

inspiration to those of us who know him. Since he first became a member of the board of the Housewares Charity Foundation, he has worked tirelessly to help them make a difference. Through these difficult times, HCF has consistently raised more than \$2 million each year—a testament to Keith's dedication and the entire organization's commitment to helping others.

I wish both honorees only the best and look forward to following their charitable work in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION OF THE TAZE-
WELL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Agriculture is a thriving industry and a way of life for many in Central Illinois, and the Tazewell County Farm Bureau continues to cultivate the traditional values of hard work and community involvement cherished by farmers for the past 100 years.

Much has changed since 1913 when the Tazewell County Farm Bureau was founded as the first organization in Illinois to use "farm bureau" in its name. Woodrow Wilson had just been elected president, and American agriculture was in the midst of a Golden Age with demand for farm commodities and land values both at high levels. While steam tractors were used by some more affluent farmers, horse- and oxen-drawn plows were still common on most farms, and would remain the dominant tools of the trade until the 1950s. The Future Farmers of America would not be founded for another 15 years.

Fast forward to today, 100 years later, and agriculture in Tazewell County is still thriving, led by the Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Tazewell County farmers have more than 166,000 acres of farmland in production, producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. The Farm Bureau provides support services to farmers, including starting the organization that today is the Pekin Insurance Company, which provides farmers' insurance for producers across the area. The Farm Bureau also works to carry on the traditions and values of farming to future generations, as well as to ensure that older members of the agriculture community continue to have a voice, through their Young Leaders and Prime-Timers programs. Both programs have been recognized as among the best in Illinois.

The celebration of the centennial for the Tazewell County Farm Bureau is a time to reflect on the triumphs and hardships that agriculture in Central Illinois has seen over the last 100 years, but it is also a time to look forward. American farmers continue to feed the world, and the Tazewell County Farm Bureau ensures that they have a local partner in that effort. For all of the technological advances made in agriculture, nothing can replace the resilient spirit and strong community fostered by the Farm Bureau. I wish them fair weather and sustained success over the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
GERALD VIRGIL MYERS

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and an American hero, Gerald Virgil Myers.

Virgil passed away on Sunday, March 10, at 94 years old.

He served our country in the Army during WWII, having fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Three American G.I.s discovered the Buchenwald Concentration camp from entering the west gate; Virgil was one of them. At the time when he entered there were 26,000 inmates in the camp.

He earned many honors including the Silver Star medal, the Bronze Star medal with Valor, the Purple Heart medal, the Infantry Combat Badge medal, the Good Conduct medal, the Victory Medal WWII, received the Medal of Honor from Luxembourg Government, the Mairie Medal by French Government, was declared an Honorary Citizen of Luxembourg in 2004, and an Honorary Citizen of France in 2005.

When he returned home from the war in January 1946, he was discharged from the Army. He went back to work for Quaker Oats Co. in Kansas and attended night classes at Johnson Business College. Virgil and his wife, Emma "Bobbie" Tracy Myers, retired to Lakeland, Fla. Bobbie and Virgil had celebrated their 70th anniversary before Bobbie's passing.

He loved golfing and traveling and was very involved in the community, as a member of the Polk Co. Veterans Association and a President of Central Florida Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

We in central Florida and all across America owe a debt of gratitude to this great man and his service to our country and community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE TOWN OF
PROCTORVILLE, NC

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Proctorville, North Carolina, as it celebrated its centennial on Friday March 8th. While Congress was not in session on its centennial, I want to take this opportunity to pay homage to this small town in rural North Carolina today.

Proctorville's history dates back to 1859. The fifty acres the town was founded on was originally owned by Calvin Graham. Mr. Graham gave the land the town was to be settled on to a slave by the name of Dennis Graham.

On July 20th, 1899, Augustus Mellier purchased a portion of the original fifty acres for the construction of the Carolina and Northern railroad. Mellier developed the land surrounding the tracks into four blocks for development. This was the beginning of the new town of Proctorville, named after Edward Knox Proctor Jr., a Lumberton lawyer and promoter of the Carolina and Northern Railroad.

Mr. Proctor purchased the town from Mellier and planned to develop it into an ideal town, but his plans were cut short due to illness. He contracted typhoid fever and died prematurely in December of 1907.

