

is not unheard of for one area of the state to be dealing with drought conditions while another area is having flooding.

This is exactly why this facility is so important to the panhandle of Nebraska. Western Nebraska grows a completely different set of crops from the eastern areas of our state. The land is different, the growing season is shorter, even the kinds of bugs and weeds are different. Timely and appropriate information and research can mean the difference between a successful growing season and a disappointing one.

The original experimental substation was constructed on 160 acres provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By July 1910 an office and laboratory had been built, in addition to a barn, grain bin, machine shed and other structures. USDA managed the plots until 1948, when the land and management were turned over to the State of Nebraska, and subsequently the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Today, the Panhandle Research and Extension Center has over a dozen faculty members—most of which hold joint appointments in research and extension. Disciplines such as entomology, weed science, irrigation management, machinery systems, plant pathology, alternative crops, dry bean breeding, cow-calf production and range management, and entrepreneur and business development—among others—are represented.

The Center has made a tremendous difference over the last 100 years, and I fully expect the impact to continue on long into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD D. GASKALLA, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, who has made an invaluable contribution toward safeguarding the future of agricultural production in our State and Nation. Richard D. Gaskalla, serving as Director, Division of Plant Industry, has distinguished himself through a marked career at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His exemplary service over the last 25 years is to be commended. I rise to honor Richard Gaskalla on the occasion of his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture, and congratulate him on his future endeavors as he moves on to serve and protect our Nation through the Department of Homeland Security.

Raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Gaskalla graduated from Florida State University in 1975 with a degree in Biological Sciences. He began his career as a District Agricultural Products Specialist in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Bureau of Plant Inspection.

He quickly progressed, promoted to Agricultural Products Specialist Supervisor responsible for interpretation and dissemination of plant import and export regulations, post entry

quarantine programs, and the Bureau of Plant Inspection's interactions with the Division of Inspection, Bureau of Road Guard Agricultural Inspection Stations. In 1988, he was appointed Director of the Division of Plant Industry overseeing all division programs, including emergency pest and disease eradication activities and other functions.

Under his direction, the Division of Plant Industry has strengthened the state of preparedness against threats of serious agricultural pests and diseases. His steadfast and committed efforts, in collaboration with many agencies and organizations at the State, regional, and national level have directly enhanced policies affecting Florida and U.S. agriculture.

As a dedicated and knowledgeable leader in the field of plant pest regulatory programs, Richard Gaskalla has made valuable contributions through his service on many national panels and oversight bodies. His work on the Safeguarding American Plant Resources Review set forth a comprehensive policy designed to improve United States agriculture protection programs. Mr. Gaskalla also served on the National Plant Board Advisory Council, which provides a direct line for input and communication on policies, issues, quarantines that affect U.S. and international agricultural production.

He has facilitated safe trade among nations, based on sound phytosanitary scientific standards, formulating several successful export certifications for U.S. agricultural products to foreign markets. In his tenure with the Division of Plant Industry, Mr. Gaskalla was involved in several efforts to combat dangerous pests and disease threatening the State and region's agricultural production including the Mediterranean fruit fly, imported Fire Ants, shipment and preservation of nursery and foliage stock, biological control activities against exotic predators, and noxious weed detection. In addition, his leadership responsibilities strengthened and bolstered other regulatory programs involving honey bee inspections, boll weevil eradication, Caribbean fruit fly protocol, and commodity treatments.

Most recently, Mr. Gaskalla has been involved in the development and implementation of the Citrus Health Response Program, a critical national program designed to help mitigate the impact of dangerous pests and diseases facing North American citrus.

Richard Gaskalla has been awarded numerous awards and citations, including among other prestigious honors, the United States Department of Agriculture Honor Award.

It is my privilege to honor Richard Gaskalla's outstanding public service upon his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and thank him for his countless contributions and tireless efforts to safeguard and sustain American agriculture. I commend and recognize his efforts, and am pleased that our nation will continue to benefit from his future endeavors to protect America's valuable resources and secure our food supply.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ROGER A. WILSON, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Roger A. Wilson, Jr. is retiring as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. He has diligently served in this role for three years.

After earning degrees from The Citadel, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the U.S. Army War College, Colonel Wilson went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Wilson oversaw many military and civil works projects throughout the District. From overseeing construction projects at the region's many military installations to ensuring our levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Wilson ably led an office with diverse mandates and responsibilities. Although his résumé boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Wilson's work to maintain the superiority of the Emergency Operations Center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Wilson is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing him well in the days to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENTUCKY'S METCALFE COUNTY AND CITY OF EDMONTON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Kentucky's Metcalfe County and city of Edmonton. Metcalfe County became the 106th county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky on May 1st 1860 and was named in honor of Kentucky's 10th governor, Thomas Metcalfe. Its sesquicentennial is a significant milestone for Metcalfe County and one I am pleased to honor.

Through the course of the history of Edmonton and Metcalfe County, its citizens have endured hard times and sacrifices. Its sons and daughters have answered the call to serve in every war beginning with the Civil War and continuing through this day. The town of Edmonton was settled as a result of the sacrifice, work and vision of Edmund Rogers, a Revolutionary War veteran and cousin to General George Rogers Clark and William Clark. In March of 1826, the first United States Post Office was established in Edmonton, which changed its image from that of a trading post

to a more permanent settlement. By an act of the Kentucky Legislature in 1836, the settlement of Edmonton became officially established as a town and gradually became the largest population center in the area.

