

servings of vegetables children actually like, including corn, green peas, potatoes and lima beans, to one cup per child per week, without providing any compelling reason for doing so. Vegetables in this subgroup provide excellent nutritional value. This limit would not improve nutrition intake, but would have an adverse affect on the affordability, participation rates and nutrition quality of school meals. In this time of economic uncertainty, we cannot overlook the unintended consequences of these new and conflicting standards.

The 2010 Guidelines list four “nutrients of concern”—potassium, dietary fiber, calcium, and vitamin D—adding that intake of these nutrients is “low enough to be of public health concern” in both children and adults. Potatoes, for example, have more potassium than bananas, a food commonly associated with this nutrient. Lima beans contain 21 percent of the DV of fiber and 12 percent of the DV for potassium. Green peas are rich in iron and vitamins A, B6, and C. By limiting the serving of these vegetables, USDA’s proposal runs contrary to the Guidelines.

Furthermore, this rule would have a negative impact on the businesses all across the country, including the many food producers that I represent in the 5th District of Oregon. For example, NORPAC Foods, Inc., headquartered in Stayton, Oregon, is a 240 farmer-member cooperative, farming 45,000 acres and, with its associate farmers and processors, producing over 600,000,000 pounds annually. Providing schools with nutrient rich vegetables, including lima beans and green peas, is an important part of NORPAC’s business. At this time of economic downturn, USDA should not impose rules that close markets for American farmers without strong nutritional justification.

In conclusion, as we recognize National School Lunch Week and the positive impact this program has on the children in our nation, I would encourage the USDA to revisit its proposal and write a rule that does not put limitations on school nutritionists’ choices in how to best feed hungry children or put further economic pressures on schools or the food companies that supply our schools.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH COARDS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable constituent.

Ms. Elizabeth Coards is an extraordinary centenarian who resides in the Villas at Horizon Village, and serves as matriarch to a wonderful neighborhood in North Charleston, South Carolina, which was created through the Hope VI program.

Ms. Coards was born in Summerville, South Carolina, on August 17, 1909. Her parents were Benjamin Bracey, a brick maker, and Mattie Jones, a domestic worker. She attended Alston High School in Summerville, South Carolina.

Following school, she went to work for a cigar factory in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Coards remembers that she was at the factory stripping tobacco when she heard about President Roosevelt signing Social Se-

curity into law in 1935. Soon after, she went looking for better opportunities in New York City. There she found work as a laundress and later as a nanny, staying with one family for 27 years. In 1980, Ms. Coards moved to Staunton, Virginia. She returned South Carolina and settled into North Charleston at the age of 101.

Ms. Coards’ first love is baseball. One of her fondest memories is taking the 5-cents subway ride to Brooklyn, where she saw Jackie Robinson hit his first home run for the Dodgers in 1947. Ms. Coards had a brief marriage in 1929, and had a son Harvey, who passed away in 1975. She is currently a member of Faith Temple Church in Harleyville, SC, and a beloved resident of her new home at the Villas at Horizon Village.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the contributions of Ms. Elizabeth Coards to the rich fabric of our country. She serves as an example of the wonderful centenarians that worked hard all their lives, raised families and participated in their communities. America is a remarkable country because of the contributions of productive citizens like Ms. Coards. It was my honor to meet her at the recent dedication of the Villas at Horizon Village, and I wish her much happiness and continued good health.

RECOGNIZING MR. WALTER
COWART OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor one of the 7th District of Missouri’s most distinguished individuals, Walter Cowart.

Walter, a resident of Springfield, Missouri, retired this summer after working in the United States Small Business Administration, SBA, for over 35 years.

Walter got off to a great start in college. There, he majored in economics at Sewanee, the University of the South, in Sewanee, Tennessee, as part of the class of 1964.

Cowart’s career with SBA started in Lubbock, TX in 1976. In 1979, he moved to the Kansas City, Missouri office as the Chief of Portfolio Management. He then transferred to Springfield, Missouri when the Branch Office opened there in 1981. He was recognized as the Region VII Regional Employee of the Year in 1997 and was presented his award by former Congressman Roy Blunt at the Springfield Branch Office. He was appointed Branch Manager in 2008.

As Branch Manager, Walter was an advocate for small business in the 28 counties served by the Springfield Branch of the Kansas City District. He oversaw efforts to expand and develop the small business community in southwest Missouri with the help of SBA lending partners.