This setback was overcome and the town charter was written by E.J. Britt of Lumberton, North Carolina and incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1913. At the time, George B. McLeod, brother-in-law of Edward K. Proctor, was serving in the Assembly and was a proponent of incorporation.

Proctorville always produced the major regional crops of North Carolina: tobacco, cotton, and corn. Expectation in production grew as the railroad expanded through the state and the town eventually became a major trading hub for farmers and even outlasted the railroad.

Proctorville has the honor of being the smallest town in the United States to have its own public library. It was established by W.R. Surles and continues to be used to this day.

The Town's most recognized citizen is State Senator Michael Walters who has represented Proctorville and the surrounding community since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Town of Proctorville as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

HAPPY 100TH, PROCTORVILLE!

[From the Fayetteville Observer,
Mar. 7, 2013]

(By Ali Rockett)

The tiny town in southeastern Robeson County is celebrating a big birthday today.

But Mayor Allen Fowler said the real party begins on Saturday with the town first-ever parade—or at least the first in modern memory, Fowler said.

The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Main Street from Spruce Street to the town's community center. Following the parade, the town will hold a ceremony in Proctorville Baptist Church with keynote speaker and Proctorville native N.C. Rep. Michael Walters.

The .3-mile parade route nearly stretches the width of the entire town, which encompasses about 260 acres.

Proctorville was established in the early 1900s as the crossroads of two major railroads—the Atlantic Coast Railroad running north and south, and the Raleigh-Charleston Railroad running east and west.

While the town's incorporation is only 100 years old, it started much earlier than that, according to Fowler.

In 1866, a plantation owner Calvin Graham deeded 200 acres to a slave, Dennis Graham, for \$60. It had taken Dennis Graham nearly 20 years to make the \$60.

Then in the early 1900s, a railroad worker Augustus Miller bought part of Graham's land as right-of-way for the railroad. Miller named the area after Lumberton lawyer Edward Knox Proctor Jr., who worked to get the railroad laid through the county.

Proctor later bought the land from Miller, but died before he could build up the town.

Proctorville was relatively dormant through 1940 when the railroad tracks were taken up.

The town's claim to fame is its library.

In 2009, the W.R. Surles Memorial Library—rumored to have once been named the world's smallest in the "Guinness Book of World Records"—was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

With about 2,800 books, the library's circulation is nearly 23 times that of the population it serves.

About 117 people call Proctorville home.

Fowler said it's a simple, quiet life in town.

"We're just a small, rural town," Fowler said. "The average age is probably sixty. What I enjoy the most about it, we have very, very, very little crime."

Walters said he remembers riding to church as a young boy, but always had to be have.

"Everyone in town was your mother or dad because we all knew each other," Walters said. "If there has ever been a Mayberry in North Carolina, it could be Proctorville."

CONGRATULATING HAYWARD HIGH SCHOOL LADY 'CANES HOCKEY TEAM FOR WINNING THE WIAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hayward High School's Lady Hurricanes Hockey Team for winning the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association State Championship (WIAA) State Championship.

In only their sixth year playing at the varsity level, the Lady 'Canes defeated the Onalaska Hilltoppers in a thrilling 5–2 match. The Lady 'Canes out-skated their top-ranked opponent for three periods to take home Hayward High School's first state hockey championship.

The exemplary leadership set forth by the coaches combined with the perseverance of the players shows the true spirit Wisconsinites have for sports and competition. These student athletes proved their dedication to the team—starting practice at 6:45 AM, training 5–6 days per week, participating in community service, while never losing sight of academic importance.

Furthermore, the fans from Hayward and surrounding areas (affectionately known as Hurricane Nation), came out in full form to support their team, setting a record for the largest crowd in tournament history. The co-op team consists of players from Hayward, Spooner, Northwestern, and Phillips High Schools.

As a former hockey player myself, and a huge fan of the game, I am thrilled to call my hometown Lady 'Canes—State Champs for 2013. Congratulations ladies! You have earned it!

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 95TH BIRTHDAY OF BLONDELL HOLLINGSWORTH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mrs. Blondell Hollingsworth, who is turning 95 on April 7th, 2013.

Mrs. Hollingsworth was born on April 7th, 1918 in Burwell, GA. Later in her life, she attended Garner School of Nursing and then worked at Garner Hospital as a nurse. In 1939, she married Mr. Ralph Hollingsworth.

