

(638,000 head) of the Nation's milk cows, 6.7 percent (12.04 billion pounds) of total milk production, and 6.9 percent (\$1.6 billion) of total cash receipts from milk marketing. The importance of dairy to New York's 23rd District is readily apparent when one considers that the 2002 Census of Agriculture reported there were 1,989 dairy farms with 188,305 milk cows in the 11 counties that comprise the District.

I also appreciate the fact that the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) has provided about \$230 million in much-needed support to New York dairy farmers over the past 5 fiscal years and I know my constituent farmers do as well. Moreover, it is critical that the 2007 Farm Bill continue to provide dairy farmers with some form of income support. While I appreciate the support provided through MILC, the NDEA is an alternative that could help to provide additional support to American farmers with greater stability and at less cost to the taxpayer.

The NDEA would establish 5 Regional Dairy Marketing Areas (RDMA); the Intermountain, Midwest, Northeast, Pacific, and Southern. The Midwest, Northeast, and Southern regions would automatically be included as participating regions while the Intermountain and Pacific regions would have the ability to opt into the program.

In each region, a Regional Dairy Board would establish the minimum or over-order price for Class I (fluid) milk; that price would then have to be approved by farmers through a referendum. In the first year, the maximum price that a Board could establish is capped at \$17.50 per hundredweight (cwt.), but thereafter the price could rise based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I took a leave of absence on June 18, 2007, as I was attending to personal business. The following list describes how I would have voted had I been in attendance today.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 21, calling on the United Nations Security Council to charge Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the United Nations Charter because of his calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.

"Aye"—H. Con. Res. 151, noting the disturbing pattern of killings of dozens of independent journalists in Russia over the last decade, and calling on Russian President Vladimir Putin to authorize cooperation with outside investigators in solving those murders.

"Aye"—H. Res. 233, recognizing over 200 years of sovereignty of the Principality of Liechtenstein, and expressing support for efforts by the United States to continue to strengthen its relationship with that country.

REMEMBERING MINNESOTA'S
"GREATEST GENERATION" AS
MINNESOTA COMMEMORATES
STATE WORLD WAR II MEMO-
RIAL

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to rise in tribute to the "Greatest Generation" of Minnesotans. On June 9, 2007, an estimated 12,000 Minnesotans gathered on the state capitol grounds to offer this long-overdue commemoration for our State's World War II veterans.

The Minnesota World War II Memorial has an honored place, reflecting the sacrifices of those who served and those who died to protect our freedom. It provides a solemn reminder of past great sacrifices on behalf of our nation, but also gives us an important opportunity to properly thank the brave men and women in uniform fighting every day around the world.

Six decades ago, 16 million fought for freedom in the war, and more than 400,000 died. Although fought "over there," World War II had immense local impact. Approximately 326,000 Minnesota men and women enlisted in the military, leaving school, jobs and families behind. Nearly 6000 Minnesotans died. The war touched every life in some way as countless more men, women and children supported the war from the home front.

On May 29, 2004, I had the great honor of joining many of Minnesota's World War II veterans and their families in Washington, DC for the dedication of the National World War II Memorial. These veterans exemplify the spirit and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation. My father served in the Armed Services during World War II, so this dedication is especially meaningful to me. As an auxiliary member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, I remain committed to ensuring that all our veterans receive the benefits and honor that they have earned.

Madam Speaker, please join with me and all Minnesotans in paying tribute to the Greatest Generation. They deserve our highest respect, gratitude and the support they were promised.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISH- MENTS OF EDWARD MESSMER

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Edward Messmer of Alexandria, Virginia for his service to the U.S. Department of State as Special Assistant to the Ambassador of Lebanon. In his official duties he was directly responsible for his efforts in providing fuel reserves into Lebanon during the 2006 conflict, which kept major power plants open, averting a health catastrophe.

In July and August of 2006, the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut found itself at the center of a major conflict when war broke out between Hizbollah fighters and Israeli forces.

The embassy received a great deal of attention for its work to mitigate the damage inflicted by the war. None was more important than the work done by Mr. Messmer to help move vital fuel past blockades and into Lebanon, maintaining power across the country.

