

As Commander, Jake met with Presidents Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton to discuss issues facing Hispanic veterans. He was selected by the Department of Defense and State to participate in fact-finding missions to Bosnia, Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Iraq. He has encouraged young students to continue their education and pursue careers that would further their goals, including careers in the military, just as the Marines helped launch his own career.

Following his years as National Commander, Jake continued to remain an active advocate, serve as a voice for veterans, and recognize the contributions made by the Hispanic community. Jake has been an advocate of education as a way for people, especially Hispanics, to excel and be successful in life. Jake remains an active member of my own Veteran's Committee, carrying on as a voice for our new generation of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, Jake Ignacio Alarid is a man who has selflessly given his time and efforts to the Los Angeles community and to Hispanic veterans across the country. He has become an icon in our community and has impacted the lives of countless men, women, and children during his lifetime. Jake exemplifies the true meaning of service to one's country and service to others, and for that his community is grateful. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in wishing Jake a very happy 80th birthday.

HONORING THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Minnesota Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä to congratulate them on their Grammy award in the category of Best Orchestral Performance for their recording of Sibelius' first and fourth symphonies. The Minnesota Orchestra is a source of great pride for Minnesotans and is one of the institutions that makes our state's artistic culture so rich.

The Minnesota Orchestra began in 1903, the eighth major symphony orchestra to be established in the United States. Since then, it has represented Minnesota across the globe, performing in over 661 cities worldwide. Renowned composers Aaron Copeland and Igor Stravinsky have both guest-conducted the Orchestra.

Since its early years, the Minnesota Orchestra has been a great asset to our state, producing landmark recordings and touring ambitiously to critical acclaim and full houses. Under the leadership of former musical director Osmo Vänskä, the Orchestra has grown to elite, world-class status. In 2010, The New Yorker wrote of their March 1 performance at Carnegie Hall, "the Minnesota Orchestra sounded, to my ears, like the greatest orchestra in the world."

I felt great sadness, then, when the Orchestra suspended its season two years ago. From October 1, 2012 to January 14, 2014, the Minnesota Orchestra musicians suffered the longest lockout of any American orchestra in history, leading to the resignation of esteemed

conductor Vänskä and significant hardship for the musicians who went without a secure salary or benefits. This was a painful period for Minnesota arts. That's why I was thrilled when both sides were able to reach a contractual agreement earlier this month, and I look forward to seeing the Orchestra return to the stage in February.

The Orchestra has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to artistic excellence and integrity, and this Grammy is well-deserved. I appreciate all that the Orchestra and Osmo Vänskä have done and continue to do for Minnesota, and thank them for their exemplary achievement and service.

OPPOSING THE FARM BILL

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in reluctant opposition to the Farm Bill. While there is much to commend in this compromise, I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that cuts \$8.6 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

I applaud all my colleagues on the Agriculture Committee for their hard work and long hours spent putting this agreement together. Today's bill makes a number of much-needed changes to our nation's agricultural policy. It finally ends the practice of direct payments to farmers in favor of real crop insurance, a laudable achievement that the Agriculture Committee has been working towards for over a decade. The bill expands support for organic foods, local farm-to-table programs, and farmers' market nutrition, all of which I have strongly supported and will continue to champion.

This agreement also maintains important animal welfare provisions. In particular, I am thankful for Congressman SCHRADER's leadership in working to strip the King Amendment, which would have invalidated hundreds of state animal welfare laws, from the conference report. I am also pleased that the committee chose to include animal fighting restrictions that will help to forever end this abhorrent practice by making it a federal crime to attend an animal fighting event.

Unfortunately, beyond these important reforms, a full third of the savings in this bill comes from cuts to SNAP, formerly known as food stamps. SNAP helps millions of Americans living in poverty put food on the table, including nearly 200,000 in Rhode Island. Eighty percent of the households receiving SNAP earn below the federal poverty level, making it a vital form of assistance for countless working families. Today's bill will have a disproportionate effect on low-income seniors, working poor families with children, and individuals with disabilities. And for those who are currently struggling to find work, many of whom have just seen their emergency unemployment benefits expire due to the inaction of this Congress, the loss of SNAP assistance could be a crippling blow. Rhode Island has the highest unemployment rate in the nation; I will not vote to make life more difficult for thousands of our families.

