

Bringing hope and so comfort, to woman and man. . . .
 In the darkest of all places. . . .
 While, at death's door they'd so stand!
 Giving them the strength to so pray. . . .
 Offering your hand, while reaching out on each day. . . .
 As from out of that darkness, the light you so gave!
 Something, far much more precious than what of gold is so made!
 To so find the right words, as you were so heard. . . .in the sacred moments of death. . . .
 Giving such strength to all of their hearts to so bless. . . .
 For War is Hell, and Hell is War!
 And for all your sons, all of the ones. . . . you cared for so deep. . . .
 As upon each day, all in their beautiful faces. . . .to us you will so speak!
 And to your fine wife, who has suffered the greatest loss of her life. . . .
 We pray to our Lord to let her find peace!
 It's for you now, Dale, the Angels up in heaven now so weep!
 And to his family, somehow so find the strength. . . .
 All in what his fine life has meant!
 As now we they lay your fine body, Dale, down to sleep. . . .
 As into this soft cold dark quiet ground, Dale, so deep. . . .
 As, it was you, Dale, our Lord's son. . . .
 Who to Him, your promises did so keep!
 As a new Angel up in Heaven, one day again you'll meet!
 To watch over us now as we so sleep!
 With The Faith of His Father So Very Deep!
 Amen!

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALBERT BIERSTADT AND SANFORD ROBINSON GIFFORD

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to commend the achievements of two 19th century Hudson River School painters, Albert Bierstadt and Sanford Robinson Gifford. Two of Albert Bierstadt's paintings are currently displayed in the Capitol Visitor Center, "Discovery of the Hudson River" and "Entrance into Monterey." The paintings were part of the first American school of painting, the Hudson River School, which focused on accurately capturing nature and a close attention to detail as a new style of romantic landscapes became popular.

A fellow Hudson River School painter, Sanford Robinson Gifford, used the District of Columbia as a backdrop in many paintings about the Civil War, including "Sunday Morning at Camp Cameron," which depicts soldiers listening to a Sunday sermon on the grassy hills of an area in the Northwest part of the city now known as Meridian Hill Park. Gifford, who traveled to Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa seeking new sources of inspiration, was known particularly for his use of indistinct light, which sometimes masked the landscape and was achieved through tiny, delicate brushstrokes, a characteristic of the Hudson River School.

As we recognize the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, I ask the House of Representatives to commend the achieve-

ments of Albert Bierstadt and Sanford Robinson Gifford, and the impact and legacy of the Hudson River School.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the House's attention today to help congratulate Honda Manufacturing of Alabama on its 10th anniversary as an economic engine and community partner in Lincoln, Alabama.

Ten years ago, on November 14, 2001, Honda Manufacturing of Alabama (HMA) started production of the first customer-ready Odyssey minivans and V-6 engines at its new plant in Lincoln. Today, the plant is Honda Motor Co.'s largest global light truck production source, with the capacity to produce more than 300,000 vehicles and engines each year. Its 3.5 million square foot manufacturing facility represents a capital investment of more than \$2 billion.

In the midst of challenging economic times, HMA has provided a stable work environment for many people across the 3rd Congressional District and surrounding region. HMA employs more than 4,000 associates and recently announced plans to hire an additional 50 workers in manufacturing, engineering, purchasing and production management positions. Along with its 35 suppliers, HMA is responsible for more than 45,000 direct and indirect jobs in Alabama. Annually, Honda purchases more than \$2 billion in goods and services from suppliers and businesses located in the state.

Honda's flexible manufacturing system allows the Lincoln facility to produce multiple models on the same assembly line, including Odyssey minivans, Pilot sport utility vehicles and Ridgeline pickup trucks. The plant will also begin manufacturing the Acura MDX sport utility vehicle in 2013, making it the first Acura product built by Alabama associates.

HMA is also a generous community partner and good neighbor. Over the last decade, HMA philanthropic contributions to Alabama charities, community and civic groups have totaled more than \$7 million. Just this year, HMA associates committed both time and money to support local tornado relief efforts, in addition to Honda's corporate commitment of \$150,000.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Honda Manufacturing of Alabama on its 10th anniversary. HMA has been a dedicated partner to the citizens of Alabama in strengthening the relationships with the communities where its associates live and work. I am proud to congratulate them on their first ten years in our community, and wish them well in the coming decades.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STANISLAUS FOOD PRODUCTS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. DEHNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Stanislaus Food Products and the Cortopassi Family who were inducted as Stanislaus County Ag Hall of Fame "Legends in Agriculture" during a ceremony in Modesto, California on November 10, 2011.

Stanislaus Food Products employs about 160 people year-round and nearly 1,400 during the peak of packing each summer. It was founded in 1942 by the Quartaroli family, which sold it to the Piciullo family in 1969. The Cortopassi family bought it in 1978.

The son and grandson of Italian immigrants, Dean Cortopassi was born in 1937. Even though his family worked hard, he remembers plenty of laughter in their home. For the first 10 years of Cortopassi's life, the family lived on a farm. In 1947, they moved to a working-class Italian neighborhood, and Cortopassi's father commuted to their farm on the outskirts of town. "In my community everyone was focused on 'getting ahead' to achieve a better life. It was a very insular community that was strong on values and family honor. My parents concentrated on work and 'getting ahead.' They would constantly say 'go to school, get a good job, and have a good life.' They both saw farming as a tough way to make a living and they didn't want that for their children, but it was all I ever wanted to do."

As a youngster, Cortopassi clearly remembers playing farmer in his sandbox with toy wooden tractors his father had made for him. "My father was a hero for me," he says, "and I think that's why I loved farming so much." Cortopassi began working on the farm when he was 10, driving a grain truck from field to bin, and when he was 12, graduated to the top tractor job on the farm: pulling the grain harvester.