Once the war began, a naval blockade was established around Lebanon to prevent the import of weapons, fuel and other support for the citizens of Lebanon. As a result, fuel stocks quickly plummeted at the country's three primary power plants. The plants were soon left with only a few days' worth of reserves. A continued interruption would have meant no water for essential services, hospitals and schools. Serving as the acting chief of the political section at the embassy, Mr. Messmer made it his personal mission to avert the developing crisis.

Mr. Messmer had to address multiple logistical and political challenges to get fuel past the blockade. The ship owners who carried the fuel didn't want to risk running the naval blockade, the Israeli forces wanted assurances that the fuel stocks would not be diverted to Hizbollah. Additionally, funding for the fuel needed to be secured from the weakening government of Lebanon. For three straight weeks, Mr. Messmer coordinated, persuaded and guided all of these disparate parties to a solution. He was in constant contact with the Lebanese government, U.S. embassies in Cyprus and Israel, ship owners, insurers and various offices in the Pentagon and the State Department.

Mr. Messmer's efforts paid off with the initial shipment of 56,000 tons of fuel to the about-to-close power facility just north of Beirut. His hard work enabled the country's entire electrical grid to remain operational until additional deliveries were sent over the next several weeks. Not only did Mr. Messmer's work help avert a humanitarian crisis; it also took away a potential propaganda tool from Hizbollah, which could have blamed the fuel crisis on the United States and its allies. For his contribution, Mr. Messmer was nominated for the Partnership for Public Service's International Affairs Medal.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Messmer for his leadership, and I am proud to have him live in Virginia's 8th Congressional District and contributing to the greatest civil service in the world. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN SHARP

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major Brian P. Sharp will be leaving his position as Assistant Marine Corps Liaison to the House of Representatives and will be continuing his military education at the Command and Staff College in Quantico, Virginia.

Major Sharp has been a valuable asset to the Marines since his enlistment in the Marine Corps Reserve in 1991. He attended the School of Infantry, Camp Geiger, MCB Camp Lejeune where he received the MOS of 0341 mortar man. He was assigned to Company G, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marines for 4 years and

was accepted into Officer's Candidate School in 1995. He has also received a B.A. in History from Ramapo College in New Jersey and was selected for Career Level School through which he attended United States Army Field Artillery School, Captain's Career Course in April of 2002.

Upon graduation from the Basic School, Major Sharp reported to the United States Army Field Artillery School and was designated a Field Artillery Officer. In his first tour, he reported to Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines and served as forward observer, Guns Platoon Commander, and Executive Officer. During this tour, he was deployed to Okinawa, Japan in support of the 31st MEU (SOC). Major Sharp has also served as S-3A/Battalion Fire Direction Officer following the completion of his tour at 2nd Battalion, Target Information Officer for the 15th MEU Command Element, MEU Liaison to the United Nations for conducting operations to stabilize the new nation of East Timor in the spring of 2000, and Fire Support Officer following September 11, in which he assisted in the planning and execution of the seizure of Forward Operation Base Rhino, Afghanistan, to include combat operations.

Upon his graduation from Career Level School, Major Sharp was assigned to Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment and served as Commanding Officer. While he served this position, Major Sharp and Battery B were deployed with Regimental Combat Team 2, Task Force Tarawa, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and participated in the Battle of An Nasiriyah. Upon his return to CONUS, Major Sharp assumed the duties of the Battalion Logistics Officer, and then Battalion Operations Officer.

Major Sharp's decorations include the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Combat "V" and two stars and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, I know that the Members of the House will join me in thanking and honoring Major Sharp for his exceptional commitment to the United States Marine Corps and wishing him luck in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING PROJECT TRANSITION

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Project Transition for 25 years of service and support to people suffering from mental illness. By providing the necessary care and assistance, Project Transition has paved the way for adults with psychiatric problems to recover and contribute to society.

Project Transition's unique communities offer not only medical treatment, but also diverse opportunities for healing of the mind, body and spirit. Throughout their stays, residents learn to rebuild hope and trust. Patients are exposed to treatment and instruction that cultivates the skills necessary to live a normal life as a member of our community.

