

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2005

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the agreement we have before us is critical to America's economic future. You see, America's economic stability is directly linked to our ability to maintain a robust trading relationship with the rest of the world.

Right now, the CAFTA region is the second largest U.S. export market in Latin America. Eighty percent of goods from that region already enter the U.S. duty-free.

But currently, U.S. products don't enjoy the same benefits. American exporters of everything from cars, vegetables, fruits, grain and wood products all face average tariffs of 10 to 30 percent.

In my home state of Illinois, some farmers are paying tariffs on farm goods that are as high as 16 percent. These high tariffs prevent farmers from competing in the growing markets of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Last year, export shipments from Illinois to the CAFTA region totaled \$211 million dollars. That's the 16th largest in the U.S.

Passing CAFTA will allow exporters in Illinois and the rest of the country to enjoy the same benefits that our Central American partners already have. And that means more U.S. products can enter and be sold in Central America.

This agreement is a win-win situation for American farmers, businesses and consumers. No matter how you look at it, business activity will increase. And we all know, when businesses do well, jobs are created. In fact, it is estimated that one out of every five factory jobs in the U.S. depends on trade.

There is another component to CAFTA that is also important to address.

This agreement will help solidify democracy and economic reform in Central America. Here is what we know. Trade creates jobs and lifts people out of poverty. And when that happens, societies stabilize and grow. And there is nothing like a stable society to fight terrorism and strengthen democracy, freedom and rule of law.

Finally, Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States. For the millions of Hispanic Americans with families still living in Central America, this agreement creates a mutually beneficial economic relationship that strengthens our ties and our friendship.

Put simply, this trade agreement is about fairness. Fairness for American workers and fairness for American exporters. Our businesses and workers deserve a competitive trading environment on a level playing field.

This is important legislation. It will expand economic opportunity in the United States,

and it will promote freedom and democracy in Central America. I urge the House to do the right thing and pass this legislation.

IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE J. GOMES, AGRICULTURALIST OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George J. Gomes of Carmichael, CA. The California Farm Bureau has honored Mr. Gomes by naming him the 2005 "Agriculturalist of the Year."

George began his agricultural odyssey on his family's dairy in Gustine, CA, where he operated the family dairy and farmed forage crops. After selling the farm, Mr. Gomes attended California State University, San Luis Obispo where he attained his bachelor of science degree in Agribusiness Management and his masters degree in Agriculture Education. He began his professional career as an associate professor at Cal Poly where he taught Agricultural Management.

George Gomes' career took him in many directions. Upon leaving the university, George managed the Napa County Fair. He later joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1975 where he worked in the Division of Fairs and Expositions. Shortly thereafter, he became the assistant director before being appointed chief deputy director by Governor George Deukmejian. Mr. Gomes began a new journey in 1987 when he was named administrator of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

His extensive educational and professional experience has allowed George to become a widely recognized leader within California's agriculture industry. While in school he was an active member of the Dairy Club, National Dairy Judging Team and Agriculture Council. Beyond that, George has served as a member of the State Fair Advisory Committee, chair of the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Agriculture Advisory Committee, California Fair Services Board of Directors and Keep California Beautiful Board of Directors.

Through his public service commitments in education, government and community organizations George Gomes has been steadfast in promoting California agriculture. This award from the California Farm Bureau Federation could not have gone to anyone more deserving. I wish George and his family all the best.

COMMENDING ARMY SPECIALIST
ADAM JAMES HARTING

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend Army Specialist Adam James Harting for his bravery in the field of battle and his

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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.

willingness to fight for his country. Specialist Harting was assigned to the 3rd Battalion 69th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 42nd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. Specialist Harting lost his life on Monday, July 25, 2005, in Samarra, Iraq. His sacrifice will be remembered by a community that has been struck hard by the devastating loss of one of its own.

A native of Portage, IN, Specialist Harting graduated from Portage High School. It came as no surprise to those who knew Specialist Harting that he would serve his country. A true patriot, his love for his country was evident from the time that he was a child. He wanted to help make a difference in the world. At a young age Adam and his twin brother, Alex, wrote contracts to their father promising they were going to join the military.

