

Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jacob Cisneros is a 10th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Cisneros is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Cisneros for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

IN MEMORY OF CAROLYN
LEAVENS

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of Carolyn Leavens, who passed away this week after a lifetime dedicated to her family and friends, the agricultural industry, and her community.

I have known Carolyn, her husband Paul and their family for more than 30 years. Carolyn was a strong and professional woman whose promotion of agriculture on a local, national and international level, and whose love and service to family and community, were seemingly inexhaustible.

Carolyn and Paul were married for 60 years, and for 25 years she played a key role in office and budget management for Leavens Ranches as it grew from 100 acres of beans to 1,100 acres of citrus and avocado orchards. The operation, founded by Paul's grandparents and now managed by the fourth generation of family members, ranks as one of Ventura County's leading citrus and avocado producers and has also expanded into lemon, avocado and wine-grape production in Monterey County.

Carolyn's involvement in one of the county's pioneer family farming operations led her to play a leadership role in the agricultural community, at first locally and later on a statewide and international level.

Her accomplishments are too extensive to list here in their entirety, but they include being the founding president of the Ventura County chapter of California Women for Agriculture and CWA's state president in 1981; a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture from 1978 to 1982; a member of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Women's Leadership Network from 1983 to 1999, participating in its European Economic Community Tour as an ambassador of the American agricultural industry; and serving as a board member of Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance and a delegate to the first International Women in Agriculture Convention.

Although she played a prominent role in agricultural affairs, she was perhaps best known at home for her wide-ranging involvement in civic, cultural and political activities.

Again, Carolyn's civic accomplishments—and the awards bestowed on her to recognize

those accomplishments—are too long to list here. But it was her tireless involvement in the decades-long campaign that culminated in establishment of California State University, Channel Islands, that may be her most lasting local legacy. Not only was she integral in establishing the university, her tireless fund-raising and marketing efforts ensured its success. In the words of my friend and former U.S. Representative Robert Lagomarsino when he presented the inaugural CSUCI Lagomarsino Award to Carolyn: "It is hard to think of this campus without thinking of Carolyn Leavens. . . . Today, this University is her hallmark."

In addition to Paul, Carolyn leaves behind her son and daughter-in-law, J. Link and Sally Leavens; and daughters and sons-in-law, Tina and David Cullenberg, Leslie and Harry Crowe, and Heather and Curt August; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren and many other loving family members.

Mr. Speaker, Carolyn left an everlasting mark on our community and will be greatly missed. I know my colleagues join me in sending condolences to Paul, the Leavens family, and their many friends, and in remembering Carolyn for her many contributions and for being a role model for all.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND
FURTHER ADDITIONAL CON-
TINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MO BROOKS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, let's remind everyone why we are here. We are here because we are trying to save our federal government from unsustainable budget deficits. During the regime of NANCY PELOSI as House Speaker, and Senate Majority Leader HARRY REID, we have had four consecutive budget deficits that average \$1.2 trillion a year. Those are unsustainable. They threaten our federal government's solvency. We are facing a national bankruptcy.

What are Republicans in the House trying to do today? We are trying to protect our troops who are in Afghanistan and Iraq so they don't have to worry about whether their homes are going to be foreclosed on as they are off doing battle and their kids and spouses are at home. For example, I met a lady from Colony, Alabama who has two young children, twins, age three, and she is fighting on behalf of our country. If our troops are forced to work without pay, then, in addition to everything else, she will have to worry about whether her young children will be financially taken care of at home. I ask that this House and this Senate do what we should do, and that is to protect our troops by funding them adequately. Don't leave them in the position where they are not able to take care of their own people at home.

IAN FAULKNER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Ian Faulkner for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Ian Faulkner is a 8th grader at Mandalay Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Ian Faulkner is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Ian Faulkner for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010 HONOREES
OF THE DUNN LORING VOLUN-
TEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department and the extraordinary men and women who are being recognized for their bravery and service to our community. Every day these individuals along with their colleagues put their very lives on the line to protect our community. These individuals have demonstrated superior dedication to public safety, and it is my honor to announce the recipients of the 2011 Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department Awards:

2010 Firefighter of the Year—Dan Sweet.
2010 EMT of the Year—Zyad Qamer.
2010 Officer of the Year—Brad Cochran.
2010 Suppression Rookie of the Year—Natalie Potell.
2010 EMS Rookie of the Year—Benjamin Bradley.
2010 Distinguished Service Award—Lesley Edgemon.
2010 Training Award—Justin Miller.
2010 Robbie Allen Award—Shannon Marler.
2010 Spirit Award—Richard Roatch.
2010 Robert J.J. Seane Award—Dan Sweet.

Also being recognized are the following individuals for their years of service to the Department:

35 Years of Service—Alan Caldwell.
30 Years of Service—Richard Morani.
15 Years of Service—Rose-Ellen Eastman.
15 Years of Service—Michael Van Dyke.
5 Years of Service—Jeremy Arnold.
5 Years of Service—Jaime Keith.
5 Years of Service—Dan Sweet.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these honorees and to thank all of the men and women who serve in

the Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Department. Their efforts, made on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County, are selfless acts of heroism and truly merit our highest praise. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these remarkable individuals and saying to them, "Stay safe."

