

Carruth, have four daughters—Linda, Fayette, Dorene, and Sharron—two sons-in-law, seven grandchildren, and a niece and nephew-in-law.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNITY OF STRATFORD

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Community of Stratford on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

In the late 1800's, the community of Stratford began taking the role of a trading post as an integral part of the booming mining industry that transformed communities across the country. Rich in vast fertile farmland, the production of cotton, hay, and grains soon became bountiful thus overtaking trade as the predominant industry in the region. A few years later, Stratford became home to a large dairy concentration as well as a diverse group of citizens. The ethnic groups of Stratford included Portuguese, English, Italian, and others from all over the world that settled in this charming community.

A glorious day occurred on October 7th, 1907, when Stratford was founded by the Empire Land Company as a development property. The history of this place further demonstrates that it is only by embracing the importance of cooperation and vision that thriving communities are born. I am honored to stand and shine a spotlight on the community of Stratford as they celebrate a century of pride and progress.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most prominent centers of agricultural research and education in the world on the occasion of its 40th anniversary. The Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems, CASFS, located on the campus of the University of California at Santa Cruz, enjoys a reputation as the Harvard of organic farming.

While this reputation is well deserved, it did not come easily to the UCSC Farm, as CASFS is more commonly known. The program began life in 1967 as an obscure 4-acre organic garden tucked away in a disused and unnoticed corner of the UCSC campus. It was birthed by master gardener Alan Chadwick who inspired a group of students to convert a dry hillside into a magnificent terraced garden that incorporated the latest techniques in chemical free horticulture and reflected the back to the land Zeitgeist of the day. In 1972, the project expanded onto another unused campus site where garden participants began a 17 acre, later 25 acre, experimental organic farm. There they set out explore ways of improving and applying organic farming tech-

niques. Throughout the 1970s, the little UCSC Farm community quietly grew with a mixture of a little campus support, some creative grant writing, and the sales of its farm produce. A steady stream of student apprentices advanced through constantly evolving program. By the 1980s, the UCSC Farm had come to a crossroads. Could it reach beyond the little world of the UCSC campus and help shape the broader world of agriculture?

While the UCSC campus family welcomed the project, the broader UC system didn't know what to do with it. It didn't have any formal accreditation and it was not located on one of the UC land grant institutions where agriculture was supposed to happen. It simply lacked the necessary pedigree to secure an official and funded place within the University of California system. As the State assembly member representing the Monterey Bay Area during the 1980s, I had the honor of securing a line for the UCSC farm in the State's higher education budget. In 1990, I authored the California Organic Standards Act, which was largely shaped by work at the UCSC Farm and the Santa Cruz community of organic growers that had grown up in its neighborhood.

Since entering Congress, I have worked hard to share the story of the UCSC Farm's important work with my colleagues. Congress has responded with a total of over \$3 million in direct appropriations to the UCSC Farm since 2000 to assist with its important research and extension work with the rapidly expanding organic farming sector. Indeed, the UCSC Farm's influence has been far reaching, inspiring many sustainable agriculture programs at other universities, including UC Davis, Cal Poly, and USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pass on the congratulations of the House to all the people who have worked so hard over the course of the past 40 years to make the UCSC Farm such a great success.

HONORING DONNA AND STEVE HILL

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Donna and Steve Hill. The Hills originally came to the Baltimore County Department of Social Services interested in adopting one child, a boy. They had three daughters and were very much interested in adding a son to their family. The agency placed a young boy in their home who lacked impulse control and required a great deal of time, attention, and therapy. They were presented with many more challenges than they had expected. Several months later, the agency learned that a sibling of this child was also in foster care in Baltimore City, in a therapeutic foster home. When approached about taking this second child, a girl, the Hills again stepped up to the plate. In an effort to keep the siblings together, they agreed to be parents for this special-needs little girl as well.

When the sister was placed with the Hills, she had to share a room with the Hills' youngest daughter. After a short period of time, it

was evident that the two girls, being so close in age, were in constant rivalry due to a lack of their own space. As a result, the Hills decided to put an addition on their home to ensure that the siblings could continue to live together. Though the two children were biological siblings, they had never lived together since entering foster care and had not formed any significant attachment to each other.