Last year, I joined several of my colleagues in taking the SNAP Challenge, a commitment

to living on no more than \$4.50 per day in food costs. Every member of Congress should experience what it's like to subsist on this pittance amount to better understand the impacts of the decisions we make on the lives of our constituents. Sadly, as we observe the 50th Anniversary of the War on Poverty, the SNAP cuts in today's bill seem to be part of a war on the poor. This is only one element of a worrying trend from the House majority that would lead us toward a world where the rich take care of themselves and the poor fight for the scraps. I hope that my colleagues step back from this misguided policy before it is too late.

Although I am unable to vote for these cuts to food assistance, I will continue to work with my colleagues to promote sensible agricultural policies that promote healthy eating, sustainable farming practices, and ample food for every American.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2642, FEDERAL AGRICULTURE REFORM AND RISK MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today, the House will consider the Agriculture Act of 2014. While I appreciate the work that has gone into the crafting of this legislation, and the delicate compromise that this bill represents, I will not support the bill before us today because I refuse to support a bill that will increase hunger in America.

Throughout this process I have stood fast with many of my Democratic colleagues in strong opposition to attempts by the House majority to bleed as much money as possible from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The first draft of the House farm bill, which failed, would have cut \$20 billion from SNAP. In the next iteration of the legislation, the Republican response was to simply remove SNAP from the House bill and pass it without a single Democratic vote. When a Republican stand-alone nutrition bill finally came up it was no surprise that the bill proposed a cut of \$40 billion to SNAP.

The bill before us today would cut \$8.6 billion from SNAP. Significantly less than the House Republican proposal, but still more than twice what was proposed in the Senate farm bill initially. Rather than working with Democrats to craft a real strategy to address hunger in America, my Republican colleagues are insistent on stripping funds from this country's most comprehensive and successful anti-hunger program.

According to the most recent USDA data, about 47 million people benefit from SNAP nationally. Last year, on average, 876,266 people in New Jersey participated monthly in SNAP. In New Jersey's 12th Congressional District more than 40 percent of households receiving SNAP have children under 18 and more than 40 percent have at least one person over 60.

Since November 1, 2013, these families have been dealing with cuts to SNAP benefits because of an expiring provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that had

provided for a benefit increase. The SNAP cuts we are debating today come from ending a policy called "Heat and Eat." New Jersey is one of 17 states that choose to participate in "heat and eat" which can help states improve access to SNAP while reducing administrative burdens by allowing states to link a beneficiary's receipt of low-income heating assistance to their SNAP benefit. What this means is that New Jersey's SNAP beneficiaries will be among those principally affected by the changes to SNAP that are proposed in this farm bill.

As a country we must end our obsession with debt and deficits, especially when these reductions are coming at the expense of the less fortunate and the hungry. This legislation continues to favor the largest farmers and agri-business over family farms. The bill achieves significant savings by ending direct commodity payments, but then redirects these savings to fund new subsidized programs to pay the same farmers when crop prices or revenues fall below certain levels—continuing wasteful programs that benefit the largest farms and agri-businesses. We should be doing more to find greater savings by strengthening caps on commodity support programs and federal crop insurance subsidies that, under this bill, continue to enable some of the largest farms and agri-businesses to receive millions of taxpayer dollars year after year. While the bill moves us towards an agricultural safety net based primarily on crop insurance, we fail to make any real reforms to the crop insurance system. Agri-business is still heavily subsidized while the federal government guarantees very favorable profit margins for insurance companies while continuing to pick up the tab for all administrative and operating costs.

While some policy improvements are made for conservation, funding for these programs is still cut by about \$6 billion dollars as acreage in the Conservation Reserve Program is reduced steadily over the next 5 years. Additionally, the lack of reform to the U.S. sugar program threatens manufacturing jobs in New Jersey and around the U.S. This program cost taxpayers almost \$300 million last year alone, and will continue to create artificially high prices for consumers on the foods we enjoy every day. New Jersey farmers deserve a better farm bill. If we made real reforms to crop insurance and commodity support programs we could invest further in conservation, specialty crops, organic agriculture, small and beginning farmers, and of course, nutrition.

Following passage of the House farm bill I urged my colleagues in Leadership and in the Agriculture Committee to work towards a compromise that would eliminate the SNAP cuts and allow for the passage of a farm bill that supports agriculture without hurting hungry families. The Agriculture Act of 2014 is a success in many ways. The bill ends direct commodity payments to farmers, includes conservation compliance for crop insurance, and invests in specialty crops, organic foods, and sustainable agriculture. Unfortunately, the bill fails to complement these policies with a similar investment in the people who could use it most, the children, seniors and veterans who rely on SNAP for one of the most basic of needs—something to eat.