The Project Transition team is made up of professionals with the right experience and know-how in psychiatric and psychological

treatment. They work to teach social skills, management of psychiatric conditions and help reintegrate patients back into the community. Their innovative approach has earned them both national acclaim and sincere gratitude from the many families they have helped.

Madam Speaker, this year Project Transition celebrates its 25th anniversary as an organization serving Bucks County adults with psychiatric disorders. Project Transition has earned the appreciation of the hundreds of adults now able to live a full and healthy life. I join them in thanking this wonderful organization for their efforts, commend them on their work and wish them a future of continued success.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL JOHN P. SWIFT ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CONNECTICUT AIR NATIONAL GUARD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel John P. Swift of Enfield, Connecticut, who retires from the Connecticut Air National Guard on Sunday, June 24, 2007, after nearly 26 years of service to our Nation.

Since graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1981, Colonel Swift has worked closely with the A-10 Thunderbolt II, as it is more commonly known, the "Warthog." His post-academy education and service took him to Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana and even the United Kingdom before he landed back in Connecticut. In 1989, he began his career with the Connecticut Air National Guard as the Operations Plan Officer for the 103rd Fighter Group at Bradley International Airport in East Granby, Connecticut.

From there, he worked his way through the ranks until reaching his current position as Commander of the 103rd Fighter Wing in February 2006. As Commander, Colonel Swift has lead more than 1000 men and women of the 103rd Fighter Wing and overseen all aspects of base operations, including aviation, maintenance and support operations for the Wing's A-10 aircraft. In his most recent roles, he has worked closely with his colleagues in the Connecticut National Guard and the Connecticut congressional delegation to help see the 103rd Fighter Wing through a period of change and transformation.

His leadership, his passion for his job and his dedication to the mission of the Connecticut Air National Guard will be greatly missed. I ask all my colleagues to join with me, the men and women of the Connecticut National Guard, and the people of Connecticut in thanking Colonel Swift for his service and wishing him the best in his new endeavors.

IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST ZACHARY GRASS

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. REGULA. Madam Speaker, with great sorrow I rise today to recognize Specialist

Zachary Grass, an Ohio citizen from my district, who gave his life fighting for our country. On Saturday, June 16, 2007 in Iraq, Army soldier Zachary Grass was killed by a roadside bomb.

As a 2003 graduate of Fairless High School, he was a member of both the varsity basketball and baseball teams. From his athletic involvement in high school to becoming a soldier in the Army he showed great leadership. More importantly he was happy to be serving his country.

This outstanding young man showed courage and dedication during his tour of duty. Zachary is a true hero and reminds us of the dedication evidenced by all the men and women all over the world fighting the war on terror. We must reflect on this great life and the sacrifice he made to defend our freedom and security.

Zachary Grass and his family will be forever in our hearts and prayers. May we keep them in mind as they struggle through this difficult period of mourning.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF CAROL DUMAINE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 18, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Ms. Carol Dumaine, of Reston, Virginia, and a proud member of our civil service. Ms. Dumaine, an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, has contributed to our Nation's future security through the establishment of the Global Futures Forum (GFF), a highly innovative think tank which coordinates international expertise to enhance intelligence analysis.

As the 9/11 Commission confirmed, intelligence and law enforcement officials had uncovered a number of warning signs that a terrorist attack on U.S. soil was imminent, but the failure to recognize the links between the intelligence precluded authorities from stopping the attacks. Ms. Dumaine has created a forum which allows for more thorough intelligence analysis from a cadre of outside experts. Global Futures Forum (GFF) unites intelligence experts from different nations with professionals from diverse fields so that emerging issues can be recognized quickly and collectively addressed. The GFF reviews intelligence in the public domain and promotes open, interactive linkages to knowledge and insight that exists outside of traditional security organizations.

GFF delegates represent the wide spectrum of intelligence and security organizations, multilateral institutions, academia and non-government personnel from more than 30 nations. A series of forums in 2005 and 2006 brought these experts together to work face-to-face, providing them with an opportunity to strengthen international partnerships and to share knowledge about global security challenges. To ensure that partners would have opportunities to collaborate outside of the conferences, Ms. Dumaine created the GFF website to provide a constant means of collaboration, allowing GFF partners to share their latest thoughts, research and analysis through their