

Bruce Alan Hinds II, David Andrew Hoover, Kevin Thomas Hoover, Christopher Andrew Hudock, Matthew David Jacobs, Elijah Kareeme Jones, James Joseph Kania;

Daniel Steven Kankiewicz, Christopher James Keen, Christopher Warren Keller, Brendan Kevin Kelly, Jared Raymond Kennedy, David John Kinney, Rory Francis Kirwan, Rhyann Lee Kleiner, Neil Charles Klenges, Nicholas Andrews Kopco, Raymond Louis Krzak, Brett David Kunkle, Charles Cushing Ladd V, George Leibman, Matthew Lipo, Billy Joe Lora, Phillip Glenn Losito, Andrew Lukashewski, Brian Lukashewski, Joseph Andrew Lukashewski, Matthew Lupico, Nicholas Richard Lynn, Leonard John Macking III, Brian Jason Martin, William Frank Marusak, Michael Aloysius McKeown, Adam Charles Metz, Kenneth Paul Miller, Jr., Robert Jason Miller, Robert John Miller, Paul Minnick IV, David Joseph Miscavage, Cliff Antonio Morales, Joseph John Novackowski, Patrick Francis O'Boyle, Walter Robert Ohl, Thomas Robert O'Leary, Charles Alex Pavlick, Francis William Petroski, Kris Sean Petrosky, Sr., Tony Phan;

Francis Joseph Poperowitz, Neil Aaron Ravitz, Jason Rexford Robbins, Timothy Michael Roberts, Jeremy John Rusczyk, Stephen Mark Rutkowski, Sean Paul Sarokas, John Sedon IV, Daniel Thomas Seip IV, Christopher Jude Sicurella, Jonathan Neil Suva, Anthony William Skrypski, K. Jaime Sorber, Daniel Christian Stella, Robert Paul Sternick, William Fredrick Stiefel, Jr., Jamie Lee Sult, Justin George Thomas, William Lewis Thubbron, Jonathan David Torres, Daniel Kieran Walsh, Nicholas William Walters, Wesley James Waters, Leonard Kenneth Weston, Jr., Adam Thomas Wilcox, Aron Preston Wright, Joshua Paul Yetter, Michael Lee Yetter, Eric Mark Zagata, and Robert Louis Zarnoch.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking these soldiers for their courage and love of country. It is truly an honor to serve them in the United States Congress. Please join me in welcoming these fine Americans home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on January 25, 2005, during rollcall vote No. 8 and rollcall vote No. 9, I was unavoidably detained due to travel back to the United States from Africa where a few of my colleagues and I on Chairman ROYCE's codel learned firsthand about the terrible genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both resolutions: H. Con. Res. 16, congratulating the Ukrainian people on their recent democratic election, and H. Res. 39, commending countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and urging a strengthening of the fight against racism, intolerance, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination, and anti-Semitism.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I apologize for missing votes on the evening of January 25, 2005. I was on my way back to the United States from Chad and Algeria, where I witnessed first-hand the results of the genocide occurring in Sudan. Had I been able to, I would have voted: "Yes" on H. Con. Res. 16 (rollcall vote No. 8); "yes" on H. Res. 39 (rollcall vote No. 9).

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OLD FORT LIONS CLUB ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to an outstanding service organization located in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On December 14, 2004, the Lion's Club of Old Fort, OH, celebrated its 60th anniversary.

The village of Old Fort, my hometown, is a community renowned for its civic pride and commitment to service. In 1944, it was home to five active churches, an active Grange as well as school organizations dedicated to helping others. There was not, however, an agency which could coordinate these services to provide for the entire community.

My father, P.M. Gillmor, who served as the first president of the Old Fort Lions Club, along with Ralph Blaney, were members of the nearby Tiffin Lions Club. Together, they proposed that Old Fort should form a club of their own. After enlisting 41 good citizens of Old Fort, they became charter members and joined Lions International.

The Lions Club was a good fit for Old Fort and the members were active in the community from the very beginning. Throughout its history there has never been a lack of enthusiasm or volunteer labor for its many projects. In addition, the Old Fort Lions Club has been active throughout the years in zone, State and International Lions. Ralph Blaney served as an international director, David Biddle and Ralph Gillmor served as district governors, and the Club has had many zone officers.

