

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR ELLEN MORELAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Ms. Ellen Moreland, a senior instructor in mathematics at Angelo State University on her recognition as the 2009 Texas Professor of the Year. While some folks may be surprised that a professor from ASU is being honored, it is no surprise to her students who see her devotion to her craft every single day.

The Professor of the Year Awards are awarded annually to those professors who have "extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching, which is demonstrated by excellence in the following areas: an impact on and involvement with undergraduate students; a scholarly approach to teaching and learning; a contribution to undergraduate education in the institution, community and the profession; and support from colleagues and current and former undergraduate students.

They could not have found a more fitting honoree than Ellen Moreland. Professor Moreland has carved out an invaluable role as an educator of educators. Among her classes, she teaches the capstone course at ASU, which is a broad survey of everything that graduating math majors have learned in their 4 years. It is designed for future mathematics teachers to take before they take the State certification exam. The test is difficult, but Professor Moreland's students all seem to do well on it. In fact, over the last decade, every single student who has taken her capstone course has passed the certification exam on the first try. This 100 percent success rate is unmatched anywhere in Texas. And it is not a stretch to say that her impact will be felt by generations of students all over Texas.

Unfortunately, Professor Moreland could not be in Washington this week to receive her award. It is getting to be about time for finals, and she thought it was too important of a time for her to be away from her students. Instead, the 2009 Texas Professor of the Year is exactly where we would expect her to be, instructing her students and preparing another generation of American educators.

Mr. Speaker, it is my deep honor to represent all of the people of District 11 of Texas, but it is always a great pleasure to be able to single out some of them for their extraordinary accomplishments. On behalf of the people of my congressional district, especially the math students, I want to thank Professor Moreland for her dedication to teaching and her generosity with her time. They could not have selected a better educator to be the 2009 Texas Professor of the Year, Ms. Ellen Moreland.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. ELLSWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ELLSWORTH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE GLOBAL WATER AND HUNGER CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to talk about the challenges we face both in this country, my district, and around the world on critical issues affecting our country and the world, and that is food, water, and hunger. Because without water, you can't grow food, and without the sufficient sustainability of our ability to produce food in this country and around the world, hunger continues to be a pressing issue both at home and abroad.

Next week, Thanksgiving will be celebrated in this country, and we will all hopefully be with our families and friends. But in some parts of America, people will go hungry. In some parts of my district that has been ground zero on a drought that has been caused by a combination of regulatory and dry conditions for 3 consecutive years in California, we will have people in food lines. Sadly, these food lines have existed for months, and sadly, these food lines will continue throughout the winter because we have a problem in California. But that problem is exemplified throughout the world, and that is without sufficient water supplies, sustainable water supply, you cannot grow food, and without that ability, hunger persists.

On October 15, Bill Gates spoke at the 2009 Food Prize Symposium about the importance of productivity and sustainability of agriculture to feed our Nation and the world. He said, "This global effort to help small farmers is endangered by an ideological wedge that threatens to split the movement in two. On one side is a technological approach that increases productivity. On the other side is an environmental approach that promotes sustainability. Productivity or sustainability—they say you have to choose."

Bill Gates said, "It's a false choice, and it's dangerous for the field. It breeds hostility among people who need to work together. And it makes it hard to launch a comprehensive program to help poor farmers. The fact is, we need both productivity and sustainability—and there is no reason we can't have both."

The San Joaquin Valley in my district in central California is a good example that we must have both, yet we find ourselves in a regulatory drought because we are faced with posing the question: Should we have sustainability or productivity? Farmers who produce some of the most varied amount of production anywhere in the

world have proven that you can have both productivity and sustainability, provided, provided you have water. That's why Bill Gates went on to say, "That's why our foundation works closely with local farmers' groups. And that's why we are one of the largest funders of sustainable approaches such as no-till farming, rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and biological nitrogen fixation.

"The environment also benefits from higher productivity. When productivity is too low, people start farming on grazing land, cutting down forests, using any new acreage they can to grow food. When productivity is high, people can farm on less land."

In our valley, we have proven that time and time again. I ask my colleagues to ensure that we hold this administration accountable.

Last week, Secretary of the Interior Salazar made a positive statement. He said, on November 9, that the Department of the Interior will make a public announcement taking actions on California's water crisis next year to make sure that the intertie to Gates, the diversification of refuge water in level 2 and in level 4 supplies are made available to farmers and that the Patterson fish screen and pipeline will, in fact, take place next year. These are important.

The last administration left these on the backlog for years. This administration pretends they are going to take place next year. I will hold them accountable. These projects are very important. Again, without water, you can't have food and you can't have jobs.

I urge this administration to continue to move forward on these important efforts along with the National Academy of Science's attempt to look at the biological opinions that are providing the constraints to allow for the flexible operations of the Federal and State projects that provide the water to allow us to grow the food to have the jobs.

As I close, my colleagues, let me tell you, we are talking about trying to get the economy going. We are going to be talking about a jobs package this year when we come back from Thanksgiving. If we provide water to the people of the San Joaquin Valley, we will have 30,000 jobs that were eliminated this summer because we had no water. It's very simple. All we have to do is focus on flexibility with these biological opinions.

We hope that before the National Academy of Science completes their work, the administration will understand that regardless of what kind of a rainfall year we have this winter and snow in the Sierra, it's important that we are sensitive to operational flexibility of the State and Federal projects.

I urge all of my colleagues to understand that, as Bill Gates said, sustainability and productivity are key. You can have both. It should be a false

choice. Water provides food, and that equals jobs.

