

compete successfully for Fulbright Awards, Goldwater Scholarships and other prestigious national fellowships and scholarships funded by this body.

Included among its graduates are public servants at every level, including most notably former Vice President of the United States James "Schoolcraft" Sherman; former Secretary of State, Secretary of War, U.S. Senator and recipient of the 1912 Nobel Peace Prize Elihu Root; current Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack; and former U.S. Ambassadors Arnold Raphel, William Luers, Sol Linowitz, Michael Klosson and Edward Walker. The College also counts among its alumni prominent business leaders, scientists, artists, educators, physicians, ministers, lawyers, entrepreneurs, entertainers, writers, and journalists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing and congratulating the students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees of Hamilton College on the occasion of their institution's two hundredth anniversary on May 26, 2012.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture. It was 150 years ago to this day that President Abraham Lincoln established the USDA.

As Americans, we have been blessed with the most successful agricultural economy on earth. U.S. consumers spend, on average, less than 10 percent of their disposable income on food—the lowest of any developed nation in the world. In Europe, consumers spend double that percentage and, in developing countries, consumers often spend more than half of their income on food. As Americans, we can be proud of our producers and the role our agriculture department has played in making advancements in the agricultural sector. Successes in agriculture lift all aspects of our economy.

American agriculture's success has been fueled largely by the hard work of our farmers and ranchers. They withstand incredible challenges on a daily basis to provide our nation with a safe, abundant and affordable food supply. More and more, our producers will be depended upon to feed not only Americans here at home, but a growing world population. I am confident our producers, our research institutions and the private sector will be able to harness innovation to meet the daunting challenge of feeding a world population that is expected to grow from around 7 billion to over 9 billion by the year 2050.

Agriculture will continue to represent the foundation of the U.S. economy. I am proud of what agriculture has been able to accomplish over the last 150 years with the support of USDA. It is with great respect for the farmers and ranchers in Southern Missouri I represent, and those in industry and our research institutions, that I recognize agriculture's great success story over the last 150 years.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRES- SIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to federal office, I have been a champion for women's equality and have introduced the Equal Rights Amendment, ERA, for the last 15 years. I will continue to advocate for this important legislation until women are included in the Constitution.

Despite determined efforts by many dedicated activists, the ERA has never become part of our Constitution. On the 40th anniversary of the Congress passing the Equal Rights Amendment, I was joined by a number of speakers who spoke about the importance of equality for women. I submit their comments below to demonstrate the wide support for this Constitutional amendment. It is my great hope that we will soon realize a time when my bill does not need to be reintroduced and speeches and events to raise awareness of the ERA are not needed; simply put, a time when the ERA has been adopted and true equality has finally been achieved.

SENATOR BIRCH BAYH

REMARKS ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT
BIRCH BAYH

To Bobbie Francis and Members of the NCWO-ERA Task Force:

I'm sorry I can't be there to share interesting conversations with all of you. I particularly appreciate the invitation from Bobbie Francis to join her and all of the friends of the NCWO-ERA Task Force in discussing an issue that has been close to my heart for more than 40 years.

Recent events have seen an assault on those who provide health care services to women and we have even seen questions raised anew about issues like contraception. It may have been 40 years since we passed the ERA in Congress but the reasons why many of us tried to write women's rights into the Constitution are still with us today.

As the Chief Senate Sponsor and floor leader of the Equal Rights Amendment, I remember well the intensity of the battle we fought in the early 1970's. America's history has been a steady expansion of individual rights, beginning with the expansion of the franchise in our early years. From the rights of former slaves after the Civil War to the expansion of the vote for women and then for 18 year olds, we have codified in our Constitution an ongoing commitment to individual rights. It seemed fitting then, and seems fitting now, that our Constitution speak loudly and clearly that the law allow no discrimination on the basis of gender.

While the principles involved in this battle remain, the country has evolved quite a bit since 1972. In 1972 there were 2 women in the US Senate and 13 in the House of Representatives. Now there are 17 women Senators and 75 Congresswomen. There were no female Governors in 1972 and had been only 3 in all our history before that, there are 6 now. We have had a female Speaker of the House and have scores of CEOs, business owners and leaders in all walks of life who are female. The number of women elected to state legislatures across the country is larger than ever before. The number of women in the military cannot be compared to the numbers 40 years ago. And in a recent issue of News-

week, long-time Supreme Court reporter Nina Totenberg spoke about taking the job at NPR in the 70s because the pay was too low for men to want the job.

There has indeed been progress, but the principles remain the same.

