

this is a good start. It is good for farmers, good for taxpayers. It continues to move our Nation's food and agriculture policy in a positive direction.

The farm bill is a jobs and innovation bill. Every \$1 billion in exports supports 8,400 American jobs that cannot be shipped overseas, according to the USDA. In 2011, U.S. agriculture enjoyed a trade surplus of \$42 billion, \$42 billion we sold more than we brought in from abroad in farm products, the highest annual surplus on record. Contrast that with the billions and billions, tens of billions, hundreds of billions of dollars in trade deficit we have in manufacturing in other parts of our economy.

There is so much room for growth, not only overseas but also at home. Bio-based manufacturing and renewable energy are two examples of the potential that American agriculture holds for U.S. economic growth and for job creation. Alongside food production, farm-based and renewable energy production, such as advanced biomass energy, can serve as the engine of the rural economy for decades to come. It is investments in agriculture such as this, such as the ones this bill maintains in research and energy and bio-based products and food production, that will enable continued creation of good-paying jobs, again that will not, that cannot be shipped overseas.

The farm bill provides economic relief to millions of Americans. Although we call it a farm bill, this bill is fundamentally an economic relief bill. For farmers, the bill provides financial assistance to weather tough times or adopt conservation practices that protect clean water and healthy soils and wildlife habitat. For millions of Americans, this bill helps put dinner on the table when wages are tight and families are struggling to make ends meet and keeps children from going hungry. That is why this bill is so important. I add, the Presiding Officer from New Jersey has always been such a strong advocate of these nutrition programs. We both understand that more than one-third of people who are getting SNAP, who are receiving what we used to call food stamps, are working families, people who are only making \$9, \$10, \$11 an hour, sometimes working two jobs, and still cannot make it without some food assistance.

The bill includes resources for SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which is one of the Nation's most essential antipoverty programs. In addition to supporting people who are struggling to feed their families, SNAP supports retailers and businesses and the farmers and ranchers who grow the food.

At a time of high unemployment, SNAP participation now exceeds 44 million Americans, half of whom are children. Many of these families are working families. Half the people served by SNAP are children.

SNAP participation is expected to fall as the economy recovers. The bill continues to support SNAP with mini-

mal modifications. It continues and increases support for commodity distribution to food banks at a time when food pantry shelves in Ohio and across the Nation are bare. But I want to be clear. I have serious concerns with the cuts, not large cuts such as the House Agriculture Committee wants to do and that Senator PAUL tried to do—very unsuccessfully—and that Congressman RYAN made with his budget from the House of Representatives—nothing even close to the tens and tens of billions of dollars they want to cut from nutrition. But I am concerned about this \$4 billion cut. When compared to the \$130 billion in cuts to SNAP in the Ryan budget, the modification in this bill was done carefully.

The farm bill is a deficit reduction bill, a jobs bill, an economic relief bill. It affects every American every day. I commend, again, Chairwoman STABENOW and Ranking Member ROBERTS. Their joint effort to work across party lines is to be commended.

These months of work and deliberation are at risk because some insist on debating dozens of unrelated amendments and others seek to score political points at the expense of American families and at the expense of American farmers. This is not the time to debate conceal-and-carry laws or American aid to Pakistan or the future of the Labor Relations Board. Not that any of those are not debatable or any of those aren't a place where people can have reasonable differences on public policy. But conceal and carry, American aid to Pakistan, the future of the Labor Relations Board should not be part of the farm bill.

I urge my colleagues to work together and halt the impasse that keeps us from making progress on this bill.

I am the first Ohio Senator who is a member of the Agriculture Committee in 40 years. In my first month in the Senate, I made a request to Senator REID to join the Agriculture Committee, along with other duties, because of the importance of agriculture in my State. One out of seven jobs in Ohio is related to agriculture. It is the largest business, largest industry in my State. It matters so much to Ohio.