□ 1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TRUE MEANING OF THANKSGIVING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, the Thanksgiving thoughts that I offer this evening were written by someone who sacrificed a great deal for someone that they loved. It has really nothing to do with roast turkey or pumpkin or all of the homey images that we have come to equate with this holiday. Tonight, I want to speak of a day whose noble purpose and origins are often lost on those who think of it as only "Turkey Day."

The truth is, this national holiday has much more to do with Presidents than it does pilgrims; more to do with our precious freedoms than sumptuous feasts. Yes, it's wonderful to have Thanksgiving dinner with precious loved ones, it's wonderful to have that time with those that we care about, but this was also meant to be a time of giving thanks to God for all of his blessings, including the gift of freedom, something that often gets lost in this season, forgetting it was bought by the blood of past generations of Americans, a sacrifice still borne by so many men and women in the armed services in the battlefield these very moments.

A national day of thanksgiving to God was actually called after America became a Nation by two of our greatest Presidents and Commanders in Chief, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The first one was in 1789, right after this new Nation was still healing from the wounds of the American Revolution. General Washington, who had led those who favored revolution against the will of those who did not, was now seeking to unite a people with a new Constitution as one Nation under God.

There wasn't another national celebration of the day for 74 years and, ironically, it was during the Civil War in 1863, in the midst of one of our greatest national tragedies, that President Abraham Lincoln called for all his "fellow citizens in every part of the United States to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens" so "that God could and should be solemnly, reverently, and gratefully acknowledged, as with one

heart and one voice, by the whole American people."

He went on to say "We have forgotten God" and "It is the duty of nations as well as men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the Lord."

Those words spoken nearly 1½ centuries ago came from a President who had found his own faith just a few months before. As he walked among the graves of thousands of soldiers who had fallen at the Battle of Gettysburg, his heart had broken over their tragic sacrifice. Abraham Lincoln was a President who deeply valued the lives of all Americans—civilian, slaves, and all soldiers, including everyone who actually fought against him.

The just freedom of hundreds of thousands of slaves had cost hundreds of thousands of American lives. It was an unspeakable sacrifice that weighed so heavily on him, and he believed only God could give him strength to unite the Nation again. He wrote a letter to a friend and said that he had not been a truer believer when he left Illinois to assume the Presidency.

"I asked the people to pray for me," he wrote. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ."

Abraham Lincoln understood the high cost of freedom, but counting the cost and trusting God to hold and ultimately heal the Nation, President Abraham Lincoln ended slavery in America forever. Mr. Lincoln and George Washington both understood the high cost of freedom and helped to forge a new Nation with unheard of liberties, Mr. Speaker, including the right to disagree. And both of them called the Nation to thank God.

So, Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to go home to our families and loved ones, let us remember what every man and woman in the Armed Forces can tell you personally: freedom is never free. And as we sit down to Thanksgiving dinner, let us be thankful to all of those who have died that we might live in freedom—from the American Revolution to this current war we fight against jihadist terrorism. And let us thank the God, from Whom all blessings come, for this marvelous gift we call liberty and justice for all.

IN MEMORY OF SERGEANT EDUVIGES WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I have come to the floor to speak

about two extraordinary individuals today. I rise first to honor the memory of Sergeant Eduviges Preciado Wolf of Hawthorne, California. Sergeant Eduviges was an Army sergeant assigned to the 704th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, out of Fort Carson, Colorado. Sergeant Wolf was a hero who gave her life in service to her country.

Sergeant Wolf, also known as "Duvi," dreamed of serving in the U.S. military as a child who emigrated to the United States from Mexico with her family. As soon as Duvi was able, she joined the United States military so that she could fulfill her lifelong dream to serve and protect her country. She met her husband Josh at Fort Bragg. Together, they had two daughters: 3-year-old Isabel and 1-year-old Valerie. Both Duvi and Josh were deployed to Afghanistan, where they served in separate units. Tragically, Duvi recently died in an insurgent attack while in Afghanistan. She was only 24 years old.

Earlier this month, on Veterans Day, I had the honor and privilege of participating in events with veterans and their families in my congressional district in Hawthorne and Inglewood, California. I was deeply moved by the families of our servicemembers. Not only do servicemembers make major sacrifices, but so do their families. They live with the harsh realities of war and its implications on them. Spouses must sacrifice long-term career planning, and children are often-times forced to transfer to different schools throughout the country. Tragically, as is the reality of combat theatre, some of our troops do not make it home.

Today, I salute and thank Sergeant Wolf, along with all of our Nation's past and present heroes who sacrifice a great deal in service to this country. I expressed my condolences to Duvi's sister Cecilia in Hawthorne on Veterans Day, and I know that her friends and family are still mourning. It is my hope that they will find comfort and peace in the loving memories and the distinguished legacy of service that Duvi leaves behind.

IN MEMORY OF TOMMY JACQUETTE

Ms. WATERS. I rise in memory of Tommy Jacquette, my dear friend of over 40 years, who passed away this week. I know that the community of Watts and the greater Los Angeles area are grieving with me, because we have all lost a truly unique, larger-than-life friend and activist who had his finger on the pulse of the community.

Born in South Central Los Angeles in 1943, Tommy Jacquette as a young man became part of the Black Power Movement of the 1960s and sharpened his leadership skills during his studies at Cal-Poly Pomona. He was acutely aware of the problems and issues facing the African American community, and he wanted to make a difference.

Tommy especially loved Watts, and he dedicated his life's work to enriching the community. He was the founder