Cortopassi attended a one-room schoolhouse during his first three years and was skipped ahead one grade when the family moved to town. In his last semester of high school, Cortopassi contracted rheumatic fever, which left him with a damaged heart valve and a prohibition against physical activity. He attended junior college for two semesters, trying to catch up with friends away at college, but quit school to work full time as a commercial/truck driver. Within six months his high-energy work habits resulted in a mild heart attack and complete prohibition from any physical labor for two years.

Having few options, Cortopassi enrolled in a two-year agriculture course at the University of California-Davis, graduating in 1958. He joined the Pillsbury Company as a grain buyer/trader, and at the same time he and his younger brother began farming 65 rented acres with rented equipment. By 1961, the brothers were into full-time farming, followed by years of both adversities and success. Twenty years later, Cortopassi Farms included 10,000 acres.

By 1968, Cortopassi had achieved his dream of farming on a large scale, but felt limited by farming's strategic limitations, so he went into partnership with another farmer and bought a small Los Angeles-based food specialties company that sold its products through

the supermarket channel. Ten years later, the partners sold the specialties company and raised a larger partnership to buy a tomato processing company, Stanislaus Food Products (SFP), which became Cortopassi's primary endeavor as he began scaling down farming activities.

Following a poor farming year in 1982, his partner elected to sell his SFP stock ownership, which Cortopassi bought with borrowed bank debt. In 1986, he re-mortgaged his entire SFP ownership to buy out all remaining shareholders. Over the past 25 years, SFP has become the largest "fresh-pack" cannery in the world, and is the market-share leader of tomato products for Italian restaurants/pizzerias throughout the United States and Canada.

Cortopassi currently serves as CEO of San Tomo Group, and in that position provides "coaching" to younger presidents of agribusiness entities in which his family are shareholders, including Stanislaus Food Products, Cortopassi Partners, Cocoa Farms, Lodi Farming Company, and Del Rio Partners.

When asked how he defines success, Cortopassi says, "It's constantly striving to perform at maximum potential without compromising personal values. It's about my word, my family, and my honor. I always remember a metaphor from the Greek classics about Plato's ring. Plato told his students that to know your own morality, imagine slipping on a magic ring that made you invisible and therefore able to do bad deeds without anyone ever knowing. If you had such a ring, how would you behave? The answer to that question is the definition of your morality."

Cortopassi advises young people to choose a line of work they can be passionate about, and then to seek work from the best company in that industry. "When you go to work for the best doing something you like, you're earning double pay because in addition to salary you're learning keys to success."

Outside of his family and business, Cortopassi is passionate about America. He says, "I'm glad for my Italian roots, but I'm proud to be an American. My parents were particularly passionate about their American citizenship and are a living example of moving from meager circumstances in Italy and through determination and hard work achiev-

ing a better life in America. I believe in free enterprise and I want our country to continue providing 'getting ahead' opportunities for entrepreneurs."

The company stresses quality in the products, whether it's sauce for a pizza or tomato strips with the trademarked name Filets. "We only pack in the 70 days when the tomatoes are vine-ripe," Executive Vice President Bill Butler said. "We do not remanufacture from paste."

The products are sold under several labels, such as Alta Cucina, Saporito, Full Red and 7/11. These are not household names, and the company is fine with that. The growth in demand has slowed since the boom in Italian cuisine from the 1970s to 1990s, but the market remains strong. The products are widely distributed in the United States and Canada. The company works with growers to assure tomatoes with the right traits. It cooks the sealed cans for as short a time as possible, in the belief that overcooking impairs the flavor.

Stanislaus is part of a processing tomato industry that remains fairly strong in California, thanks to ideal growing conditions and the demand for pasta sauce, ketchup, salsa and other products. And food processing in general has kept people at work amid the economic slump.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in praising Stanislaus Food Products and the Cortopassi Family for their significant contributions to agriculture and to the people of the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS OF
CHARLES L. PERKINS SR.

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles L. Perkins, Sr. for his selfless dedication and commitment to our community. Charlie was recently honored by Youth for Tomorrow for his humanitarian

activities, specifically his actions in providing food, clothing, and financial support to assist those in need in Northern Virginia.

I have had the privilege of personally knowing Charlie and his wife, Marian, for many years. Throughout this time, I have been struck by Charlie's persistent efforts to improve the lives of those in our community. Charlie, both personally and through his charitable trust foundation, has supported numerous organizations including Youth for Tomorrow, Homestretch, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, Special Olympics, as well as religious organizations that provide a path to escape gang violence and feed the hungry.

In addition to the many contributions to community non-profits, Charlie and his foundation provide assistance to individuals who have experienced financial hardships due to illness, unemployment or monetary shortages. Always looking ahead to build a better life for the next generation, the foundation also provides college tuition assistance. Charlie's mission is brilliant in its simplicity—to help those in need and enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals, families, and communities by seeking out those in need. Charlie has more than accomplished this mission, and he has previously received the Lions of Virginia Distinguished Humanitarian Award and was named the Jobs for Virginia Graduates "Man of the Decade".

Through his own hard work and perseverance, Charlie rose from humble beginnings to become a highly successful business owner; however, he never rested on his many accomplishments and he always sought to give back to the community with great fervor, but little fanfare. In fact, Charlie eschews personal recognition, and it is only through the insistence of others that his many noble efforts receive the accolades they so richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing Charles L. Perkins, Sr. and in thanking him for his steadfast support of those in need within our community. I personally feel blessed to call Charlie a friend, and extend to him my deepest appreciation and respect.