

supporting its employees who are in the National Guard or Army Reserve.

The "Above and Beyond" award received by Iowa Select Farms was preceded by a "My Boss is a Patriot" certificate in 2005, which was awarded after an Iowa National Guard employee nominated the farm for providing special consideration and benefits during his deployment. Iowa Select Farms' corporate policy obliges the company to pay a year's salary while a soldier employee is deployed, thereby removing considerable stress and uncertainty in how a soldier can provide for his or her family while serving abroad. By providing top notch support to its military employees, Iowa Select Farms shows the respect and honor deserved by America's troops, who continue to sacrifice for our nation.

I offer my utmost congratulations and thanks to Iowa Select Farms for playing such an active role in supporting our troops. It is an honor to represent Jeff Hansen, President and CEO, and all the employees of the Iowa Select Farms in the United States Congress, and I wish them success in their future endeavors.

DRILL RESPONSIBLY IN LEASED LANDS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the DRILL Act, H.R. 6515. We continue to hear from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that opening up more Federal lands to oil and gas drilling will be the magic bullet that will solve our energy crisis. They continue to try to mislead the American people into believing that drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf, OCS, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will bring instantaneous relief to American families desperately seeking help with painful gas prices. There is no easy solution to this crisis, and it is widely accepted that drilling in OCS would save only pennies per gallon, more than a decade down the road. It is unseemly that my colleagues would continue to take advantage of the suffering of Americans to promote their own political aims.

Currently 81 percent of the oil and gas deposits known in our Nation's Federal lands is available to be leased for drilling. Sixty-eight million acres, approximately 75 percent, of the lands open for drilling both onshore and offshore currently are leased by oil companies who are not using them for production. It is estimated that these leased but unused lands could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day, nearly doubling U.S. oil production and cutting oil imports by a third. This includes the 20 million acres with an estimated 10.6 billion barrels of oil in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, NPR-A, currently available for drilling but most of which is lying unused.

The DRILL act would require oil companies to certify to the Department of the Interior that they actively are developing on the lands that they have already leased. If these oil companies are not producing on these lands, they either would have to relinquish these leases or start producing on them before they could apply to lease additional lands. It would en-

courage expedited oil production by requiring the Secretary of Interior to offer at least one lease sale annually in NPR-A. H.R. 6515 would require the Secretary of Transportation to extend the Alaskan oil and gas pipeline to NPR-A, and require the President to make improvements to the existing oil and gas pipeline so that we can export oil more expeditiously. Finally, the DRILL Act would prevent the export of Alaskan oil and gas so that this supply is available for American consumers.

This is common sense legislation, and I urge my colleagues who keep shouting "drill, drill, drill" to support it. We do not need to open up more lands to oil and gas drilling when they are not utilizing the leases and resources they already have.

This is only a short term solution to America's energy needs. Currently we produce 3 percent of the world's oil and consume 25 percent. Unless we find a way to dramatically reduce our consumption we will never be able to drill our way to energy independence. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to develop a long term solution to this crisis.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL MODEL A FORD

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the contribution of the International Model A Ford to the history of U.S. transportation. This is a significant week for Model A owners across the country. I rise to specifically applaud the Model A Ford Club of Long Island, New York as they celebrate Model A Ford Day on Saturday, July 26th in my Congressional District.

This year's annual remembrance is momentous for owners as it falls on the 80th anniversary of the introduction of the first 1928 Model A Ford. This weekend's celebration of their car's 80th birthday will include thousands of Model A Ford enthusiasts, restorers and preservers taking these vehicles out on American roadways nationwide and events with other Model A enthusiasts.

Notably, there were only 5 million Model A Fords produced between 1928 and 1931. I am pleased to say that the dedication of Model A Ford owners has enabled 250,000 of these historic vehicles to be preserved. Remarkably, most of these vehicles are driven regularly to the enjoyment of many as I have seen in my Congressional District.

The Model A Ford was a trailblazer of its time. It was the first Ford to use the standard set of driver controls, with conventional clutch and brake pedals, throttle and gearshift. The Model A's fuel tank was located in the cowl and had an optic fuel gauge and the fuel was distributed to the carburetor by gravity. Also, the Model A was the first car to have safety glass in the windshield.

