

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WAR BRIDES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of women who played a profound but under-appreciated role in America's stand against the Axis Powers during the Second World War. Known as War Brides, these women met our soldiers during the war while they were stationed overseas, eventually coming to the United States after the war as their wives. Women such as Sylvia Harris, a constituent of mine, boosted the wartime morale of our bravest men during that dark period in human history.

While we are all familiar with the stories of the Greatest Generation, less often told are the stories of those women who came to this country as War Brides. These extraordinary individuals left their families and cultures behind to follow the men they fell in love with. They adopted the United States of America as their home, raising children and supporting their husbands. They embodied the notion and reality of the Greatest Generation by pledging their allegiance to the United States and to the soldiers who bravely fought for freedom around the world.

War Brides overcame not only physical barriers, often traveling months by train and boat to rejoin their husbands, but also xenophobia in many cases, making the transition to their newly-adopted country all the more difficult. They are a testament to the evolution of social and cultural equality in this country, bringing with them the traditions of countless cultures that make America the wonderful melting pot that it is.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that on this, the 61st anniversary of the emigration of thousands of War Brides into the United States of America, Mrs. Harris brought to my attention the invaluable contribution of these remarkable women to our country.

Madam Speaker, love and the union of marriage are extraordinarily powerful; they have been known to save lives, spurring soldiers to persevere with purpose for the sake of loved ones. Just as we remember those who kept the home fires burning here in the United States during the Second World War, we should pay tribute to those women who formed bonds with and inspired our soldiers abroad during that conflict. Whether coming from Europe, Africa, Asia, or Australia, these women hold an important place in the history and free democracy of the United States, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in saluting their bravery and resilience.

HONORING WILLIAM DELMONT,
LACKAWANNA CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2007, the Chamber of Commerce of the great City of Lackawanna, New York will name its annual Citizen of the Year. While many great Western New Yorkers have been so honored by the Chamber over the years, in 2007 the Chamber will bestow this honor upon one of the greats in the city's history—the founder, publisher and editor of the Front Page newspaper, William Delmont.

As publisher of the weekly publications Front Page and South Buffalo News, Bill has been a journalistic icon in Western New York. Long the official publication for numerous local governments and school districts, Bill's newspapers maintain a hometown flavor that is rarely seen in this day and age.

Most of all, however, Bill Delmont is one of Lackawanna's many treasures. A longtime business owner, entrepreneur and civic leader, Bill Delmont's dedication to his hometown is inspirational indeed. Bill has long been a fighter for Lackawanna and for its citizens, and has consistently strived to provide opportunities to those citizens, be it in public service or in the private sector.

Bill has been honored many times over for his commitment to Lackawanna, as an honoree of the Lake Erie Italian Club, the Lackawanna Area Historical Association, the Our Lady of Victory Hospital, and the Matthew Glab Post 1477, and was recently named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

One of Bill's most significant accomplishments has been his decades-long leadership of the Erie County Conservative Party. Bill is perhaps the wisest political sage in Western New York, and I suspect that not one serious candidate for high political office in Western New York failed to call upon Bill for advice and counsel over the years. Since my first run for public office in 1987, Bill Delmont has stood with me as a trusted adviser and friend whose support I have been proud to receive. It would be impossible for me to adequately recount or repay his many kindnesses and courtesies to me, both personally as well as professionally, but it is very fitting, Madam Speaker, that I ask you and all of our colleagues here join me in offering our most sincere congratulations to Lackawanna, New York's favorite son, Bill Delmont, upon his receipt of this prestigious honor.

HONORING MR. JOHN DAU

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. John Dau of Syracuse, New York.

Mr. Dau has dedicated his life to helping others in his native country of Sudan to get a chance at a better life. He has done amazing humanitarian work for his fellow Sudanese people, including raising money for the building of a clinic in his home village and raising awareness about the plight of the Sudanese in general.