Specialist Harting wanted to be a hero. He began speaking to recruiters about joining the military. The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 made his decision final. Specialist Harting felt tremendous pride for his country, and he was willing to endanger his own life to protect the lives of his fellow citizens. Soon after graduation he joined the military. In January 2003, at the age of 19, he was featured in Time magazine for being one of the youngest soldiers to arrive in Kuwait to serve in the conflict. He helped take a bridge over the Tigris River, and overran the airport in Baghdad. On July 25, 2005, less than 2 weeks after returning to the country for his third tour, Specialist Harting was killed when an explosive device detonated near the Bradley Fighting Vehicle that he was driving. His courage and heroism will always be remembered, and his sacrifice will forever live in the hearts and minds of those for whom he battled. He gave his life so that the freedoms and values he treasured could be enjoyed by those around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Adam's sacrifice for his country is a tribute to his dedication and willingness to put others before himself. He died not only while defending his fellow soldiers, but also defending his country and the Iraqi people from an oppressive regime. He is survived by his parents Jim and Katherine; stepmother Brenda; his twin brother, Alex, who served in the United States Air Force; and his siblings Mark, Josh, Jimmy, Tiffany, Tabitha, Hanna, and Leslie. Those who knew him best describe Adam as a kind, fun-loving person who always wanted to help others. He ultimately gave his life while protecting his fellow Americans and his heroism will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring a fallen hero, United States Army Specialist Adam Harting. He will forever remain a hero in the eyes of his family, his community, and his country. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MARC WEST

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Marc West has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Eagle Scouts; and

Whereas, Marc West has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Marc West has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Marc West must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Zanesville, the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio, Marc's family and friends in congratulating Marc West as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RICHARD SHOWERS

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Richard Showers and pay tribute to his thirty-six year educational career in North Alabama.

Dr. Showers has been an outstanding educator in North Alabama. Throughout his career, Dr. Showers has held many diverse positions. He has been an elementary technology teacher, a middle school earth science teacher, a middle school industrial teacher, a vocational education teacher, an adult education teacher, and an adult education coordinator.

Additionally Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has proudly served the Huntsville community as the District One City Council Member since October of 1988. In fact, he was the first African-American to be elected to the City Council since 1907. As a council member, Dr. Showers sponsored the first smoking ordinance in the city, he was successful in locating an industrial park in North Huntsville, and he supported efforts in naming the Northern bypass in honor of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Showers has had a tremendous effect on our community as a teacher and City Council member and I would like thank him for his lifelong commitment to inspiring our community's children and his encouragement of adults to continue their education. I rise today to join his fellow teachers, students, family members, and friends in celebrating his distinguished career and to congratulate him upon his retirement.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN SANDRA L. DEGROOT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Captain Sandra L. DeGroot of Lemoore, California. Captain DeGroot has diligently served her country for the past thirty years.

In September 1975 Sandra joined the United States Navy as a Nurse Corps Candidate and was commissioned an Ensign. It was there that Captain DeGroot committed

herself to ensuring proper care and recovery for the women and men who place themselves in harm's way in the effort to protect our freedom.

She graduated from Keuka College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing in 1976 and reported for Officer Indoctrination School in Newport, Rhode Island. Upon completion of her Officer training, Sandra began her career at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida in the Intensive Care unit.

Captain DeGroot's profession brought her to a variety of places. She was assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola, Florida as the charge nurse of the medicine ward. Shortly thereafter Sandra became head nurse of the Pediatric Clinic at Naval Hospital, Guam and after a brief return to Florida, she joined the ranks in California at Naval Hospital San Diego. At San Diego Captain DeGroot filled many roles; she served as the staff nurse on Labor and Delivery, Division Officer OB/GYN clinics and Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist. Ever the avid learner, Sandra transferred to Utah where she completed her Master of Science Degree in Nursing, with a major in Nurse-Midwifery. Her dedication to work and school brought great rewards and in 1996 Captain DeGroot reported to Naval Hospital Jacksonville where she was the Navy's first Director of Women's Health Services. A few years later Sandra was assigned to U.S. Naval Hospital Keflavik, Iceland before returning to California at Naval Hospital Lemoore as the Commanding Officer.

On top of her successful career Captain DeGroot has also made time for membership in various organizations. The American College of Nurse Midwives, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Holistic Nurses Association and the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses are just some of the organizations with which she is involved. Her hard work has not gone unnoticed because Captain DeGroot has received the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal with Gold Star, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

For us, her retirement is bittersweet—although it is well deserved Captain DeGroot's efforts will be greatly missed. I congratulate Captain Sandra L. DeGroot, and wish her and her family all the best.

HONORING MR. GARY NEALE

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mr. Gary Neale on the occasion of his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of NiSource, where he has served the people of Northwest Indiana since 1989 and who I am proud to call a friend.

Mr. Neale guided the Northern Indiana Public Service Company, a mid-sized utility provider, to become NiSource, one of the Nation's leading energy companies. Today, NiSource is a Fortune 500 company—the only one headquartered in Northwest Indiana, and one of the few located in the State of Indiana. Because of Mr. Neale's work, NiSource is now