

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, across the Nation, rates of hunger and food insecurity are on the rise. Since 1999, food insecurity has increased by 3.9 million individuals: 2.8 million adults and more than 1 million children.

The Federal Government, through child nutrition programs, has the opportunity to help dramatically lower the incidents of childhood hunger, giving all children a chance to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond. Despite the educational and nutritional benefits of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the large majority of students who could qualify for and benefit from these programs are not being served. Currently, only 15% of Free School Lunch Kids participate in the summer programs.

This legislation, designed to improve the Summer Food Service Program, would encourage additional sponsors to participate in the SFSP by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive start-up grants of no more than \$5 million per fiscal year for the 10 States with the least amount of sponsor participation. Further, it would increase child participation by requiring that 40 percent, rather than the current levels of 50 percent, of the children served by the SFSP in a region come from families below the 185 percent poverty level.

These modest changes will make an enormous difference to the over 13 million food-insecure children across the Nation who would benefit from a reliable source of healthy food to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond.

PARAMOUNT—"HAY TREE"

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, nearly 75 years ago, farmers gathered beneath the soaring camphor and depending on the weather and production level, set the price of hay around the world.

The Hay Tree, a 50-foot-high camphor, thought to be more than 100 years old—is considered one of the few remnants of the once-thriving dairy and hay industry that ruled southeastern Los Angeles County and Northwestern Orange County. From the 1920s through the 1950s this area was called "The Hay Capital of the World."

The Paramount Hay Tree has recently been named the latest historical landmark in California by the State Historical Resources Com-

mission. It was the first awarding of landmark status in southeast Los Angeles County in 10 years. The Hay Tree joins 1,100 landmarks throughout California, only 11 of which are also trees.

According to the Office of Historic Preservation, an object must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for landmark status: It must be considered the first, last or only one of its kind in the state or region, or it must be connected to a person or group having a significant influence in California history.

The towns of Hynes and Clearwater—which would later incorporate together as Paramount—were the hub of the southern California dairy country and became the world's largest hay market. The alfalfa was shipped in from as far away as Arizona and Montana. Each day's median hay price was quoted in major newspapers as the national and international standard. It was under the Hay Tree—an informal gathering place for truckers, farmers and workers—that the representatives from the area lots would compare notes and come up with the composite price figure.

The Hay Tree still holds sway over Paramount's newest addition—Civic Center Plaza, and will be the focal point of the new Plaza and Botanical Garden. A small park, set aside as open space in perpetuity, will surround the graceful camphor, signifying its sentimental and historical standing in town.

Paramount's oldest banner, the Hay Tree, is one of California's finest monuments—it speaks praise without boasting and will be a blessing to all for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MAIER

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to a dedicated veteran, father, teacher, advocate, musician, and athlete. His leadership and courage touched many lives, including my own, and it is my great honor to recognize and commemorate this extraordinary man.

Robert B. Maier, was a model American citizen. He served in the U.S. Navy after graduating high school. Later, he taught American Studies and English at Mercer Island High School. A staunch advocate for public school and school employees, Bob worked in Washington State Capitol for 20 years. At the time of his death, he was chief lobbyist and director of public policy for the Washington Education Association.

Beyond these accomplishments, one of the most important things about Bob was his enthusiasm for life. Anyone could see it in the way he was always learning new things. He loved to play basketball and music. He read books and solved cross-word puzzles. He took leadership roles in his community. He was a contributor.

Bob's achievements and accomplishments speak to his tremendous love and respect for his community, friends, and family. I know he will be remembered by all those he touched. Our children are receiving a better education because of his long effort, for which we are deeply grateful.

SPIKE IN METAL PRICES—WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SMALL MAN- UFACTURES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ held an important hearing for the small business. The hearing focused on the increase in steel prices.

Consumers of Steel expected that the removal of the tariffs by President Bush in December would decrease the price of steel and increase steel imports. However, this did not happen. For the past 2 months the price of steel has increased approximately by 30 percent.

The continuing increase in steel prices affects many parts of the economy, but particularly small manufacturing companies who buy their steel at market price. These small companies have not only been dealing with the increase in steel prices, they are now facing shortages in steel products. With these factors combined, it is virtually impossible for small manufacturers to survive.

I would like to share a story of a constituent of mine who has been dealing with this crisis. Argo Springs Manufacturing Company, located in Norwalk, CA, is a family company that has been in business for almost 40 years. They produce numerous products from springs to compression coils. Their customers range from the commercial and aerospace industry to military agencies.

Argo Springs currently employs 70 people, but with the sudden increase in prices and shortages in steel, it has become difficult for the company to compete in the manufacturing market. Randy Fox, vice president of Argo, told me and I quote,

On February 15, I bought steel at 34 cents a pound, but by March 2 the price of steel had increased by 59 cents. I am worried that the company will have to start laying-off workers and eventually go out of business. I'm not sure the company will outlast the crisis.