Anniversaries are a time to reflect upon a steadfast tradition of service. They are also a time to look toward new horizons. Lions have made it their responsibility to serve those in need by keeping pace with the ever increasing challenges facing mankind.

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that the community and the members of the club have greatly benefited from the effort that was started in 1944. I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the achievements of the Old Fort Lions and encourage them to continue to uphold what has become the standard for service in Ohio.

IN HONOR OF TOMMY G. THOMPSON

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to recognize before this body one of our Nation's most dedicated public servants—Secretary Tommy G. Thompson of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Here in Washington, DC, most folks know Tommy for his role in transforming the Department of Health and Human Services into a highly sophisticated, highly organized agency equipped to combat the threat of bioterrorism. His hard work and steady leadership helped steer our Nation through some of its darkest moments, and America is a far safer place today because of his tireless efforts.

But the service of Tommy Thompson will be heralded for decades far beyond the D.C. Beltway as well. As a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly, followed by a historic 14-year tenure as Governor of the Badger State, Tommy solidified his place as one of the greatest public servants in American history. Personally, Tommy encouraged me to run for the State Assembly and later the U.S. Congress, and he has played a monumental role in shaping the political careers of countless others.

Mr. Speaker, as Secretary Thompson prepares to leave his post at the Department of Health and Human Services, I would like to once again thank him for his years of devoted service to the State of Wisconsin and our great Nation, and wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVATION ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATION ACT (GRADE-A)

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to fully fund the Impact Aid program. Earlier today, along with twenty-seven bi-partisan co-sponsors I introduced the Government Reservation Accelerated Development for Education Act or GRADE-A bill.

This bill is intended to fulfill an obligation the Federal Government made in 1950 when Congress established the Impact Aid program. Impact Aid was created because Congress recognized the obligation of the federal government to assist school districts and communities that experience a loss in their local property tax base due to the presence of the federal government. Between 1950 and 1969, the Impact Aid program was fully funded by Congress. Since that time, the funding level has not kept pace with the amount required to cover the federal government's tax obligation.

Overseas, the Department of Defense runs many schools for the dependents of U.S. service personnel. Many people ask why the Department does not run such schools within the United States. The answer is that the children of military personnel already suffer enough

with their parents on long deployments overseas. We should not segregate military kids from schools when stationed here in their own country. Military kids also tend to be high achievers with parents that on average are model citizens. They tend to pull up the academic and athletic achievements of the schools they attend.

With thousands of servicemen and women risking everything overseas, I can think of no better way to set their minds at ease than by taking care of their families back home. This support should begin with assuring our soldiers that their children are receiving a quality education. There are 15 million school children in this Nation who are eligible for Impact Aid. Enrolled in one of the 1,300 eligible school districts, these children depend on their schools to provide them with an education and their parents depend on the schools to act as a community of support while they are deployed.

In my district, 36 percent of all students attending North Chicago's School District 187 are "Impact Aid" children. Currently, there is no guarantee that North Chicago will receive the maximum amount that Impact Aid has promised to provide for its students. We must guarantee our servicemen and women a quality education for their families.

But an even more pressing issue occurs at two other school districts in my district. About one in twenty students in School District 225 (Glenview), as well as School Districts 112 and 113 (Highwood/Highland Park), are Impact Aid children. Due to the current funding formulas, District 225 only receives \$110,000, and Districts 112/113 \$100,000. The money they receive is 90 percent short of the cost of educating these children. This shortfall creates a strain on the school districts overall.

The quickest way to take a soldier or sailor's mind off their mission is to have them worrying about their children's education. Kids from military families come from some of the hardest working, most patriotic families, but the schools they attend sometimes face short funding. This is because of the way we fund our Nation's schools. Impact Aid honors our commitment to military. It guarantees that those families who serve to protect our freedom are in turn protected by the federal government.

We should support the Impact Aid program because it is the right thing to do to make sure schools near military bases are adequately funded. We should also support this program because it is important to the future of our country's defense. The United States established the all-volunteer military thirty years ago. After decades of experience, we now know that the children of military personnel are the most likely to join the military. This means that the Impact Aid program is not only helping families now on active duty but also educating young men and women who are the most likely to become the future backbone of the armed forces.

This bill was the first piece of legislation that I introduced in the 107th Congress. We attracted above 20 co-sponsors. In the 108th Congress, we attracted above 40 co-sponsors. Clearly the time is coming when this bill must become law.

