community, and his country. Thus, let us never forget the ultimate sacrifice he made to preserve the ideals of our country as a free and democratic society.

COMMENDING THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO RURAL AMERICA AND THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commend the Farm Credit System for 100 years of service to rural America and the agriculture industry.

The importance of the Farm Credit System is largely unknown to those outside of agriculture, often leaving it prone to political attacks. However, its importance to those it serves has never been greater, as declining commodity prices have led to a sharp downturn in the farm economy. Thankfully, the Farm Credit System and its members have been there to help lessen the burden.

To understand the Farm Credit System, it's important to look back to its roots. In the early 1900s, credit was largely unavailable or unaffordable in rural areas, and lenders avoided agricultural loans due to their associated risks. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a commission to explore the problem and ultimately found a need to develop more cooperatives and a cooperative credit system for farmers.

From that idea, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, eventually resulting in the establishment of the Farm Credit System—a system created to provide a permanent, reliable source of credit to American agriculture.

The Farm Credit System's mission has evolved over time. For example, in 1980, Congress empowered the Farm Credit System to provide valuable capital for infrastructure necessary for communities to thrive.

But since its inception, the Farm Credit System has never wavered in its mission of providing lines of credit to our rural communities in good times and in bad. During the late 1980's, our farmers and ranchers faced particularly difficult times. Fortunately, the agriculture industry and the Farm Credit System were able to weather the storm together and emerged even more prepared for the years to come. Today, I believe that the Farm Credit System is fundamentally safe and sound and in a position to endure the challenges that it will inevitably face.

To acknowledge and celebrate a century of dedicated service to rural America, I was proud to sponsor House Resolution 591, commemorating Farm Credit's 100th anniversary. Providing more than $237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers, the Farm Credit System has worked tirelessly in all 50 states to ensure a vibrant rural economy, and I am proud to congratulate them today.

DR. ROBERT E. WITT, CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SYSTEM

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and honor Dr. Robert E. Witt for his academic career and the impact he had on higher education. As Dr. Witt closes another successful chapter of his life as the Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, I believe it is important to recognize a few of his numerous accomplishments and his service to the nation and to the great State of Alabama.

Dr. Robert Witt began his educational endeavors at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1962. In 1964, Witt received his MBA from the Tuck School at Dartmouth College, and his Ph.D. in Business Administration from Penn State in 1968. Over the next 35 years, he established a career of excellence in higher education. Dr. Witt served in various positions at The University of Texas, including serving as dean of the Business School at the University of Texas at Austin and president of the University of Texas at Arlington.

In March of 2003, Dr. Witt was appointed President of The University of Alabama. During his nine-year tenure as President, Witt led an ambitious plan for academic growth and achievement that has positioned UA as one of America's fastest growing public universities. In 2012, he was appointed by the University's Board of Directors to serve as the Chancellor of the University of Alabama System. The University of Alabama System is comprised of the universities in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Huntsville as well as the University of Alabama at Birmingham Health System.

Dr. Witt has held several important roles aside from his leadership at the University of Alabama, including serving as the chairman of the Council of Presidents of Alabama's public colleges and universities. Dr. Witt has played a leadership role in various organizations during his time in Alabama which include the Governor's College & Career Ready Task Force; the American Cast Iron Pipe Company Board of Directors; the Alexis deTocqueville Executive Committee; the Advisory Board, Elizabeth Project Care Board. He is past chairman of the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, a past member of the Tuscaloosa County IDA Board and the Black Warrior Council Boy Scouts of America. In 2011 he was inducted into to the Alabama Academy of Honor, which is comprised of 100 living Alabamians elected on the basis of service to the state.

I want to commend Dr. Witt for his success and his dedication to higher education. While Dr. Witt's career may be coming to a close over the next few months, the impact he has left on students and faculty will echo for several generations to come. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

COMMEMORATING THE 176TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YELLOW RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH IN BAKER, FLORIDA

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 176th anniversary of the Yellow River Baptist Church in Baker, Florida.

For 176 years, the Yellow River Baptist Church has served the citizens of the Gulf Coast, and today it stands as a pillar of the Northwest Florida community as the first Baptist church in Walton and Escambia counties and one of the oldest Baptist churches in the State of Florida.

The Yellow River Baptist Church was established on Sunday, June 14, 1840 with the assistance of two representatives of the Bethlehem Baptist Association of Alabama, nearly five years before Florida entered its statehood. What started with a small handful of congregants residing along the upper Yellow River just south of the Alabama line has grown over the years, and throughout the course of its history, the church family has consisted of members including from the Baggett, Barrow, Blackman, Campbell, Carver, Clary, Cobb, Collingsworth, Cook, Danelly, Gartman, Gaskins, George, Hart, Helms, Howell, King, Madden, Milligan, Parker, Peaden, Richbourg, Senterfitt, Stegall, Steele, Stewart and Wilkinson families.

The success of the Yellow River Baptist Church, without question, is a true testament to the congregation's strong faith in the Lord and strength of its community, and it is my privilege to honor them on this important occasion.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vicki joins me in congratulating this small but faithful congregation for its 176 years of service and dedication to God and to the Northwest Florida community. May God grant the congregants of Yellow River Baptist Church many more years to come and may His blessings continue to shine down on them.