Walter was also a member of the Springfield Planning and Zoning Commission from March 1984 until January 1991 and was a member of the Board of the Springfield Public Building Corporation from May 1991 until January 2002.

Walter has been married to his wife Laura for over 38 years. They both retired at the end

of August; Walter from the SBA and Laura from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Walter and Laura like to spend their free time with their family. They are blessed with three children and two grandchildren. Walter and Laura are spending their retirement with their family, friends, and are currently cruising across the rivers of Europe.

Although I am sad to see him go, I wish Walter a happy retirement. The SBA was fortunate to call him an employee, those of us who live in Springfield are proud to call him a neighbor, but most importantly, I am lucky to call him a friend. I hope Walter and Laura enjoy their retirement and wish them and their family the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11th I was unavoidably detained and therefore was not present to be recorded on rollcall vote No. 771. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 771, I would have voted “nay” (October 11)

H. Res. 425—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 3078—United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3079—United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3080—United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, and the Motion to Concur in the Senate Amendments to H.R. 2832—To extend the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes (Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension)

RECOGNIZING 20 YEARS OF WATER CONSERVATION IN EL PASO

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 20th anniversary of Water Conservation Day in El Paso. I also want to honor the truly remarkable turnaround El Paso has achieved in reducing water use and preventing the depletion of the Hueco Bolson aquifer.

In 1991, with one of El Paso’s main water sources predicted to run dry within 36 years, the goal was to reduce the 200 gallons used by each person everyday by 20 percent. Today, average usage stands at 133 gallons per person, and, despite a population increase of 200,000 people since 1991, El Paso uses 1.6 percent less than 20 years ago.

El Paso’s Water Conservation Ordinance has provided guidelines and schedules for water usage for two decades, and resulted in over 231 billion gallons of water saved from waste and has also halted the over-drafting of fresh water from the Hueco Bolson aquifer, the main water source for the city.

El Paso’s initiative succeeded for several reasons. The Water Conservation Department

offered incentives to lower daily water usage by offering high-efficiency toilets and implementing a progressive seasonal rate structure. Rebates were offered for water-efficient washing machines and central refrigeration systems. In addition, 185,000 efficient shower heads, 9,000 evaporative cooler bleed-off line clamps, and 170 waterless urinals were provided at no cost to improve efficiency. Thousands of residents also eliminated their grass lawns through the Turf Rebate Programs, saving El Paso 894 million gallons annually of water. These efforts combine to conserve over 3.6 billion gallons of water annually.

In addition to these measures, El Pasoans use 2.1 billion of reclaimed water annually, a water source that is unaffected by drought, and awareness campaigns have encouraged El Pasoans to conserve water. In two decades, El Paso was able to coordinate a series of programs to achieve its goal of averting a water shortage, while dramatically reducing consumer demand and saving \$460 million in the process by deferring the expansion of water facilities. The El Paso Water Utilities desalination plant has helped provide water especially in the most recent drought we are experiencing, and has become a main source of water for the city. It treats 27 million gallons of water daily, making it the largest inland plant in the world.

El Paso is serious about water conservation, and I am proud to represent a community that works together to protect and conserve our precious resources.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. DOROTHY LEAVELL AS SHE CELEBRATES HER 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AND GARY, INDIANA CRUSADER NEWSPAPERS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Dorothy Leavell migrated to Chicago, Illinois from Pine Bluff, Arkansas and began her newspaper career as an office clerk with the Crusader Newspapers in 1961. She took over as publisher in 1968 after the death of her first husband, Balm Leavell, who was one of the two founders of the Crusader.

In the ensuing years Mrs. Leavell distinguished herself as a militant minded muckraking journalist, community activist and business person. She joined the National Newspaper Publishers Association and for more than 40 years she has been a dedicated and active member and leader of the organization. She has been its Chairperson, Chairwoman of various committee and task forces. As well, she also led a controversial 20 member group to Nigeria to investigate its political crisis.

As a media advocate she also was a staunch and critical supporter for the confirmation of Alexis Herman to become the U.S. Secretary of Labor. As publisher of the Crusader, Ms. Leavell has been a strong supporter of affirmative action, parity in advertising and civil rights pursuits. Dorothy Leavell has been an outstanding journalist and a

brave publisher and a great humanitarian; therefore, I am pleased to commend her and wish for her fifty more years of productive service.