Again, thank you to Model A Ford owners for preserving a flagship American automobile and to the Model A Ford Club of Long Island for keeping this historic tradition active on Long Island.

HONORING VOLKER EISELE OF
NAPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Volker Eisele, who is being honored as the Napa County Farm Bureau's 2008 Agriculturalist of the Year.

I have had the honor for the past 10 years to represent in the U.S. House of Representatives the Napa Valley, an area known throughout the world for its immense beauty, environmental consciousness and bountiful agriculture. Were it not for the tireless efforts of Mr. Eisele, Napa Valley as we know it today would simply not exist.

Since arriving in the Napa Valley, Volker Eisele has dedicated his life to protecting its rich agricultural tradition. The timeline of his community involvement reads like the history of preservation in Napa. In 1974, he joined Citizens' Council for Napa Tomorrow, the group that passed Napa County's 1 percent growth measure, Measure A, in 1980. In 1977, he joined the board of what is now Greenbelt Alliance, which has become one of the preeminent Smart Growth organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has also served on the boards of directors for the Napa County Farm Bureau and the Napa Valley Grapegrowers. During his term as President of the Farm Bureau, he led the effort to create the 160 acre minimum for agricultural, watershed and open space land.

From 1989 through 1990, in what was perhaps his crowning achievement, he led the campaign to pass Measure J, Napa County's revolutionary land protection measure. Today, he is organizing the campaign to renew Measure J, which will protect Napa Valley agriculture for fifty years.

Mr. Eisele has been a preeminent activist in Napa Valley for more than thirty years, but he has also led by example. He planted the first entirely organic vineyard in Napa in 1975, and practiced sustainable farming long before it became widely accepted. He has maintained an enduring reverence for the land that serves us all so well, respecting animal habitat and riparian corridors. As a result, his Volker Eisele Family Estate wines reflect the best that Napa has to offer.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Volker Eisele for his many years of leadership. The Napa Valley and the entire environmental movement owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST STEVEN CHRISTOFFERSON

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, in April, over 350 friends, family members, and others in the community inspired by the life of Army Specialist Steven Christofferson gathered at the Cudahy High School Field House in my district to pay their respects to

this remarkable young man whose life was cut tragically short in Iraq last month.

Today, I want to take to the floor to share with my colleagues and with the American people this young man's story and his untimely sacrifice.

So, who was this young man? He was a proud member of Delta Co., 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, Mad Dog 5th Platoon stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky. His awards and decorations include: National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Weapons Qualification, M4, expert. At his memorial service, Wisconsin Army National Guard BG Mark Anderson presented the family four medals, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

He was devoted to family and a caring son to his mother, Michell, herself having served in the Air Force. According to Michell Christofferson, he was an older brother who loved his siblings and earned their respect. And, in her words, he deserved it because "he was kind and he was thoughtful, and he was a caring young man."

According to his mother, in e-mail exchanges with her, he said he would be her angel. She praised him for being a best friend to his younger brothers—Dakota (17) and Dillon (11)—as well as defending them when needed or taking action to keep them on the straight and narrow if called to do so. He was caring, positive and respectful, a protector of his family.

He grew up too fast and was taken too soon.

He was also a valuable member of a community. Christofferson was a 2006 graduate of Cudahy High School, where he was a member of the football, wrestling and track teams. He will be sorely missed. His Cudahy High School Principal, Christopher Haeger, remembered encountering Steven the day he enlisted in the Army. "He was very, very excited," Haeger said. "I know it was an important part of his life." Or as his brother Dakota put it, "He felt like he had to do something, go help people."

He deployed to Iraq in September. But he kept in close touch with his family. According to media reports, he spoke with his mother and brother just hours before his death.

I can find no words more appropriate than those of Steven's own mother to sum up my brief remarks on this remarkable life. At his memorial service earlier this year, his mother closed—expressing the sentiments of a community and a grateful Nation—with these words: "Fly with the angels, my baby boy. We miss you lots and love you more."

