

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.

Their dedication to Israel, however, began long before the State of Israel was created.

Born in Vienna, Rita was immersed in Judaism as a young child. During WWII, when Hitler invaded Austria, Rita's father was shipped to Poland. He fortunately escaped and her mother managed to get herself and her daughters out of Austria. Rita was sent to London on Kindertransport and was not reunited with her family until the war ended. The determination, positive attitude, tremendous resilience, and adaptability that helped her survive still guide her life today. Rita's family was miraculously reunited in America, settling in Los Angeles where Rita attended Belmont High School and graduated from USC with a degree in business administration.

Jack, raised in the Orthodox tradition by his father, a prominent Rabbi in Michigan, earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State. He worked for a machine tool company that supplied parts to the big three automakers. He was asked by an associate to help send machine tools to the Jewish fighters in Israel, and together with his friends, he shipped tools which ultimately helped in the creation of the Israeli aircraft industry and the Israeli Air Force.

Rita and Jack have been an integral force in the Jewish Community, living up to the motto, "Give of yourself first and only then ask others to join you." They have generously contributed their time and resources to VBS, the Jewish Federation, Israel Bonds, AIPAC and many other worthy organizations. They endowed the Midrasa Program at the VBS, where Jack formerly was a member of the board of directors and currently serves on the board of trustees and the steering committee. Rita has chaired many special events at VBS. She is past president of the San Fernando Valley Women's Division of Israel Bonds and the Golda Meir Club, an active member of AIPAC, serving on its national executive board, and is past president and member of the executive board of the Women's Alliance of Israel. Rita and Jack are founding members of the American Jewish University's Wagner Program, university patrons and also patrons of the Wiesenthal Center.

Rita and Jack work together in their business, Jasin Co., he as a real estate developer and she as a real estate broker and property manager. They are the proud parents of Sherri and Alan and adore their three grandchildren. Rita and Jack's greatest joys are being with family and friends, boating and travel.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Rita and Jack Sinder, who have devoted their lives to working for the survival of the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARA LETICA SAAD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mara Letica Saad of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, who has been honored by Crain's Detroit Business Publication as one of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women" over the past five years.

Mara Letica Saad's experiences are unique, remarkable and in many ways, reflect her wonderful family's success story. Mara was born in Germany during her father, Ilija Letica's journey toward America after escaping communist rule in former Yugoslavia. Soon they reached their destination in Greenville, Michigan where Mara attended the local schools and her father began to work toward his vision for Letica Corporation, a plastic packaging company.

Mara attended The University of Michigan where she earned a bachelors degree in history. She traveled west to Seattle University to study law and remained in Washington for several years working as a prosecutor and a commercial litigator.

Fortunately, Mara did not stray long from Michigan. She returned to join the family business and after twenty years, Mara continues to successfully balance many roles as the corporation's executive vice president, general counsel and secretary. Along with her father and other family members, Mara has helped build Letica Corporation, now headquartered in Rochester, Michigan into a nationwide manufacturer of paper and plastic packaging with more than a dozen locations throughout the U.S.

Mara Letica Saad's accomplishments are not limited to the business world. Throughout her life she has had a strong interest in her family's birthplace, Croatia, and was actively involved in Croatia's independence movement. With her father, she organized a group of attorneys in the U.S. to aid and supervise the 1990 elections in Croatia. Her efforts were recognized by President George H.W. Bush and she was nominated to be Ambassador to Croatia.

An active participant in the Detroit area community, Mara serves on the board of the Motor City Lyric Opera and until recently served on the board of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. She resides in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan with her husband, Judge Henry Saad, and they have four grown children.

Mara Letica Saad has excelled in her profession and her touched many in southeast Michigan and beyond.

Mara Letica Saad is a loyal and loving family member with a passion for its history, culture, and human dignity. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mara Letica Saad, recipient of southeast Michigan's "Most Influential Women." She truly merits our respect and admiration.

STATEMENT ON LIHEAP

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on colleagues to fully fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, during this year's appropriations process, at the full \$5.1 billion.

LIHEAP is a vital program that helps low-income Americans pay their heating and cooling bills.

Our nation is facing an escalating energy crisis. More and more, American families are being forced to make difficult decisions be-

tween putting food on their tables and paying their utility bills.

If the current trend continues, LIHEAP will not have enough funding for the remainder of fiscal year 2008. Soaring energy prices combined with another heat wave this summer could be deadly if we don't act now to fully fund this important program.

This presents a particular risk to our Nation's most vulnerable, the elderly, infirm and children. Extreme temperatures can be incredibly dangerous to those with compromised physical conditions. They need to be protected and we have the ability to protect them by fully funding LIHEAP.

This month, utility shut-off moratoriums that have been offered by states are set to expire just as temperatures are rising. With past-due notices on the rise, there is no question that millions of Americans could be facing summers with no cooling options available. There is simply no time to waste. I urge all of my colleagues to act now to fully fund LIHEAP. American families cannot sweat out Congress's delays on this matter.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF TIAA-CREF

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, in keeping with his philosophy that "the man who dies rich thus dies disgraced," Andrew Carnegie took care in distributing his substantial wealth, largely toward the goal of promoting education. When Mr. Carnegie became a trustee at Cornell University, in my home State of New York, he was appalled to learn how little professors earned and thought they deserved financial security. As a result, he donated \$10 million to fund a system of pensions that today allows colleges and universities in the United States to offer some of the best retirement plans in the Nation.

In 1918, the Carnegie Foundation established the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association, known today as TIAA, a fully-funded system of pensions for professors. By the end of its first year, 30 public and private institutions had signed on. After World War II, facing inflation and increased longevity, TIAA created the College Retirement Equities Fund, the world's first variable annuity in 1952. As TIAA-CREF evolved over the years to meet new challenges, its noble mission bestowed on them by Carnegie never changed: to aid and strengthen the institutions they serve and to provide financial products that are suited to the needs of such entities, their employees, and their families on the best terms practicable.

In his autobiography, Carnegie wrote: "Many college pension fund beneficiaries and their widows have written to me most affecting letters. These I can never destroy, for if I ever have a fit of melancholy, I know the cure lies in re-reading these letters."

TIAA-CREF continues to have a special relationship with those in higher education and also serves those who work in the medical, cultural, and research fields. Today TIAA-CREF celebrates its 90th Anniversary and continues to serve those whose life work advances the greater good.