This story highlights the true impact of this crisis on small business owners. I am worried that if this crisis is not resolved, many small manufacturing companies like Argo Springs will not be able to continue doing business. This is unacceptable.

After talking to my constituent, Randy Fox, one thing is apparent to me—we need to do something about this crisis in the steel industry. Small businesses are the economic backbone of our Nation. It is imperative that we

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

create a viable and reasonable economic environment for them to maintain their businesses and grow.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RECTOR

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise on the House floor to mourn the passing of one of my past colleagues and personal friends. Although we all feel great loss with her passing and it is difficult to express grief for her family and all those who knew her, I would like to offer this tribute as a celebration of her many accomplishments.

Representative Shirley J. Rector was a woman of spirit and principle. As one of the first women to work at Kaiser Aluminum, she took the bull by the horns and was elected as Steelworkers Union Local 338 legislative education chair and recording secretary. Even at that time, her dedication to making the world a better place was clear.

Shirley was committed to public service. She was vice chair of the Democratic Central Committee. I am honored to have been her colleague when she served as a member of the State of Washington House of Representatives where she was instrumental in passing legislation for both the Shared and Family Leave Acts. She was also on the SIRT Higher Education Board and was co-founder of the Women Helping Women Fund. No one who was there will ever forget her speech which electrified the House concerning family and medical care.

I am humbled by these accomplishments and I am assured that her legacy of strong involvement in government and community has touched the lives of many.

FREEDOM FOR LUIS MILÁN FERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Luis Milán Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a medical doctor by profession. He chose to dedicate his life to healing people; but, Dr. Milán Fernández realized that the people of Cuba are in need of freedom as well as medicine. In June, 2001 he signed the Manifesto 2001, a document that protested the lack of basic freedoms in Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández continued to advocate for freedom for every Cuban when he joined the Independent Medical Association of Santiago. According to Amnesty International, he also joined fellow health professionals in a one-day hunger strike to call attention to the medical situation and other issues pertaining to the lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba.

Because of his commitment to freedom for Cuba, Dr. Milán Fernández was a victim of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown on

pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Milán Fernández was sentenced to 13 years in the totalitarian gulag.

The U.S. State Department's 2003 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices describes conditions in the totalitarian gulag as . . . harsh and life threatening. . . police and prison officials often . . . beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Detainees and prisoners, both common and political, often were subjected to repeated, vigorous interrogations designed to coerce them into signing incriminating statements, to force collaboration with authorities, or to intimidate victims. Some endured physical and sexual abuse, typically by other inmates with the acquiescence of guards, or long periods in punitive isolation cells.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how fierce the repression, no matter how brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for freedom, the prisons of Cuba are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because they refuse to accept the current reality of nightmarish oppression in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Milán Fernández is languishing in the horror of the totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom for the people of Cuba. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Luis Milán Fernández and every prisoner of conscience suffering in the indescribable gulags of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LULAC ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of United Latin American Citizens as it celebrates its 75th year of advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanics in the United States.

LULAC's founding 75 years ago signaled the end of one era and the beginning of another. For decades, the Hispanic community had been engulfed in an environment of inequality, discrimination and injustice. The creation of an institution like LULAC initiated a positive change in the future direction of the Hispanic community as it embodied the will of a people to overcome these barriers to social inclusion and civic participation and claim their rights as U.S. citizens, to access the American dream.

Today, LULAC represents Hispanics in most parts of the United States, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam. It also serves as a cornerstone for some of the most successful Hispanic national organizations. For example, LULAC formed the American GI Forum to address the rights of Hispanic veterans. LULAC also helped to create the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund to function as the legal arm of the Hispanic community.

LULAC's record of activism, whether fighting for voting rights and full access to the political

process, equal educational opportunities for Hispanic children, or the rights of women and full inclusion in American society, is a testimony that it is an organization that will forever address those issues that impact the lives and future of all Hispanic Americans. I commend LULAC on its 75 years of service and the innumerable contributions it has made to our Hispanic community and our country as a whole.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for three votes on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall No. 42 (H. Res. 519), "aye"; Rollcall No. 43 (H. Res. 392), "aye"; Rollcall No. 44 (H. Res. 475), "aye."

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CARR-BAILEY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 519

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 of Mineral City is recognized for supporting American forces in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has upheld their Congressional mandate to support veterans and active-duty members of the United States armed forces by providing care packages to the brave men and women serving in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has demonstrated patriotic and faithful dedication to those fighting for liberty and freedom at home and around the world;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Tuscarawas County and the entire 18th Congressional District in commending Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 for continued support of our American troops overseas.

CONGRATULATING LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, TX, on the occasion of their 40th anniversary.

Education is one of the most important issues facing the future of our great Nation. If America is to continue to be the leader of the modern world, we must offer a solid educational foundation for our citizens. To succeed in school and life, every student needs a basic set of skills. They need to listen attentively, speak persuasively, read with understanding, and write with command.