Our constitution commands that the first job of the federal government is to "provide for the common defense." As we improve the pay and benefits of men and women in uniform,

we must also support their kids and the local schools they attend. This may take many years to accomplish but the time is now to support schools that educate the children whose parents wear our Nation's uniform. Let us recognize our duty to America's children and to our military.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION THAT IS IMPORTANT TO RANCHERS AND CONSUMERS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleague, Representative BARBARA CUBIN of Wyoming, to introduce a piece of legislation that we believe is vitally important for the ranchers of our states and for consumers across the country.

On December 29, 2004, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced regulations that would enable certain countries, including Canada, to qualify as "minimal-risk regions" for the disease bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE. Thus, on March 7, 2005, Canadian cattle will again be allowed into the United States after a 19-month moratorium on those animals due to a BSE outbreak in that country. Since the announcement of that rule, the government of Canada has discovered and confirmed two additional cases of BSE in that country's cattle herd. Despite this fact, USDA has not announced an intention to reexamine the rule or to postpone the date that it will open our borders to Canadian cattle.

Language to require country-of-origin labeling (COOL) for certain meat and perishable agricultural products was included in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, also known as the 2002 Farm Bill. Under that law, this provision was set to become operational on September 30, 2004. Unfortunately, Congress has postponed the implementation date for COOL until September 30, 2006. Even more distressing, opponents of COOL have begun an effort to replace the mandatory COOL program with a voluntary one.

Mandatory COOL is important policy for several reasons. First, it would distinguish American meat products from those that are being imported into this country. This would enable American ranchers and pork producers and others to promote domestically produced meat products that rancher in my state believe are superior to meat and live animals produced in other countries.

Secondly, it will give American consumers information that they have repeatedly stated they want about the origin of the meat that they buy at the grocery store. American consumers know where virtually all of their consumer goods are manufactured, but not something as important as the food that they provide for their families. They want this information and they should have access to it.

Providing consumers with access to country-of-origin information becomes particularly important in light of our Department of Agriculture's intention open the border to animals from a country that has recently found multiple cases of BSE.

This bill would prevent USDA from opening the Canadian border to cattle imports until

after a mandatory COOL program is up and running. Consumers want this information, and producers will benefit from having this information available. It is good policy and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO COMMEMORATE THE SPIRIT OF CESAR E. CHAVEZ: "SI SE PUEDE"

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a great American leader and hero, Cesar Chavez. He was a husband, father, grandfather, labor organizer, community leader and symbol of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and equal opportunity.

Cesar was the son of migrant farm workers who dedicated his life to fighting for the human rights and dignity of farm laborers. He was born on March 31, 1927, on a small farm near Yuma, Arizona, and died nearly 12 years ago in April of 1993. Over the course of his 66-year life, Cesar Chavez' work inspired millions and made him a major force in American history.

In 1962, Cesar Chavez and his family founded the National Farm Workers Association which organized thousands of farm workers to confront one of the most powerful industries in our nation. He inspired them to join together and non-violently demand safe and fair working conditions.

Through the use of a grape boycott, he was able to secure the first union contracts for farm workers in this country. These contracts provided farm workers with the basic services that most workers take for granted, services such as clean drinking water and sanitary facilities. Because of his fight to enforce child labor laws, farm workers could also be certain that their children would not be working side by side with them and would instead attend the migrant schools he helped to establish. In addition, Cesar Chavez made the world aware of the exposure to dangerous chemicals that farm workers and consumers face every day.

As a labor leader, he earned great support from unions and elected officials across the country. The movement he began continues today as the United Farm Workers of America.

Cesar Chavez' influence extends far beyond agriculture. He was instrumental in forming the Community Service Organization, one of the first civic action groups in the Mexican-American communities of California and Arizona.

He worked in urban areas, organized voter registration drives and brought complaints against mistreatment by government agencies. He taught community members how to deal with governmental, school and financial institutions and empowered many thousands to seek further advancement in education and politics. There are countless stories of judges, engineers, lawyers, teachers, church leaders, organizers and other hardworking professionals who credit Cesar Chavez as the inspiring force in their lives.

During a time of great social upheaval, he was sought out by groups from all walks of life and all religions to help bring calm with his non-violent practices. In his fight for peace,