The citizens of Edmonton and Metcalfe County have a deep appreciation for the sacrifice and struggles endured by their predecessors in the development of their hometown. Today its citizens continue the rich history of their forefathers and it is with great pride we celebrate this momentous occasion.

36TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 36th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, the Turkish military invaded Cyprus in direct violation of international law. Turkish troops illegally occupied the northern part of Cyprus, and established local armed forces that continue to control 37 percent of the Island. As a result of the Turkish invasion, nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and approximately 5,000 Cypriots were killed.

There was no justification for Turkey's invasion of Cyprus, and there is no justification for continued interference to this day.

It is appropriate that on the anniversary of the invasion, we mourn those whose lives were lost as well as condemn the occupation.

Although that is the focus of today, I also want to acknowledge my strong belief that it is possible for there to be a settlement of the conflict over Cyprus. To date, the process has not been easy, and I don't think anyone in the U.S. Congress thinks the matter can be resolved without hard work and sustained focus, but it is a process we must continue.

The ongoing talks between Cyprus' President Demetris Christofias and the Turkish Cypriot community leader Dervis Eroglu have the potential to produce real progress, beyond confidence building measures. Clearly, we need more forward momentum in strongly supporting the Cypriot's goal of reunification with a single internationally supported and recognized government. I very much hope this can be achieved by the end of this year.

For today, however, we rise to again commemorate and recognize a historic travesty and those that suffered as a result.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS DIMATTIO ON BEING SWORN IN AS THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF UNICO NATIONAL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mr. Chris DiMattio on being sworn in as the national President of UNICO National.

Mr. DiMattio was born in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, in 1966 as the youngest of three children of Louis and Catherine DiMattio. Growing up in Dunmore, he attended St. Anthony of Padua's Grade School and Bishop O'Hara High School.

In 1988, Mr. DiMattio graduated from Marywood University in Scranton where he majored in Business Administration and was a member of the Academic Dean's Roundtable and the Student Government.

He is currently a Senior Vice President at FNCB Wealth Management Services in Dunmore. Previously, he was an Assistant Vice President at NatWest Financial Markets Group in Scranton.

Throughout his academic and professional career, Mr. DiMattio has consistently volunteered his time and efforts throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Lackawanna Branch of the American Cancer Society and the American Red Cross, and has also volunteered with the United Way of Lackawanna County and the Scranton Cultural Center.

Mr. DiMattio has been a member of the Scranton Chapter of UNICO National since 1990 and served as the Chapter's President from 1997 to 1999.

UNICO was originally founded in 1922 by Dr. Anthony P. Vastola as an Italian American service organization to, "engage in charitable works, support higher education, and perform patriotic deeds."

In 1947, UNICO merged with another Italian American service organization, the National Civic League, to create UNICO National.

Today, UNICO National remains the largest Italian American service organization in the United States. Every year it donates approximately \$1 million to numerous charities throughout the country, and, through its Anti-Bias committee, works to overcome negative stereotypes of Italian Americans.

Mr. DiMattio has served on UNICO National's National Executive Committee as National Membership & Retention Director from 2003 to 2006 and as Vice President from 2006 to 2010.

Mr. DiMattio will be sworn in as the national President of UNICO National at its annual convention being held from July 28 to August 1 in Hershey, Pennsylvania. He will become the second Northeastern Pennsylvania resident in the past thirty years to be appointed to this position.

Mr. DiMattio currently resides in Moscow, Pennsylvania, with his wife, the former Ann Celli of Peckville, and their two children, Louis Carlo and Robert.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. DiMattio on this auspicious occasion. His exemplary community service record demonstrates he is most deserving of this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 449 I was not present due to my flight being delayed. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, on July 14, 2010, I inadvertently voted "yes" on rollcall No. 437 on H. Res. 1509 when I meant to vote "no."

36 YEARS OF TURKISH MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unconscionable 36 years of Turkish military occupation of the Republic of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, tens of thousands of Turkish military troops invaded Cyprus, in a blatant and deliberate violation of international law. This caused the forcible expulsion of approximately 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes, which at the time amounted to almost one-third of the total population on the island. Nearly 5,000 Cypriots were also killed.

Three decades after the initial invasion, Turkey still has over 40,000 troops illegally occupying about 37 percent of Cypriot territory. During the occupation, the Turks expelled thousands of Greek Cypriots from their own homes who were then forced to flee to other parts of the island leaving behind their property and other belongings. These seized properties, many of them belonging to American citizens of Cypriot descent, were unlawfully distributed to and are currently being occupied by thousands of illegal settlers from Turkey. The European Court of Human Rights has stated again and again that displaced Greek Cypriots have not lost the title to their properties and thus remain the only legal and lawful owners of the properties in question. Unfortunately, Turkey has repeatedly ignored countless UN Resolutions calling for an end to the occupation.

Cypriots want a unified island and continue to demonstrate their commitment toward a genuine reunification of their country. However, no realistic solution can occur without Ankara's complete and constructive cooperation. I strongly urge Turkey to show a commitment to international law and basic human rights by ending its military occupation, withdrawing its thousands of troops, and removing the illegal settlers.

I am encouraged that both sides continue their negotiations toward reaching a long-lasting comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on a bizonal, bicommunal federation. This solution must be made by the Cypriots and for the Cypriots.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in standing up for human rights and freedom, and urge Turkey to negotiate an end to this occupation in good faith and cooperation.