National Geographic has recently named Mr. Dau one of the eight emerging explorers of 2007. Those given this title are adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers that are said to be making a difference in their prospective fields. The National Geographic executive vice president for mission programs has referred to Mr. Dau as a "visionary individual" and asserted that he was precisely the sort of individual National Geographic was looking for when choosing emerging explorers.

With the money from this award, Mr. Dau is going to send other "Lost Boys", or Sudanese who spent their adolescence fleeing war, famine, and slavery, to school in Kenya and Uganda. Mr. Dau is an accomplished humanitarian, and it is for this reason that I rise today to recognize his great work.

HONORING MOUNTAIN FIFES AND DRUMS FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SKILL IN YOUTH MUSIC

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand today in recognition of the Mountain Fifes and Drums, a volunteer music program located in Lake Arrowhead, California, that specializes in providing unique instruction, history, and leadership skills to 60 young people.

I am delighted to report that on May 12, members of the Mountain Fifes and Drums will be leading the processional march at the America's 400th anniversary celebration in Jamestown, Virginia. This celebration will be chaired by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and is expected to feature guest appearances by Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh. Is it an honor to be recognized at a historical event of such a high caliber, and I congratulate the Mountain Fifes and Drums for representing California at this national celebration.

Founded in 2001 by Lake Arrowhead residents Cindy Olson and Kevin Garland, the Mountain Fifes and Drums has become one of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the premiere living history music groups in my district. The repertoire focuses on 18th and 19th century martial music, and the corps has excelled at presenting their music as accurately and authentically as possible. The group also provides character-building lessons in responsibility and discipline. There is no fee for the program and no prior musical knowledge is required, which encourages students of all levels to join.

Like many privately organized musical groups in my district, the Mountain Fifes and Drums offers instruction in music technique, theory, and history. But the group also fosters character development of each member of the corps. By providing incentives for achieving higher ranks in music, and offering a point system for disciplined behavior, members are encouraged to engage in healthy competition and to consistently perfect their music techniques.

Students are taught lessons in self-sufficiency, by engaging in fundraising activities in order to pay for trips around the United States. These fundraising projects help the performers hone their skills and teach invaluable lessons about hard work and responsibility. At the same time, they create ties to many community groups that encourage youth to stay active in local organizations.

Most of the members of the Mountain Fifes and Drums are home schooled, and their participation provides friendships that extend beyond the rehearsal hall. Group members come from a number of mountain communities, including Lake Arrowhead, Crestline, Running Springs, and Twin Peaks. I am pleased to see that residents in each of these areas have provided generous contributions to the Mountain Fifes and Drums.

Madam Speaker, I look forward with pride to watching these talented and dedicated young people take part in our national Jamestown celebration. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing them success and thanking Cindy Olson and Kevin Garland for creating and fostering such a unique group.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW SAAVEDRA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I come to the House floor today in honor of Andrew Saavedra, who was recently named Orange County Catholic Man of the Year.

Andrew Saavedra has tirelessly devoted his life to helping the poor, the homeless, and disadvantaged in Santa Ana and throughout Orange County.

The recent recognition is the culmination of a lifetime of service. Andrew Saavedra was a founding member of Santa Ana's Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen 21 years ago. The soup kitchen now serves meals to 500 homeless men and women each week.

Currently, Andrew Saavedra is president of the Orange County Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, a spokesman for the Second Harvest food bank, an active member of the Peace and Justice Committee of St. Joseph's church, and a board member of the Orange County Congregation Community Organization.

After retiring from his job last May as a salesman for a food-service company, Andrew Saavedra decided to dedicate more of his time to volunteer activities.

I do not know many people who choose to pursue a 40-hour workweek upon retiring, but Andrew Saavedra has a calling to help people, and he does just that.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIALTY CROP EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES ACT

HON. DEVIN NUNES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. NUNES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act. As the Representative of our Nation's most diverse, productive, and highly valued crop base, this legislation is of great importance to my constituents. It is also of great national significance, as the United States seeks to increase competitiveness in the global marketplace.