My position on the Agriculture Committee has helped as I have done roundtables around Ohio and met with literally hundreds of farmers, including grain farmers, dairy farmers, specialty crop farmers, nursery farmers, tree farmers, experts at Ohio State in the agriculture school, and I have come prepared to help write this farm bill both back in 2007 and this year. This is a major step forward. It is something of which we can be proud.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA HERZOG

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge a dedicated public servant who will be retiring this month after 37 years of service to the General Services Administration. Marcia Herzog started her career with GSA in 1973, working for the Federal Supply Service. From 1982 to 1987, she moved to GSA headquarters to work with the Office of the Comptroller, then on to the Public Buildings Service and then to work for the Executive Secretariat. In 1987, Marcia joined the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. In 1997, she assumed the role of national director for the Congressional Support Program, which she continues to hold. For these last 16 years, Marcia has worked in unison with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, the Committee on House Administration, and the House Chief Administrative Officer to oversee and ensure that district offices of both Senate and House Members are located and equipped to each Member's specification and desire. Her poise, professionalism, wisdom, and support have successfully guided the congressional service representatives of GSA, who operate in each of the 10 GSA regions of the United States, to provide the highest level of customer service when responding to congressional office needs in Member home State offices across the country. We congratulate Marcia on her diligent service to this body and offer her our heartfelt well wishes as she transitions to her next endeavor.

TRIBUTE TO MCCREARY COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a very special part of my home State, the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I am speaking of McCreary County, in the southeastern region of the State. This year, McCreary County celebrates its centennial; according to the McCreary County Museum located in the heart of historic downtown Stearns, KY, the county's birthday was on March 12, 2012. One hundred years ago, Kentucky Governor James B. McCreary signed the legislation creating the county, named after himself, as the 120th and last county of the Bluegrass State, formed out of portions of Wayne, Pulaski and Whitley counties.

The people of McCreary County today have upheld the rich traditions and legacy of the hardy Kentuckians who were there for that county's founding 100 years ago. They have exemplified the very best of what southeastern Kentucky has to offer, they have kept Kentucky's history alive, and they represent the future of Kentucky and our Nation. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in wishing the people of McCreary County the very best as they celebrate their centennial.

An article published in the McCreary County Record recently described the events of McCreary County's centennial celebration. I ask unanimous consent that said article appear in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to appear as follows:

[From the McCreary County Record, Mar. 15, 2012]

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! COUNTY MARKS 100 YEARS
WITH DAY-LONG CELEBRATION

(By Janie Slaven)

WHITLEY CITY.—The past, present, and future converged Monday as McCreary County celebrated its centennial.

Festivities centered around the local courthouse, which attracted state and federal dignitaries.

Representatives for Governor Steve Beshear and U.S. Senator MITCH MCCONNELL read congratulatory letters while State Representative Sara Beth Gregory presented McCreary County Judge-Executive Doug Stephens with a resolution passed by the House on Friday.

Judge Stephens opened the ceremony with a prayer. Quoting *I Chronicles*, he acknowledged that McCreary County has suffered the "curse of poverty and scourge of drugs" but asked God to heal our land. The judge went on to praise the endurance and resilience of our citizens, saying that McCreary County is not just a spot on a map but a way of life.

"We have a rich history but we also have a rich future," Judge Stephens said.

To illustrate that history, the bulk of the ceremony was devoted to "A Governor's Visit"—the dramatization of namesake Governor James B. McCreary's 1914 visit to Kentucky's latest county—by local historian Sam Perry. Through speeches from the governor (as portrayed by Jimmy Waters), first elected county judge Joseph Williams (Adam Phillips), State Rep. William B. Creekmore (Grady Wilson), and narration from former judge-executive Jimmie W. Greene; the play gave the crowd attending a lesson in who settled the Big South Fork region and what went into forging the new McCreary County from portions of Wayne, Pulaski and Whitley counties.

Following the play, Judge Stephens ceremoniously cut the first piece of the county birthday cake (prepared by Yummi Bakery)—which he presented to the oldest citizen in attendance, Fannie Morgan, who turned 100 last November. The second piece went to the youngest citizen, four-year-old Bailey Gilreath.

The crowd then gathered into the fiscal courtroom, where county officials debuted the recently refurbished portraits of 14 of McCreary County's 19 judges and judge-executives. Centennial Commission member Shane Gilreath noted that the elite group came from all walks of life. They were attorneys, social workers, farmers, miners, teachers and more.

Photographs of Mahan Renfro and Joseph Williams, which had hung in the portrait gallery and have been replaced by paintings, were presented to family members. Maxine Lawson, "Cookie" Joe Williams and Debbie Jo Peterson represented three generations of the Williams family. Greene, Renfro's nephew by marriage, joked that he had lobbied for a portrait to represent each of his four terms.