IN HONORING THE LIFE OF REAR ADMIRAL JOSEPH COLEMAN, USN (RET.)

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and life of Rear Admiral Joseph Coleman, USN (Ret.), who was a voice of vision and action in our Jacksonville community for decades. Joe spent 32 years that spanned two wars defending our country as a member of the United States Navy. But, Joe's commitment to his country did not end with retirement. Joe reassigned his leadership skills to make the City of Jacksonville a better place to live not only for retired and active duty military but for all its citizens.

Joe was a proud member of the Greatest Generation and always claimed the title of the "Navy's best fighter pilot." That may be debated among fighter pilots, but his contribution to the Navy was considerable and his dedication to his country steadfast. He flew Hellcats against the Japanese in World War II, served aboard the USS *Midway*, had thousands of flight hours in various aircraft, made 550 carrier ship landings, and commanded the aircraft carrier USS *Ranger* during the Vietnam War.

Joe's list of volunteer activities was both long and varied. Joe Coleman came to our town in the military, returned as a veteran, and became a great civic leader. Along the way Joe made a significant difference in many lives. His guiding hand led to a wonderful retirement community in Atlantic Beach called Fleet Landing. Today, hundreds of people live in this community near the sea. He was a leader in a plethora of military activities like the USO and the Navy League, but Joe also served on the board of Florida State Community College, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations. There are those who join boards and there are those who work and make a difference; Joe is in the latter category.

Perhaps it was his fighter pilot quick thinking or his finely attuned peripheral eyesight honed from hours of flying, but Joe Coleman is a man of vision who encouraged others to take courageous steps and to make difficult decisions. He is one of the leaders who changed Jacksonville from a sleepy Southern town into the robust metropolis it is today. We are considered the most military friendly town in America. Joe Coleman played a major role in making us that.

Joe recently passed away at the age of 91. He embodied our World War II heroes as a member of the Greatest Generation. Joe Coleman was Admiral Joe to his grandchildren, a patriotic civilian leader in our community, and a gentle naval hero to our veterans. I was proud to call him friend.

HONORING MATT LITTLE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 31, 2014

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Matt Little who passed away on Sunday at the age of 92. Mr. Little was an extraordinary man of leadership, integrity, and determination. His achievements in the civil rights movement will have a lasting impact on the citizens of Minnesota and the United States.

Mr. Little was born in August 1921 in North Carolina to a factory worker and homemaker. Graduating from North Carolina A&T University in 1948, he served 3½ years in the military during the Second World War in an all-black infantry regiment.

Upon his arrival to the Twin Cities, Mr. Little quickly realized that racism was a prevalent barrier to everything from job opportunities to housing. African-Americans could not stay at major hotels, and could only buy houses in certain neighborhoods.

Mr. Little found work in the post office, and started a landscaping business. After being denied a firefighter position due to race, he was part of a federal lawsuit to integrate the Minneapolis Fire Department. Mr. Little joined the NAACP in 1954 where he ultimately became president of his chapter and president of the Minnesota NAACP.

His civil rights accomplishments are plentiful. Mr. Little was prominent in supporting the integration of Minnesota public schools. He led the Minnesota delegation to participate in the March on Washington. He fought hard for fair housing laws in the state legislature. He helped create the Minneapolis Civil Rights Commission. He was a leading influence in the hiring of former Minnesota Vikings Head Coach Dennis Green, one of the pioneering African-American head coaches in franchise history.

Mr. Little also believed strongly in civic participation. He was elected four times as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, five times to Minnesota's State Executive Committee, and four times as an elector to cast one of the state's 10 electoral votes for U.S. President. In 2008, when he watched President Obama being sworn in, he said, "There are no words to describe this feeling. I waited all of my life, and now I've seen it happen in my lifetime."

Even in his later years, Mr. Little continued to be involved in the community. He maintained his column "Little by Little" featured in the Minnesota-Spokesman-Recorder, and was a fan of seniors tennis.

A man of grace and respect, Mr. Little held a pragmatic perspective in tackling racial inequality believing it was an issue that simply needed solving. Matt Little was a political inspiration for many, and I am proud to have known him in my lifetime. He will always be remembered as a relentless civil rights champion, a fervent public speaker, and a Minnesota icon. A truly exceptional leader, I believe if we live by Matt Little's actions, our country will be better for it for generations to come.