As many of my colleagues representing rural America know, our farmers are faced with enormous challenges. These challenges not only relate to the production of wholesome food and fiber, but are also a direct result of regulatory burdens, environmental laws, and, increasingly, global trade practices. For this reason, problems associated with foreign market access can be highly destructive to American farmers.

I introduced the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act today because I believe Congress needs to take a fresh look at how we fund and structure our efforts in support of American agriculture. As we examine U.S. farm policies, Congress should support changes that increase our Government's emphasis on foreign market access and development. In addition, we need to be certain that we have the resources in place to meet the heavy demands associated with fighting unfair trade practices. Absent such a commitment, our balance of agriculture trade will continue to erode and our Nation's farmers will suffer.

Madam Speaker, we owe our farmers and rural communities the benefit of aggressive advocacy around the world. Unfortunately, our current governmental organization does not lend itself to this kind of advocacy. By way of example, there is no statutory responsibility on the part of the United States Department of Agriculture, USDA, concerning agricultural exports. Furthermore, current resource allocation suggests we have strayed from the focus needed to effectively promote U.S. agricultural interests around the world. The Foreign Agriculture Service employs 11 full-time equivalent analysts who are solely responsible for trade compliance monitoring. This is of great concern to me, given the number of agreements we have signed and the aggressive nature of our global trade agenda. As part of the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act, we require the USDA to answer tough questions about resource allocation and the Agency's ability to do the job we all expect.

Madam Speaker, unfortunately our World Trade Organization, WTO, agreements and numerous Free Trade Agreements are not guarantees of free and open trade. Each

agreement requires a process of implementation and compliance monitoring. Absent these follow-up actions, our Nation fails to witness the full benefit of our trade policy.

Since my election to Congress, I have received many complaints from frustrated exporters of perishable agricultural commodities. They believe that large commodities and other sectors of our economy are receiving the bulk of our national resources when it comes to trade dispute resolution. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act will help to alleviate this frustration. The bill establishes a statutory obligation on the part of USDA for exports. It also requires the Secretary to take a number of steps to improve the export process, including: coordination of market analysis between the private sector and FAS; Agency explanation of sanitary and phytosanitary issues associated with each pending export petition; and public availability of information concerning the import requirements of foreign countries. These changes will increase process transparency and provide American farmers information they need to fight trade barriers.

In addition, the U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act establishes an export credit guarantee program for fruits and vegetables. These perishable commodities would greatly benefit from the cash flow management tool provided by a short-term export credit. The USDA operates export credit guarantee programs today, but their design is not based on the unique circumstances associated with trade in fruits and vegetables. Congress needs to address this shortcoming.

Madam Speaker, in addition to giving our exporters more information and providing them with appropriate cash management tools, we need to examine options that will provide additional security against unfair trade practices. One possibility is the establishment of a perishable commodity export indemnification program. This would allow U.S. agriculture exporters to insure against the possibility of unforeseen trade barriers. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act takes the first step in the establishment of such a program.

When our exporters experience unfair trade barriers, they need to know that the U.S. Government will provide the technical and diplomatic support necessary to eliminate those barriers. Indeed, for our farmers to enjoy the full benefits of any agreement, our Government must be in a position to provide agriculture exporters the help they need in a timely manner. Perishable commodities cannot wait in ports for an eventual resolution to unfair sanitary or phytosanitary barriers. Such delays make the risk of trade unacceptable and drive U.S. farmers out of the export business.

Madam Speaker, there is clear evidence that we have already paid a significant price for what I believe are poorly coordinated efforts on behalf of American agriculture. Specifically, I am dismayed to report that we have witnessed a trade surplus in fruits and vegetables turn into a significant trade deficit. Over a period of 12 years and following the much heralded World Trade Organization (WTO) General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, GATT, we have witnessed a transition from \$608,442,000 in surplus trade of fruits and vegetables to a \$2,295,426,000 deficit. In short, our farmers are not seeing the full benefits of trade liberalization resulting from the GATT.