To open the sports pages in the morning is to see female athletes in a number of sports. To watch the television news in the evening has us watching many female anchor persons, weather ladies, and sports announcers. Even the major sports telecasts regularly involve on-air female broadcasters. But is there equal pay for equal work today? Are there still obstacles on the professional paths to boardrooms for women? Is sexual harassment still a prominent issue in offices around America and in our military?

It is still fitting in the 21st century for our nation to include in its basic law the principle that discrimination based on sex has no place in American life. It is fitting for our daughters and granddaughters to be reminded that their parents and grandparents took a stand to protect their futures and to ensure that they have an equal place in modern America.

In closing, let me stress that the ERA is still the right thing to do, not only in principle but in every day practice.

Thank you for your continued, dedicated efforts.

JANET KOPENHAVER, FEW

JANET KOPENHAVER, WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW), REMARKS AT 3/22 PRESS CONFERENCE

I want to thank Rep. Carolyn Maloney and all the co-sponsors on the ERA bill for their continuing support of women's issues. I am so happy to be here representing Federally Employed Women. The enactment of an Equal Rights Amendment is our number one legislative priority and our members have been busy sending letters to their Representatives urging them to co-sponsor this critical bill.

On my way in today on the metro, I was carrying one of those green ERA signs, a woman came up to me and said "Wow—that sign is old." No kidding! Too old in my opinion. Hopefully we can soon put all these signs in the Sewall Belmont House as historical artifacts no longer needed for lobbying!

But really, in a nutshell, no one in this country would say that women are not equal to men. No one! So let's end the hypocrisy and pass the ERA this year. The time has come and the time is now!

SARAH BEAR

REMARKS BY SARAH BEAR, EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 22, 2012

I cannot begin to tell you how many people I've encountered that believe the Equal Rights Amendment has been passed. They are shocked when I break the unfortunate news to them that it has not, in fact, been passed. Shouldn't this, in and of itself, be proof that the ERA should be ratified?

It is such a simple statement: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridge by the United States or by any state on account of sex." Is it so difficult to ratify this amendment and permanently add it to the Constitution? What makes men, women, or transgendered individuals so different that we don't deserve equal protection under the Constitution? We're all people. We all feel, cry, smile, laugh. We're just as much human as the person next to us, whether or not we share similar reproductive organs.

As a distant relative of the inspirational suffragist and author of the ERA, Alice Paul, it is in my blood to fight for this basic right. I promise to her, the Alice Paul Institute, and all the amazing women and men who have fought and continue to fight for equal

rights, that I will not relent or give up. Alice said, "I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complication. But to me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." How true this statement is.

TERRY O'NEILL, NOW

REMARKS BY TERRY O'NEILL, EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT PRESS CONFERENCE, MARCH 22, 2012

Thank you to Congresswoman Maloney for having the courage and the tenacity to re-introduce the ERA every year until we get it done. We will not give up. We will get the ERA one way or another. I have told people over and over again, if we have to get the ERA swinging from the chandeliers, that's the route we'll take to get it. I'm so grateful for all the leaders we have here. Thank you for your leadership. Women are only 17 percent of the United States Congress. That is not okay. Women are only three out of nine Supreme Court justices and given what the Supreme Court has started doing to women these days, that is really not okay. This year—2012, needs to be the year of the women. If we had had women in state legislatures in those key legislatures in 1982 when we almost ratified the ERA back then, in Illinois, in Florida and in North Carolina. If we had had women and if we had had people of color, men and women of color, we know that we would have ratified the ERA. We have got to change the complexion of our elected leadership. It starts this year, women will be voting this year, we've had it, we've had enough. Enough with the war on women, we're going to elect more women to support the ERA.

Thank you so much.

—Terry O'Neill, National Organization for Women, President.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. BOB GIBBS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing into law an act of Congress establishing the United States Department of Agriculture. Since May 15, 1862, the USDA's work on agriculture, economic development, science, natural resource conservation and many other important issues has impacted the lives of generations of Americans.

As the first Member of Congress who has also served as President of a state farm bureau and a farmer of 30 years, I know firsthand the valuable programs the USDA provides to rural America. Whether you need help with growing, grazing, or international trade, the USDA works to ensure that Ohio's number one industry remains a viable part of American society. The USDA has taken historic steps to improve the lives of rural Americans and build thriving economies in rural communities, a fact that does not go unnoticed in our state with over 26,207,000 acres of farmland.

I am proud to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this column by American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman, which highlights the story of the USDA and the important role science and technology played in the American farming industry.

[From the AgAgenda, May 2012.]

USDA: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF INNOVATION

(By Bob Stallman)

President Abraham Lincoln is known for many achievements during his lifetime, but a little known triumph of his—that affects farmers and ranchers greatly—was the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture 150 years ago.

