

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.

In closing, I think it is important to point out that many of the farmers facing challenges with trade are conducting their business independent of Government support. Fruit and vegetable farmers are not subsidized. They compete on the global market based on quality and efficiency. For this reason, our Nation's position in WTO trade negotiations should be to eliminate the Peace Clause for Chapters 7 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. This will allow the U.S. to initiate dispute resolution proceedings in the WTO when trading partners use distorting subsidies.

Madam Speaker, when provided a level playing field, U.S. agricultural products are well received by consumers around the world. However, our farmers do not have the resources to fight unfair trade barriers alone. The U.S. Specialty Crop Export Opportunities Act is vital if we are to renew our commitment for free and fair trade on behalf of American agriculture.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SERGEANT WAYNE CORNELL

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Army SGT Wayne Cornell, a Nebraska native who lost his life last week. Cornell and another soldier were killed when a roadside bomb exploded near their vehicle in Baghdad. They were soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 4th Brigade, 1st Infantry Division.

Wayne was on his first tour of duty in Iraq, and during 4 years with the Nebraska Army National Guard, had served twice in Bosnia and once in Afghanistan.

According to his family, Wayne was a strong man—both physically and emotionally. He was a black belt in taekwondo and a loving husband and father.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Wayne's wife, Patricia, who is expecting their third child this July. It is heartbreaking that a man who is often described as someone who "lived for his wife and kids," will not be able to see his children grow and succeed in his footsteps.

We all owe Sergeant Cornell a debt of gratitude we can never repay. His courage, love of family, and strength should set the benchmark for us all.

ANIMAL FIGHTING PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 137, the Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act of 2007. I want to thank my colleagues Representative GALLEGLY and Representative BLUMENAUER for their hard work on this issue.

This important legislation will make it illegal to transport an animal across State or international borders for the purpose of fighting,

prohibits use of the mail system to promote animal fighting, and criminalizes interstate buying, selling, or transportation of knives or gaffs used for animal fighting.

Animal fighting is a deplorable activity with a purely negative impact on society. In cockfights, when two birds fight with blades or gaffs attached to their feet, at least one, and sometimes both of the birds are killed. Dogs who are made to fight often sustain severe injuries such as deep wounds and broken bones. Subsequent to fights, many dogs die of blood loss, exhaustion, or shock. Fighting animals are usually subject to inhumane living conditions intended to make them more aggressive, sometimes denied adequate nutrition, and made to exercise until they are physically exhausted.

In addition to the inexcusable harm inflicted on the animals, the fights also have negative effects on humans. Illegal gambling and drug trafficking are often closely tied to animal fighting operations. Also, animals bred to fight are abnormally aggressive, and pose a danger to the communities they live in if they were to get loose.

I applaud the passage of this bill, which will end an inhumane practice that is an embarrassment to our country. I am proud that this democratic majority has made animal welfare a priority in the 110th Congress.

ON URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OBSERVATION OF A LEGAL PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN HONOR OF CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 76, urging the establishment and observation of a legal public holiday in honor of César E. Chávez.

César Chávez is an iconic figure of the Civil Rights Era, a man Robert F. Kennedy noted as "one of the heroic figures of our time." César Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, in Yuma, AZ. He spent most of his youth working on farms throughout the Southwest and California, and it was there that César Chávez came to understand the uniquely arduous conditions agricultural workers face in the U.S.

For more than 3 decades, César Chávez worked as a community organizer, labor leader and civil rights activist. Influenced by figures such as Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he embraced strategies of non-violence in working to improve the conditions of America's agricultural working poor. He co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), which later became the United Farm Workers (UFW) of America. As a labor leader, César Chávez employed peaceful tactics such as fasts, boycotts, strikes, and pilgrimages toward achieving fair wages, medical coverage, pension benefits and humane living conditions for thousands of workers everywhere. These efforts resulted in the first industry-wide labor contracts in the history of American agriculture, and led to the passage of the 1975 California Agricultural Relations Act, a bill designed to serve California's farm workers.

César Chávez died on April 23, 1993, and in 1994, President Clinton posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to him, the highest civilian honor in the U.S. Now, 5 States, including Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, celebrate César Chávez's birthday as a State holiday. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in supporting H. Res. 76, urging and establishing César Chávez's birthday, March 31st, as a national holiday, and commemorating the legacy of one of the most heroic figures of our time.

INTRODUCTION OF LENNOX LEGISLATION

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today, Senator FEINSTEIN in the Senate and I are introducing legislation permitting a simple administrative fix that will improve education outcomes for thousands of students in my congressional district.

Imagine, Madam Speaker, sitting at a desk, attempting to memorize a verse or tackle a tough math problem as jet planes roar overhead every few minutes. Every hour. Every day.

That is the situation for the children of Lennox, a mostly working class community that lies just east of LAX, in the airport's flight path. Lennox was added to my district in 2000, and I have worked hard to help the children there get a quality education.

In 1980, Lennox School District and the city of Los Angeles settled a lawsuit concerning aircraft movements over Lennox schools. Lennox gave the city an easement that allowed planes carrying up to 40 million passengers per year to fly overhead, and the city paid Lennox approximately \$2.5 million.

In the years since, air traffic over Lennox schools has significantly increased. As a result, many of the schools are now like bunkers, half underground with no windows. Others have all their windows boarded up.

In February of 2005, Lennox and Los Angeles World Airports, LAWA, settled a second lawsuit, to which Inglewood School District was also a party. Under this settlement, LAWA agreed to provide Lennox and Inglewood with more than \$110 million in noise mitigation funds over 10 years.

However, the FAA has interpreted the 1980 agreement and Federal law to prevent payment of the funds under the 2005 agreement. A legislative solution is the only way that these funds can be released.

Our bill is narrowly tailored to allow LAWA to release the funds it promised to Lennox and Inglewood in the 2005 agreement. The bill is identical to legislation that I introduced in the last Congress, H.R. 6285, which was drafted with the assistance of the FAA, Lennox School District, and LAWA. Importantly, the funds in question are airport funds, not Federal tax dollars, and our bill would not require new Federal spending.

These children deserve a quality education, and this bill will ensure that they get one. I urge its swift passage.