

which is a relatively modest price to pay to insure a vibrant and growing U.S. aerospace export industry. In 2007, the U.S. exported nearly \$97 billion worth of aerospace products, producing a \$60 billion positive trade balance in an otherwise grim trade picture. Nevertheless, H.R. 5916 also requires a report within 90 days on possible means for DDTC to achieve 100 percent self-financing.

H.R. 5916 creates a special licensing authorization for U.S. manufactured spare and replacement parts or components in connection with defense items previously lawfully exported to our closest friends and allies. This will help free up time of DDTC employees to go after more significant threats to our national security. Finally, the bill augments the input of the private sector Defense Trade Advisory Group, DTAG, into the State Department's defense trade agenda.

In conclusion, the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 streamlines the export control process, reduces the application backlog, and allows greater scrutiny on sensitive exports that could harm our country. It will better protect our Nation while helping U.S. companies sell more goods and services to our allies, creating more jobs for Americans. I appreciate the Foreign Affairs Committee's bipartisan efforts on this issue, particularly Chairmen BERMAN and SHERMAN and their respective staffs, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5916.

HONORING MARCUS MATHES OF
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Sergeant Marcus Mathes of Pasco County, Florida, was killed Monday, April 28th outside Baghdad, Iraq, when the equipment truck he was working on was struck by enemy rocket fire. Sergeant Mathes is survived by his mother and step-father, Sue and Mike Sawyer of Sebring, his father, Ralph Mathes of Tampa, and two brothers, Kyle Mathes of Illinois, and Zach Sawyer of Sebring.

A graduate of Zephyrhills High School, Sergeant Mathes grew up in Highlands County before moving to live with his father in Pasco County. While in high school, Sergeant Mathes joined the JROTC, and had dreams of being a professional military member. Inspired by the events of September 11, he enlisted in the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. Serving in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007, Sergeant Mathes was sent to Iraq in November of 2007.

A devoted family man, Sergeant Mathes married his high school sweetheart Julia two weeks after her graduation. The two were planning to celebrate their six-year wedding anniversary this June and had wanted to start a family together. During a visit to his base in Louisiana, Sergeant Mathes introduced his sister-in-law, Julia's sister Heather, to one of his fellow soldiers. Two months later, Bryan Harvey and Heather were married. One of his best friends who served in his same unit,

Bryan was nearby when Sergeant Mathes was killed, even picking up his torn Bible where it was thrown from the truck.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Marcus Mathes who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Marcus have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentle lady from Wisconsin, Representative Tammy Baldwin, I have sponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. USDA has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority. USDA is to assure that the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract, the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification, does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Further, the effects of the pilot project and FAV restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of La Crosse's Board of Park Commissioners for their 100 years of dedication to beautifying the largest city in western Wisconsin. Through their unrelenting hard work, a comprehensive park system consisting of 13 parks throughout the city was developed. Over the past century, countless families have benefited from the opportunities these parks have provided.

The Board of Park Commissioners was established through an ordinance passed by the Common Council in May of 1908. Mayor Wendell A. Anderson, a spirited advocate for park services, appointed Joseph M. Hixon, Edward L. Colman, Lucien F. Easton, and Henry Gund to the Board of Park Commissions. All 4 men were dedicated to public service and guided by a grand vision for the city of La Crosse. This vision was made into reality after the city hired landscape architect John Nolen, an understudy of the legendary Frederick Law Olmstead.

For 100 years, La Crosse's residents and visitors have enjoyed the comfort and recreation these parks offer. Having grown up on the north side of La Crosse, I know that the park system is an essential part of the community. Badger Park offered my friends and me a safe place to shoot hoops, play softball, and go ice skating. These parks are not only a way for families and friends to enjoy one another's company, but are also a means of creating lasting memories.