On May 15, 1862, President Lincoln signed into law a bill establishing a new Department of Agriculture, which was specifically directed to acquire information through "practical and scientific experiments" and to collect and propagate "new and valuable seeds and plants" and distribute these to the nation's agriculturists. It is clear, Lincoln was a man beyond his time.

A MAN WITH A VISION

Lincoln understood the importance of agriculture to America, and, as importantly, he realized science and technology played a major role in the farming industry. Without a doubt, I believe Lincoln today would embrace the many technological advancements farmers use on their farms, including biotechnology.

Lincoln once wrote: "Every blade of grass is a study, and to produce two, where there was but one, is both a profit and a pleasure. And not grass alone, but soils, seeds and seasons—hedged, ditches and fences, draining, droughts and irrigation—plowing, hoeing and harrowing—reaping, mowing and threshing—saving crops, pests of crops, diseases of crops and what will prevent or cure them . . . the thousand things of which these are specimens—each a world of study within itself."

The federal government was, from the beginning of its involvement in agriculture, dedicated to scientific progress in farming. This commitment continues today and is shared by farmers and ranchers across the country, regardless of the methods of food and fiber production they use—organic, conventional or biotechnology. They all need science.

FULL SPEED AHEAD

The importance of science and innovation—biotechnology in particular—to agriculture will be significant as we face several challenges in the years ahead. The world's population just passed the 7 billion mark. According to the World Food Program, the best estimate is that 1 billion people (one in seven) are hungry and food insecure. By 2050 the world's population will rise to 9 billion people. This means we must double world food production by 2050 in order to meet this challenge.

Further, we must accomplish this hefty goal while realizing that our Earth is fragile. To take care of our environment, we must embrace agriculture research, science, innovation and biotechnology.

When it comes to medical care, communication and transportation we accept the importance of innovation. We need to do the same when it comes to the production of food.

Earlier this year, the United Nations issued a special report recognizing that "new 'green' biotechnologies can . . . improve resistance to pests, restore soil fertility and contribute to the diversification of the rural economy." Sound familiar? Seems a lot like what Lincoln described as a goal 150 years ago.

Scientists have developed new seeds that can improve yields while resisting disease and requiring less water. That is critical as 70 percent of all fresh water is used by agriculture. American consumers and consumers all over the world can feel safe with this technology and confident it will improve our environment.

While meeting these quantitative challenges and meeting our environmental goals, we will strive to focus even greater attention on the qualitative side, to also meet the needs of consumers who express a preference for foods grown "their way." Science is the answer for all these missions, and today's USDA is helping to blaze that trail.

So, Happy Birthday USDA and best wishes as we continue down the road for another 150 years. America's farmers, ranchers and research scientists can lead the way to a new 21st century Green Revolution if we follow the vision of Abraham Lincoln. As Honest Abe said, "Leave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today."

BOONE COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF
JESSE RICE BROWNING

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, during this season of renewal, it is fitting that we recognize those who, through their service to the public good, paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today, every 53 hours a law enforcement officer falls in the line of duty in this country.

These men and women got up in the mornings, dressed for work, kissed their family goodbye, and went out the door just as we do each morning, but with one tremendous difference. As law enforcement officers, they knew the challenges of a most typical day for them, would amount to unimaginable odds for any of us to face on our best day.

What they viewed as just doing their job, the rest of us know goes to the heart of human courage and commitment. They died so the rest of us could live. Their sacrifice allowed us to grow, prosper and, for their families, as scripture tells us, "to go forth and multiply."

In this, our Nation's Capital, each year for the past several years on May 15th, a few blocks west of our Capitol Building, our country pauses to reflect on the noble and selfless acts of these officers who represented the law of our great republic. Here, at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during National Police Week in a solemn and moving memorial candlelit vigil ceremony, Americans gather around our Nation's living tribute to fallen officers throughout the land.

Though it is a monument hewn of solid blue gray stone marble to withstand the ages—it is, Mr. Speaker, as alive as you or I. For on its face are forever carved the names of fathers, mothers, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, grand paws and grand maws, cousins galore and friends to countless numbers of us. As long as we live, Mr. Speaker, they, nor their memories, will ever die.

This year, two names have been added to the face of the monument's more than 19,000 names of law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty. These two sons of the State of West Virginia, two loyal public servants from the heart of the coalfields of Appalachia, and two officers of the law from Boone County, West Virginia, who were simply doing their jobs when the face and forces of evil struck to rob them and their families of any future.

All West Virginians owe them a deep debt of gratitude and we are indebted, as well, to