The Bible says we should give honor to those whom honor are due and respect to those whom respect is due. Today, I rise to honor this young man and to ask that the balance of my time be reserved for a moment of silence as a mark of tribute to Specialist Steven Christofferson and of support for his family.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. ARMY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on August 4 of this year, the name of one of the great military leaders of our time will pass on to the retirement rolls. I am speaking of my good friend, GEN Richard Cody, the 31st vice chief of staff of the United States Army.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its greatest warriors. GEN Dick Cody has commanded American soldiers for 20 of his 36 years of service. In 1991, then Lieutenant Colonel Cody personally led Task Force Normandy, the joint aviation task force that fired the opening salvos of the gulf war, and, as GEN H. Norman Schwarzkopf recounted, "plucked out the eyes" of Saddam Hussein's air defenses. Cody went on to command the First Cavalry Division's Aviation Brigade; the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment; the fabled 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles"; as well as commanding in our Nation's most elite special operations unit.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose a gifted strategic leader. With 1.3 million men and women serving around the globe, there are few organizations in the world as large and complex as the United States Army. For 6 years, spanning the tenures of 3 Army Chiefs of Staff, 4 Secretaries of the Army, and 3 Chairmen of the Joints Chiefs of Staff, Dick Cody has provided stalwart leadership to our Army. He has overseen the day-to-day details of a plethora of daunting tasks. He oversaw the Army's transformation from a Cold War-era, division-based force, to a modular, brigade-centric force. He revitalized and modernized the Army's aviation forces. He supervised the transformation of the reserve component from a strategic reserve to a part of the operational Army. He is the architect of the Army's growth and restationing plans, which will eventually relocate over one-third of the Army. He has also completely revitalized the outpatient care systems for our wounded warriors and their families.

On August 4 our Armed Forces will lose one of its "straightest shooters." We in Congress rely on senior uniformed leaders to give us apolitical, straight forward assessments based on their years of military experience. No one shoots straighter with the Congress and the American people than Dick Cody. Going back to his first testimony before the Congress in 1999, when he warned the Nation to "beware of a 14 division mission with a 12 division Army," he has never flinched from hard questions, and he never sugar coats the truth.

On August 4 the head of a wonderful Army family will retire, a man who is just as proud to be known as "Vicki's husband" and "Tyler and Clint's Dad" as he is proud of the stars on this shoulders. The Cody boys, with six combat tours between them, will continue to serve. Vicki Cody will never stop advocating for soldiers and their families, and Dick Cody's own personal "Rendezvous with Destiny" will continue.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a 36 year career of heroic and selfless service, one that reflects all that is good and right about our Nation and her Armed Forces. On behalf of the United States Congress, we say "thank you" to a man and a family who place the well-being of the American soldier ahead of their own ambitions and dreams. God Bless Dick and Vicki Cody, their sons Tyler and Clint, and God Bless the American soldier who they love so much.

HONORING NEWLY INDUCTED COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME COACH, COACH W.C. GORDON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, it gives me immense pleasure to recognize the life and accomplishments of one of America's most prolific icons in college football history, Coach William "W.C." Gordon.

Coach Gordon's career in college football began at Tennessee State University, TSU, where he played wide receiver and earned All-Mid Western Conference honors. He was also a 4-year baseball letterman at first base and team captain for the TSU Tigers. After graduating from Tennessee State University in 1952, he went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

After serving in the military, Gordon returned to sports as athletic director and coach for Eva Gordon High School, in Magnolia, MS. He also served at Temple High School, in Vicksburg, MS, in 1966, where he coached his team to the High School Football Negro Big 8 Conference state championship with an 11-0 record in 1966.

From 1967 to 1994, Coach Gordon led and mentored at Jackson State University in a multitude of coaching capacities. Though most known for football, Coach Gordon served as head baseball coach from 1971 to 1972, leading the Tigers to the Southwestern Athletic Conference, SWAC, baseball title in 1972.

As interim and head football coach, Gordon became one of the most winning coaches in the history of college football with 28 consecutive league victories and a career record of 119-47-5. Gordon coached 65 JSU players into the National Football League. Gordon was inducted into the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1994.

Gordon coached the Tigers to eight SWAC Championships and was awarded SWAC Coach of the Year honors six times. He has been inducted into Mississippi Conferences Hall of Fame & Museum in 1977 and most recently was enshrined in the National Football Foundation's College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend, IN on July 18-19.

Again, it gives me great pleasure to recognize and honor one of America's finest legendary football icons and true patriots of the game, Coach W.C. Gordon. His legacy not only left a mark on Black college football but also on college football at-large.