TRIBUTE TO MR. SERGIO SHEARER

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 4, 2011, San Antonio lost a great public servant when Sergio Shearer passed away at the age of 71. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergio Shearer as we celebrate his life, which was highlighted by decades of community service, philanthropy, and leadership.

Sergio Shearer was born on December 4, 1939 to Chita Shearer in Weslaco, Texas. He later married Lucinda S. Leyva and fathered three children, Andrea Rhea Shearer-Lee, Michael Leyva Shearer, and Kara Kristine Shearer.

He graduated from North Texas University with a degree in Psychology, while simultaneously attending cosmetology school in Ft. Worth, Texas. After serving in the United States Army, Sergio opened a successful and prestigious salon in McAllen, Texas which he operated for over 13 years. In 1976, the Shearer family purchased the Magic Valley College in San Juan, Texas. Through his tireless efforts, Sergio expanded Magic Valley College to become the University of Cosmetology Arts and Science. As a result of Sergio's direction and dedication to educating others, he created five campuses in the Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio, Texas. His efforts have touched the lives of many.

As a leader in the cosmetology industry, Sergio was appointed by Governor Ann Richards to the Texas Cosmetology Commission. He also served as the Vice President of the National Association of Cosmetology Schools, Director of the Texas Association of Cosmetology Schools, and Regional Director of the Interstate Council of State Boards. In 1989, he was inducted into the Pivot Hall of Fame.

In addition to his dedication to the cosmetology industry, Sergio was committed to serving his community. He served as the Chairman of the Edinburg Housing Authority, Board Member of the Hidalgo County Special Olympics, Honorary Member of the Confederate Air Force and as a member of the Order of the Alhambra. Sergio was also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, where he achieved the rank of 4th Degree Knight. Following the loss of his daughter, Kara Kristine Shearer, Sergio cofounded the Kara Shearer Learning Center, which partners with the Edinburg Housing Authority to serve underprivileged children.

Upon his retirement, Sergio moved to the San Antonio area to be closer to his family. A lifelong fisherman, hunter, and accomplished golfer, Sergio was always happiest when he was outdoors.

The City of San Antonio and the State of Texas feel a little emptier now, but we have all lived richer, better lives because of the life of Sergio Shearer. His life may have ended, but

his contributions will live on and generations shall enjoy the fruits of his labor.

JESSICA CAMOMILE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jessica Camomile for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jessica Camomile is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jessica Camomile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jessica Camomile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

U.S.-KOREA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 8, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the privilege of visiting the Republic of Korea through their Congressional Member Exchange Program, where I was honored to have a one-on-one meeting with Foreign Minister Kim Sung-hwan so that we could discuss our two countries' mutual interests and bilateral relations.

In addition, I was able to meet with Trade Minister Kim Jong-hoon and a number of members of the National Assembly, as well as to travel to Anyang, which is just south of Seoul. Anyang is a sister city of Garden Grove, one of the larger communities in California's 47th congressional district and the home to many Americans of Korean descent and recent immigrants from Korea.

As co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I make a point of paying close attention to the issues that affect U.S.-Korean relations, so making a five-day visit to our ally was productive and informative. I was impressed by how much average Korean citizens know about the United States and how much they care about the continued resilience of the decades-old friendship between our two countries.

If nothing else, I came away more convinced than ever of the importance of ratifying the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement at the earliest opportunity possible. I saw how businesses and consumers in both Korea and the United States will benefit by implementation of the agreement, and it became quite clear that this will take us a long way toward President Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports by 2014.

What's more, I could see how increasing the already booming trade between the United States and South Korea will enhance our security relationship and improve the stability of the Korean Peninsula and, indeed, of the entire Northeast Asian region.

In the months since the United States and Korea signed their revised and updated Free Trade Agreement last December, the Korean government has approved a similar trade pact with the European Union, which is scheduled to take effect on the first day of July this year. Korea is also negotiating a free trade treaty with Australia, and it already has a volume of trade with China of approximately \$200 billion per year.

I realize there are some who argue that this agreement should be passed as part of a package, along with pending agreements with Colombia and Panama. These arguments may have some merit, but they do not persuade me that delaying the Korea-U.S. FTA is a good idea.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues to move as quickly as possible to ratify the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement as soon as it comes before us for consideration.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1363, the "Department of Defense and Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011," a damaging deflection, even as negotiations are ongoing to prevent a government shutdown. H.R. 1363 would reduce funding for the Department of Homeland Security operations by \$1.4 billion. The cuts are far from surgical in nature and diminish the Department's flexibility to respond and recover from known and unknown threats.

Specifically, H.R. 1363 undermines homeland security as follows:

The bill cuts FEMA first responder grants by 20%. This draconian cut will force cash-strapped State, local and tribal governments to roll back critical preparedness activities and is a slap in the face to the men and women who serve and protect.

It cuts funding for next generation border security technology by 28%. This will surely set back efforts at achieving operational control of the Southwest border.

It cuts \$57 million in funding for Transportation Security Administration's terrorist watchlist activities. This cut will force TSA to scramble to find the money to undertake this critical screening activity.

It cuts the Science and Technology Directorate operations by \$173 million. This cut will most certainly result in significant delays in the development of new and promising homeland security technologies.

Rather than slashing the DHS budget to grand-stand or score political points, we should be dedicating new resources to: