PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the three final votes on Thursday, September 8th, 2005, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote No. 462: I would have voted ''aye'' on H.R. 3668, the ''Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act.''

Rollcall vote No. 463: I would have voted ''aye'' on H. Res. 428, expressing the sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the foreign individuals, organizations, and governments that have offered material assistance and other forms of support to those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Rollcall vote No. 464: I would have voted ''aye'' on H. Res. 427, relating to the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.

RESOLUTION INTRODUCTION STATEMENT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designed to help poor farmers in African nations who are being undercut and devastated by the continued subsidies some of the world's wealthiest countries offer to their own farmers.

Developed world subsidies drive down global prices for farm products. For farmers in wealthy nations, this often involves the amount of profit possible; for African farmers, this involves their very survival. Since more than 70 percent of Africans depend on the agricultural sector for their livelihoods, normalizing global agricultural trade is an issue of life or death for many African farmers who have few, if any, alternatives to farm Income.

For every six dollars daily the United States and the nations of the European Union spend on agricultural subsidies in their own nations, we spend one dollar on official aid to developing countries. This means that the positive impact of our aid programs is being undercut by trade-distorting subsidies, which are crushing the very people our aid is intended to help.

Developed countries agreed to negotiate a multilateral end to agricultural subsidies through the World Trade Organization with a target date of January 1st of this year. That deadline was missed, and the current Doha round of WTO trade talks may fail, largely because of the issue of continuing agricultural subsidies. President Bush recently reiterated America's commitment to accelerate the end of all developed world agricultural subsidies.

American cotton subsidies have been said to endanger the welfare of African cotton farmers in several African nations, but European dairy and meat subsidies pose an even broader threat to African farm incomes. When a Japanese cow can produce more daily revenue than even the most industrious African farmer, something is seriously wrong with the economic order. Curtailing developed world agricultural subsidies will allow Africans to be more self-sufficient. It is estimated that such a change would result in as much as a 45 percent increase in the net agricultural trade by sub-Saharan Africa and a 5.1 percent increase in African farm income.

It is the responsibility of our government, as well as other governments, to address the needs of our farmers, but it should not be done at the expense of low-income African farmers. This resolution, cosponsored by Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. FLAKE and Mr. MEEKS, calls for a multilateral end to agricultural subsidies as quickly as possible and for developed nations to work with African nations to mutually remove remaining impediments to equitable agricultural trade in the global marketplace.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE KAUKAUNA TIMES VILLAGER'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK GREEN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize before this House the Times-Villager newspaper in celebration of its 125 years in publication.

The first edition of the Kaukauna Times-Villager was published on September 16, 1880 by C.H. Hopkins and L.A. Gates. Despite its humble beginnings, the paper's circulation has grown to include the Villages of Kimberly and Little Chute, helping record their unique history and culture. From the Great Depression to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the Times-Villager has reported some of the most monumental events in our nation's history. But through it all the newspaper has remained true to its Heart-of-the-Valley roots.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Kaukauna Times-Villager for its years of dedicated service to northeastern Wisconsin. And, on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District, I say congratulations on this incredible accomplishment.

COMMEMORATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF BISHOP S.C. MADISON

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime achievements and contributions of Bishop S.C. Madison and his wife Mrs. Deloris Madison to the United House of Prayer for All People, Augusta, Georgia, and to our country as a whole.

Their efforts show their dedication to bettering their fellow man both spiritually and naturally.

Since Bishop Madison became the leader and spiritual advisor of the United House of Prayer for All People in 1991, he embarked on a nationwide building program that included the building and dedication of over 130 houses of worship throughout the United States.

Included in that number were four built or completely refurbished in the Greater Augusta Area.

In these sanctuaries, he promotes wholesome values and a decent way of life.

His tenure in the ministry has exceeded fifty-five years, and he has no intentions of stopping! His soul-stirring messages are memorable, and they serve as a constant inspiration to his congregations that if you do the right thing, ''Life can be beautiful.''

Not only has Bishop Madison endeavored to better the spiritual body of his congregations, but he has also made other thoughtful contributions to the communities where his congregations reside.

Augusta, Georgia has been fortunate to benefit from his commitment to the community.

Continuing the House of Prayer's commitment to affordable housing, Bishop Madison has maintained housing for Augusta residents—The McCollough Townhouse Square Apartments—that were built with no government subsidies.

He has also acquired houses, apartments, and vacant lots in the city of Augusta. After remodeling, refurbishing, or demolishing and rebuilding them, he has made these properties available to the community once again.

Countless families are able to realize the goal of residing in new homes because of his tireless efforts with no help from the government.

Bishop Madison has also made contributions to the Greater Augusta Business Community with the building and renting of the S. C. Madison Building in Downtown Augusta.

Amazingly, his contributions are not just felt in the city of Augusta, but he exhibits that same entrepreneurial spirit in many other cities throughout the United States.

Mrs. Madison, a native of Augusta, Georgia, has mirrored her husband's commitment. She was the catalyst of the ''First Lady's Scholastic Achievement Awards,'' which not only seeks to inspire children to achieve the honor roll status in their local schools but also promotes the fine values of being an upstanding citizen.

This program began in 1995, has grown every year, and is now celebrating its tenth anniversary.

Thousands of young minds have been challenged, cultivated, and motivated because she is willing to dare them to reach higher heights in the classroom.

She constantly encourages chilren to strive to complete secondary education to make sound economic contributions to our country as well as live the life of a dutiful citizen.

Bishop and Mrs. Madison both have been honored nationwide for their strong commitments not only to the congregations of the United House of Prayer for All People, but also to the city of Augusta.

The contributions they have made to this community are far reaching.

The efforts of Bishop and Mrs. Madison have improved the quality of life of so many, and the people of the Ninth Congressional District of Georgia stand in sincere appreciation for their diligence, dedication, and far-reaching contributions over the years.