After that, she worked at Hollingsworth jewelry.

The Hollingsworths were blessed with one daughter, Sylvia Sue Hollingsworth, who was born in 1941. Mrs. Hollingsworth has three grandchildren, Angela, Tracey, and Holli, and she has six great-grandchildren. Their names are Ashley, Laura, Cierra, Pierre, Leigh, and Lindsay.

Mrs. Hollingsworth is a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Anniston, Alabama, where she currently resides. Her family is planning on having a quiet party to celebrate this milestone.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join Mrs. Hollingsworth's family and friends in wishing her a very happy 95th birthday.

INTRODUCING THE CROSS-BORDER TRADE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help introduce the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act (H.R. 1108), a bill that will create jobs and facilitate trade at no cost to the Federal Government. I am proud to join Congressman CUELLAR and MCCAUL in moving forward with this bipartisan bill.

El Paso, the city I represent, and other border communities rely on cross border trade for their economic vitality. Each year, \$80 billion in trade flows through El Paso's ports of entry. Residents of our sister city, Ciudad Juarez, annually contribute \$2 billion to El Paso's economy. In the El Paso region alone, this trade supports 100,000 jobs. Nationally, 6 million jobs are a direct product of bi-lateral trade between the U.S. and Mexico. Since 1990 this trade has grown by 600 percent and continues to increase each year. Unfortunately, capacity at our ports of entry has not kept pace. Despite increased staffing and use of technology, waits at our ports of entry are often unpredictable and unacceptably long. This harms our economy and our way of life along the border. We have friends and family and sometimes jobs on the other side and we need to be able to cross in a timely manner.

The Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act is a proactive first step to finding a solution to this problem. By authorizing public-private partnerships, this legislation would provide The Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) with effective new tools to improve infrastructure, expand capacity, and increase staffing at our ports of entry without creating new costs for taxpayers. For example, under this bill, the City of El Paso would have the ability to raise funds and enter into a partnership with CBP to cooperatively help fund increased staffing at our ports of entry. This could help keep all the lanes on one of our local bridges open for a longer period of time.

As Washington operates under serious fiscal constraints, we need this legislation more than ever. Earlier this month, as a result of sequestration, CBP officers along our border received furlough notices of 14 days. Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, has warned that failing to undo sequestration cuts could lead to 4 or 5 hour wait times at our ports of entry. The reality is clear—Congress

is unlikely to provide the resources we need to facilitate the legal and efficient flow of goods and people across our borders. We need innovative policies that allow communities who depend on cross-border trade to find creative solutions to our fiscal problems. The Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act is such a solution. At a time of heightened partisanship, this legislation is proof that when Democrats and Republicans work together, we can advance common sense ideas.

We need a 21st Century border policy that not only secures our border, but also recognizes the significance the border and our partnership with Mexico represent for our country and the economy. The Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act is an important part of that policy. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in supporting this critical legislation.

PRESERVING THE WELFARE WORK REQUIREMENT AND TANF EXTENSION ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed to say that I must rise today in opposition to this legislation. Yet again, the House is taking programs that should enjoy bipartisan support—such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—and adding such partisan provisions that make it wholly impossible to support.

In July 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a memo outlining a program for states to consider that would allow for demonstration projects to test alternative job placement performance measures for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients. This was in direct response to the requests from at least 29 states who wanted more flexibility on how they measured work participation. Many of these states requested a waiver so they could focus on more outcome-based measures, rather than job placement rates. The memo released by HHS outlines specific conditions that must be met by a state to receive a waiver: a clear and detailed explanation of how the alternative proposal would increase employment by 20 percent, as well as show that there are clear, measurable goals for work placement.

Unfortunately, my Republican colleagues would have you believe that the Administration is gutting the work requirements under TANF. This could not be further from the truth. In fact it should be obvious to any honest man who is not blind that this proposal does not waive the work requirements. Rather, this is the Administration being responsive to the needs of the states and providing them with more flexibility to test which strategies they think will work best for their residents. This type of state flexibility is routinely called for by Republican colleagues in federal programs, and now that this Administration has embraced the concept, my colleagues want to claim that welfare recipients will be able to stay on welfare and not work. In my experience, when the Administration has heard your complaints and takes the steps necessary to address these complaints you claim victory.