The foster son was struggling with multiple emotional challenges, and the Hills pursued intensive individual and family therapy to stabilize both children. The Hills officially adopted their 10-year-old daughter on March 23, 2007. They are still working toward adopting their foster son, who has expressed some reluctance because of ties to his biological father. This family has consistently put the needs of the children first. They have dealt with many difficult situations, while at the same time providing a stable, loving home environment for the children in their care. In addition, if this family had not gone above and beyond their original request to adopt one boy, these two siblings would not have had the opportunity to live together.

Madam Speaker, today I ask that you join with me in honoring Donna and Steve Hill for being unsung adoption heroes and I am honored to recognize them in the Angel in Adoption program.

WHERE IS SPUTNIK WHEN WE NEED IT?

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, 50 years ago today, the Soviet Union changed the world by launching Sputnik I into orbit. People who were alive in 1957 vividly remember Sputnik. It shocked the American public and dwarfed the achievements of our rocket program. It was so serious that President Dwight Eisenhower had to go on national television to apologize for our failure, and promised a boost to our science efforts. This led to an awakening of innovation, which resulted in the United States launching a comparable satellite of its own, the Explorer I, into orbit fewer than four months later. More importantly, Sputnik spurred U.S. investment in aerospace, culminating in the Apollo Moon landing. There was also a great emphasis on improving our math and science education programs. This sparked an intense focus on equipping our workforce with the skills needed to compete with the Russians.

Unfortunately, once again the United States is falling behind other nations. This time, it is our children who are falling behind their peers in European and Asian countries that have more rigorous math and science education programs. We must do a better job of preparing our kids for the jobs of the future.

Already, economic pressures have pushed some States and the Federal Government to improve math and science education. For example, in Michigan the business community supported the effort to require that high school graduates take at least 4 years of math and 3 years of science courses. Michigan desperately needs a workforce equipped with math and science skills to attract employers to

our State and to retain our current jobs. Also, I should mention that President Bush recently signed into law the America COMPETES Act of 2007, which includes provisions to encourage innovation in manufacturing and to strengthen many of our Federal research and education programs. While these efforts are crucial to our Nation's future, we must do more to improve.

We should not wait for another Sputnik-like spark to bolster our Nation's math and science education programs. Fortunately, this year we have the perfect opportunity to invigorate our education system by improving upon the successful No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). This law has helped countless students in the United States improve over the past 5 years, and it is a great launching pad for developing an educational system that will prepare our Nation for the future.

NCLB has helped shine a bright light on schools that need improvement, and has focused our Nation's attention on accountability. The result is a tangible impact on the level of proficiency in schools. NCLB has helped our children learn to read and understand math, and has closed the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their more privileged peers.

Yet NCLB still needs additional improvements. I introduced a bill to put science on a par with reading and math. The Science Accountability Act requires that science testing, which begins this school year, be included in States' student evaluation systems starting next school year. Another bill I introduced, the Improving Mathematics and Science Teacher Quality Act, provides dedicated funding for teacher in-service or professional development training.

Furthermore, we need to ensure that States are treated equitably. Our Nation's mix of 50 different State educational standards and State tests distracts from our national focus on preparing our kids for their future. In that spirit, I worked with Senator CHRIS DODD (D-CT) to introduce the Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for Kids (SPEAK) Act, which creates rigorous, voluntary education content standards for math and science. In exchange for voluntarily adopting these math and science standards, it provides States regulatory flexibility. It is worth noting that since education is primarily a State and local responsibility the bill specifically avoids creating national curricula or tests.

We must seize this Sputnik-like opportunity and strengthen NCLB. After the Russians beat us to space, our Nation redoubled its efforts and improved its focus on space programs and developed an innovative workforce. This led to many scientific discoveries and helped us put humans on the Moon. In the same way, we must redouble our efforts as we build on the successes of the first version of NCLB to help launch our students and our great Nation into the 22nd century and beyond.