I applaud the La Crosse Common Council and the Board of Park Commissioners for their inspiration and dedication over the past 100 years. Their gift to the city of La Crosse will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents Illinois farmers and rural communities, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act, which is endorsed by every major agriculture group in my home state of Illinois, is good for our farmers and maintains our ability to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

This bill improves nutrition and conservation programs, and supports biofuel production at great benefit to the Illinois farm economy.

Most importantly, it extends a critical safety net to help farmers manage production risks when facing unsustainably low prices or natural disasters.

Illinois receives the 4th most nutrition dollars in the nation. I was happy to see that nearly three-quarters of all farm bill spending will go toward food and nutrition programs, including \$50 million for food pantries to address the rising costs of food and food shortages.

The bill also increases conservation spending to safeguard agricultural lands from the pressures of urban and suburban development, and to protect our natural resources.

Finally, the bill makes critical investments in Illinois' rural communities through biofuel production, telecommunications and wastewater infrastructure projects, and healthcare. In this time of economic hardship, we look to new industries to rebuild the economy of Illinois and the rest of the country. This bill puts \$1 billion in programs that will leverage renewable energy industry investments in new technologies and feedstocks. It also provides \$320 million for biorefineries producing advanced biofuels, and \$300 million for the Bioenergy Program, which directly impact Illinois.

I urge my colleagues to support final passage of this comprehensive legislation that funds important programs for rural and urban constituents across Illinois and our Nation.

HONORING 11 OUTSTANDING BROWARD COUNTY CITIZENS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. WEXLER. Madam Speaker, today in Tamarac, Florida, 11 outstanding Broward elders will be honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame Breakfast. These 11 seniors being honored have volunteered in their communities and have spent countless hours helping others. Their outstanding character and compassion have truly set them apart. Those being honored are George Bisbikos, Mary Jane Bowen Graff, Sidney Feinberg, Edith Gooden-Thompson, Velma Hawthorne, Reverend Grant Lynn Ford, Dr. Henry "Hank" Mack, Marilyn Manning, Paul B. Snow, Lesley Tobin, and Polly Wilkie.

George Bisbikos of Sunrise, president/executive director of the Learning Center for Vision Impaired Seniors, LCVIS, has been volunteering with the vision impaired for many years. Legally blind himself, George has led a health and finance class at the Lighthouse of Broward County for the blind and vision impaired, and works relentlessly to enable the blind and partially sighted in our community to participate in activities that sighted people take for granted.

Mary Jane Bowen Graff of Fort Lauderdale is the epitome of a volunteer and has been awarded for the over 4,000 hours of her time she has donated to Holy Cross Hospital Auxiliary. An energetic, motivated, and goal/task oriented person, Mary Jane has also been an active member in Kiwanis International, serving as president of her local chapter in 2006-07; and, Mary Jane currently serves as director of the city of Fort Lauderdale's Historic Preservation Advisory Board and board member of the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art.

Sidney Feinberg of Deerfield Beach was integral in the building of Broward Homebound Program, Inc., in Century Village Deerfield Beach, submitting the grant proposal to the Florida Legislature in 1986 and being awarded a 1-year pilot project in 1986. Broward Homebound Program, Inc., has functioned independently since 1987. Sidney has also served as president of Young Israel in Deerfield Beach, Flatbush, and Jamaica Estates, and is president of the Coalition for Century Village East and is one of the founders of the National Association of Jewish Homes for the Aged, among many other leadership positions.

Edith Gooden-Thompson of Plantation is the daughter of Reverend James Gooden and Evelyn Smith Gooden, both honored as members of the Broward Senior Hall of Fame in 2006 and 1991, respectively. Edith has been volunteering her time with numerous schools and community committees for over 40 years, and is currently serving the Aging & Disability Resource Center as the SHINE, Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders, volunteer coordinator. In this role, Edith guides more than 25 volunteers committed to providing services to Medicare customers, their families, and caregivers. She also volunteers with Friends of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, Florida Leaders.net, and the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, among many other organizations.