Deputy Judge-Executive Andrew Powell and McCreary County Museum director Amy Combs recognized the artists in attendance—including Dorothy Washam, Dale Crabtree, and Nadine Heth—before unveiling two new portraits honoring the last two judge-execu-

tives. Judge Stephens's portrait will be hung at a later date, but Blaine Phillips's portrait was hung by his wife, Kathy, and twin brother, Wayne.

Before breaking for a luncheon hosted by the McCreary County Historical Society, those attending had the opportunity to view a number of exhibits displayed throughout the courthouse's ground floor.

If the morning was devoted to our county's past, the evening focused firmly on the future. After signing a proclamation honoring the county's centennial during Monday's regular fiscal court meeting, Judge Stephens signed another in honor of the Girl Scouts' 100th anniversary. Local troops—assisted by representatives from the Daniel Boone National Forest's Stearns Ranger District (which is celebrating its 75th anniversary)—planted a sugar maple on the courthouse lawn.

If you missed Monday's celebration, you have several opportunities to obtain centennial keepsakes.

For a limited time, the U.S. Postal Service is offering a postmark commemorating the occasion. Mail order requests for the special cancellations will be available for 30 days beginning March 12.

Customers should allow at least a 2-inch-by-4-inch space in the stamp area for the postmark and have postage applied to cards or letters before mailing them—inside another envelope—to: Postmaster, McCreary County Centennial Station, 1387 North Highway 27, Whitley City, KY 42653.

The McCreary County Museum is offering a set of 12 historic postcards as well as DVDs of the day's events for \$10 each. Call 376-5730 for more information.

WORLD WAR II VETERANS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, finally, let me shift gears to another topic I care deeply about; that is, taking care of our veterans. This weekend a group of World War II veterans from Montana will be visiting our Nation's capital. With a great deal of honor and respect, I extend a hearty Montana welcome to each and every one of them.

Together, they will visit the World War II Memorial and share stories about their service. This journey will no doubt bring about a lot of memories. I hope it will give them a deep sense of pride also.

What they achieved together almost 70 years ago was remarkable. That memorial is a testament to the fact that a grateful nation will never forget what they did nor what they sacrificed. To us, they were the greatest generation. They left the comforts of their family and their communities to confront evil from Iwo Jima to Bastogne. Together, they won the war in the Pacific by conquering an empire and liberated a continent by defeating Hitler and the Nazis.

To them, they were simply doing their jobs. They enlisted in unprecedented numbers to defend our freedoms and our values. They represented the very best of us and made us proud.

From a young age I remember playing the bugle at the memorial services of veterans of the first two world wars. It instilled in me a profound sense of respect I will never forget.

Honoring the service of every generation of American veterans is a Mon-

tana value. I deeply appreciate the work of the Big Sky Honor Flight, a nonprofit organization that made this trip possible.

To the World War II veterans making the trip this weekend, I salute you. We will always be grateful, and we will never forget your service or sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO STAN SLOSS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, as every one of our colleagues will attest, the work we do in this Chamber is made possible by many exceptional people who do not carry an election certificate. I am speaking of the dedicated staffers who work on committees and in our personal offices.

Many of the staff members we interact with every day go on to build their own careers in political life, while others use the skills they developed here to work in rewarding ways for the private sector. Others continue in public service with nonprofit organizations or other kinds of government service. A few will make their contribution to public service by staying here as employees of the House of Representatives or the Senate. A smaller and more distinct group will develop such broad expertise in the legislative branch that they might as well carry an election certificate of their own because of the respect, esteem, and high regard in which they are held. These are the men and women whom other congressional staffers seek for their wisdom and guidance. These are the wise people whom Senators and Congressmen look upon as peers, not only because of their good counsel and uniquely honed years of experience but also because they often know more about the legislative process than legislators themselves.

Among this more and most distinct group of staff members, there is a standout, my friend Stan Sloss. I know the Presiding Officer knows Stan Sloss. Stan is marking his 14th year of service in my office but also 37 total years of work in Congress.

A native of Glenwood Springs, CO, Stan is a graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School. He came to Washington, DC, in the late 1960s, working first in the General Counsel's Office of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Stan's congressional career started in 1975 when he joined the staff of what was then known as the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives.

In 1977 Stan became a counsel to the new Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands chaired by former Representative John Seiberling, an iconic past Member of the House of Representatives. In this capacity, Stan worked with both Representative Seiberling and my father, Morris Udall, who was chairman of the full Interior Committee.

Stan has had many successes, but one that I am most proud of is his work to help draft legislation that became the