HONORING ENGINE CO. 112 OF THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT AND 100 YEARS OF DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service and history of Engine Company No. 112 of the Chicago Fire Department. October marks Engine Co. 112's 100th anniversary. Over the past century, the men and women of Engine Company No. 112 have selflessly served their community.

The local firehouse is an important, traditional and valuable resource in the neighborhood. The members of Engine Company No. 112 strive for perfection in service of their community.

Engine Company No. 112 serves my neighborhood and I have had the opportunity to spend time there on a number of occasions; these men and women personify honor, courage, and the virtues of the Maltese Cross.

On October 31, 1907, Engine Company No. 112 was organized under the direction of its first captain, Henry C. Schroeder. Over the years, the firehouse evolved and expanded. Today, under the direction of Captain John M. Byrne, Engine Company No. 112 includes: Tower Ladder 21, Ambulance 80, the Field Officers of 452, and Communications Van 272.

Engine Company No. 112 has endured the tragic loss of three of its own in service to the community. William Butler, William Huerta and Lawrence Kelly all made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty and in service to Engine Company No. 112.

Engine Company No. 112's 100th anniversary celebration will occur October 6, 2007 at Company Quarters, 3801 North Damen. This will be a wonderful event memorializing this important anniversary.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the North Side of Chicago and Fifth Congressional District community, I wish to recognize the past and current firefighters of Engine Company No. 112 for their dedication and commitment to service. Moreover I wish all the best for the future firefighters of Engine Company 112 and their families.

INTRODUCTION OF FEE DISCLOSURE BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Defined Contribution Plan Fee Transparency Act of 2007. That may be a long title, but the details are actually very simple.

Earlier this summer, AARP conducted a survey of 401(k) participants to find out what they knew about the fees paid by their plans. Plan fees can make a huge difference in your account balance. As the Department of Labor has pointed out in a helpful guide on the issue, "Fees and expenses paid by your plan may substantially reduce the growth in your

account." Literally, it pays to know what these expenses are. What the AARP found in their survey is instructive: 83 percent of participants acknowledged they do not know how much they pay in fees or expenses. Already, the House Education and Labor Committee has held several hearings to highlight this issue, and I commend the Committee Chairman, Mr. Miller, for his leadership.

The growth in defined contribution plans offers great opportunities for workers, with alternatives and options they did not have before. Many workers, however, are simply overwhelmed with the information distributed and, because of that, may not be able to utilize these opportunities. Certainly, more disclosure is preferred. But, as AARP found out, the need to better understand this information means it must be in an easily digestible format and in plain English.

My legislation provides for disclosure both to the worker and to the employer. Participants, or workers, would get both an enrollment notice up-front and an annual notice updating them on their account. At enrollment, the bill requires that for each of the plan's investment alternatives, the employer would have to disclose the alternative's objective and investment manager, its risk and return characteristics and its historic rates of return. In addition, the employer must indicate whether the alternative is passively managed, as with an index fund, or actively managed and whether or not the alternative is a single-alternative investment solution, such as a lifecycle or target retirement date fund.

Regarding fees, the bill requires employers to disclose the asset-based fees for each investment alternative, whether such fees pay for services beyond investment management, such as plan administration, and whether there are additional charges for buying or selling the particular alternative, such as redemption fees. In addition, participants must be provided with information about any separate fees they will be charged for plan administration as well as a notice that certain plan services they may decide to use could have separate charges associated with them, such as investment advice programs, brokerage windows, or plan loans. Accompanying these disclosures would be a statement that participants should not select investments based solely on fees but based on careful consideration of a range of factors including the alternatives' risk level, returns and investment objectives.

In addition to this enrollment notice, each year, participants would receive information about the investments they had selected and the fees applicable to their accounts. This annual notice would describe which investment alternatives the individual participant was invested in, what percentage of the participant's total account each alternative represented, the risk and return characteristics of each such alternative, whether such alternatives were passively or actively managed and the historical returns for each such alternative. The statement would also summarize for participants what asset classes their account is invested in, with percentage breakdowns. On fees, the annual notice must describe asset-based and any sales charges for the alternatives the participant has selected, any separate charges for plan administration and any deductions for participant-initiated services. In addition, to assist employees who may want to make investment changes, the notice must tell participants