF
THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD IN
SCHOOLS TO HUNGRY OR MAL-
NOURISHED CHILDREN AROUND
THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. Con. Res. 114, a resolution that recognizes the importance of food distribution in schools and expresses gratitude

to former Senators George McGovern of South Dakota and Robert Dole of Kansas for their efforts to eliminate hunger and poverty.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education program began in 2001 as an initiative called the Global Food for Education program. This program provided food to improve nutrition for mothers, infants, preschoolers and schoolchildren in developing countries.

During the pilot program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture donated about 800,000 metric tons of commodities, providing school meals for nearly 7 million children in 38 countries.

Because of the Global Food for Education program's success, this initiative was expanded, renamed the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, and authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. As a conferee on the Farm Bill, I am proud to have played a part in enacting the McGovern-Dole program.

Through the McGovern-Dole program, the USDA is able to distribute foods such as wheat, flour, rice, corn and other basic items. Being from Kansas, I am glad that one of my State's main crops—wheat—goes to such a noble cause.

This noble cause includes three main goals: to reduce hunger, to improve literacy and to improve primary education. Private, voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergovernmental organizations and governments of developing countries all contribute to achieving these goals.

McGovern-Dole was launched on March 10, 2003, on the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Foreign Agricultural Service. This timing is appropriate since McGovern-Dole combines two of the USDA's broad goals: to provide food in schools and to provide foreign food assistance.

About 120 million school-aged children around the world are not enrolled in school, in part because of hunger or malnutrition. A disproportionate number of these children are girls. By supporting this resolution, we in Congress can help reaffirm the U.S. commitment to education and child development.

Supporting this resolution demonstrates support for a better future for our global society. By providing food for schoolchildren in developing countries, we can help to reduce poverty and malnourishment. We can increase the number of children attending schools. By feeding and educating children around the world, we are able to open doors for these children and give them a real chance to someday achieve their dreams.

I want to thank Senator ELIZABETH DOLE for introducing this resolution in the Senate and my colleague, Congressman JAMES MCGOVERN, for introducing it in the House. I thank these Members for recognizing the efforts of my fellow Kansan and predecessor, Bob Dole. I also thank the House International Relations Committee for their consideration of this resolution.