Velma Hawthorne of Fort Lauderdale is a Foster Grandparent volunteer, having raised three of her niece's children and two grandchildren in addition to her three children. She continues to help elementary children learn how to read, mentors Girl Scouts, and assists the Broward County Library with after-school programs. During the summer, Velma also volunteers at Kids In Distress, and she enjoys teaching Sunday School and singing in the choir at Evergreen Baptist Church.

Reverend Grant Lynn Ford, Senior Bishop of the Sunshine Cathedral in Fort Lauderdale, has been providing dynamic and inspirational leadership for his congregation and multitudes of organizations, agencies and groups for nearly two decades. Reverend Ford was key in the establishment and continuum of the Noble A. McArtor Adult Day Care Center, the first such program primarily designed for the needs of Broward gay and lesbian elders, and continues to serve the needs of the diverse cross sections of Broward communities through innovative programs, services and projects.

Dr. Henry "Hank" Mack of Lauderhill has the distinction of being one of the few living Buffalo Soldiers of the United States Calvary. A renowned civil rights fighter and past member of the executive committee of the Fort Lauderdale NAACP, Dr. Mack has the distinction of having stood with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he made his "I Have A Dream" speech, and he continues to be active in opening doors for minority firms in Broward County. Dr. Mack has also been recognized numerous times for his volunteer efforts and serves on a number of public safety and education councils and committees in Broward County.

Marilyn Manning of Tamarac has spent the past 8 years donating her time and talents at Florida Atlantic University's Lifelong Learning Program, helping with registration and greeting students. She also volunteers at the Daniel Cantor Senior Center in Tamarac, working in

the thrift store and assisting in the day care. Additionally, she lends a hand mentoring elementary students with behavioral issues and has helped wounded troops recuperating in Germany through her assistance to the Landstuhl Hospital Care Project.

Paul B. Snow of Hallandale Beach has volunteered his life following retirement to volunteering for the poor, elderly, homeless and disabled in south Florida, joining the Hallandale Food Pantry in 1991 and later becoming Director. In that time, the Pantry has expanded from helping 11 families in his first week to more than 7,500 families in 2007. The Pantry also assists the elderly with completing critical benefit paperwork, offers after-school community credits to students wishing to attend college, and takes over 450 inner city youth to professional sporting events.

Lesley Sobel of Margate, along with her husband Jack, recognized the need in the community for a center to aid families caring for someone with alzheimer's disease and founded the Alzheimer's Family Center to fill that need. Lesley served as president of the agency's board of directors for 10 years and has devoted a tremendous amount of time and energy to the center, as she was instrumental in the development of fundraisers which have been held annually for over two decades now. Lesley also serves on the Boards of God's Little Acre, Senior Volunteer Services, and is active with the Margate Chamber of Commerce.

Polly Wilkie of Pembroke Pines is a veteran volunteer, possessing both fundraising acumen and the passion to roll up her sleeves and work. Founder and current president of New Prestige Clubs, Polly has worked to improve the lives of children and homeless women throughout Florida. She has recruited others and inspired them to establish Prestige chapters elsewhere in Florida and in Atlanta, Georgia, and hosts networking breakfasts for business people and inspires them to volunteer. Polly is a board member of the Light of the World Clinic, the Ease Foundation Pantry, the James Jr. Fund, the Boys & Girls Club, and Crime Stoppers, and has served as commissioner for Volunteer Florida.

Madam Speaker, I would like to again congratulate these 11 outstanding Broward County citizens who are being honored at the Annual Senior Hall of Fame, and thank them for their years of service to their fellow Floridians.

TRIBUTE TO RITA AND JACK SINDER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to two dear friends, Rita and Jack Sinder, who are being honored by Valley Beth Shalom's 60th Birthday of the State of Israel Dinner Celebration. They are being recognized for their lifetime of commitment to Israel, the Jewish people, and Valley Beth Shalom, VBS.

In 1967, Rita and Jack made their first trip to Israel just prior to the Six-Day War. The outbreak of hostilities forced their early departure on the eve of the war. The impact of their experience motivated them to mobilize the American Jewish community on Israel's behalf.