In addition to her journalist work, Ms. Leavell is the wife of Mr. John Smith, her second husband, the mother of two children, three grandchildren and has also raised a niece and a nephew. She is actively involved in her church, Holy Name of Mary in the Morgan Park Community of Chicago.

Under Ms. Leavell's tutelage the Crusader has become the City of Chicago's largest locally Black owned paid circulation newspaper. May it long live and may the legacy of Ms. Dorothy Leavell last forever.

IN MEMORY OF ZONA ANN STRATHEARN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my good friend, Zona Ann Strathearn, who passed away last month and whose life will be celebrated next week.

Zona epitomized life, even during her nearly 10-year battle with cancer. She was the consummate volunteer, philanthropist, world traveler, card shark, outdoor enthusiast, and tennis player. But most importantly, she was a tireless partner to her husband, Bruce, with whom she recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, and a devoted mother and grandmother.

Among her volunteer activities, Zona was a member of the Flight Bags, a community-oriented group of pilot wives during her first marriage, and a candy stripper at Simi Valley Hospital for 12 years and a hospice volunteer with Livingston Memorial for three years.

Zona also assisted Bruce's work on various committees and served as a Rotarian wife for 12 years. Additionally, she contributed to the Women's Legacy Fund, Heritage Fund, Destino Latino 2000 Fund, the Strathearn Family Fund to support the Chamber's Foundation for Simi Valley, and the Bruce and Zona Strathearn Fund for future Ventura County Charities.

She was a shark at several card games including Gin, Gin Rummy, Cribbage and Bridge, and she relished in her marathon bridge sessions with locals throughout Ventura County. Zona was an exceptional singles and doubles tennis player, and she played both competitively at Sunset Hills Country Club. After experiencing an exotic hiking excursion to Provence, France, in 1999, Zona became involved with a local hike and bike club and enjoyed several hiking trips across Southern California in the following years.

In addition to several trips to Europe, Zona also toured South Africa, Vietnam, China, Australia and New Zealand. Her travels included many annual trips to Northeastern Oregon and the Sierras, where she consistently caught the most and largest fish on each trip. For her many excursions, Zona earned the nickname "Zoomer."

In addition to Bruce, Zona is survived by her daughters, Allison Strathearn-Forrest and

Allison's husband, Roger, Kim Strathearn, and Kimberly Gustafson and Kimberly's husband, Kurt; and her son, David Strathearn and his wife, Alisa; granddaughter, Khysa Gustafson; and grandsons, Kaden Gustafson and Preston Lloyd Strathearn.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in celebrating Zona's exceptional energy and passion, and in sending our sincere condolences to Bruce and their family.

AWARD FOR PRIVATE ERNEST WEDELL

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of our brave warfighters, Mr. Ernest Wedell. Mr. Wedell entered the United States Army in July 1952 in Galesburg, Illinois. After he finished his training he was sent to Korea, where he was assigned to the 17th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "the Buffalos," of the 7th Infantry Division. They were nicknamed the Buffalos after one of the Regiment's Commanding Officers in the Korean War, Colonel William W. "Buffalo Bill" Quinn. This incredible regiment was an important part of the Korean War and continues to fight for our country to this day.

In April 1953, elements of the 7th Infantry Division were ordered to take and hold what would later become the famous battle for Pork Chop Hill. On April 20, during the first battle of Pork Chop Hill, Private Wedell was wounded in combat. During this battle the United States experienced 243 casualties and an additional 916 were wounded. Less than three weeks after the second battle, the Armistice was signed thereby ending hostilities.

On May 7, 1953, while recovering in a military hospital in Japan, Private Wedell was awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart because of the wounds he sustained during this battle. In addition, Private Wedell was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal for his exemplary service in the United States Army.

However, another award that every infantryman cherishes is the award that Private Wedell earns today. The Combat Infantryman's Badge, commonly called the CIB, is awarded to soldiers, both enlisted and officers holding the rank of colonel or below. Those who receive this award were personally present and under hostile fire while serving in assigned primary infantry or Special Forces duty in a unit actively engaging the enemy in ground combat.

On the 17th day of October, 2011, after fifty-eight years of waiting, it is my humble privilege and honor to present to Ernest Wedell on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of Illinois, the Combat Infantryman's Badge. We are very lucky to have had dedicated warfighters like Mr. Wedell in our Army. Our country owes him and those like him a great debt of gratitude for the sacrifices they have made for us.