

is a permanent fixture in West Orange" and "is always there when you need him, always willing to lend anyone a hand." West Orange Mayor Sam Spina has stated that John, "is a loyal, dedicated, trustworthy friend, someone this entire town can count on. He takes care of so much for us, and we are very lucky to have him." His generosity to people, organizations, and causes is well known, as well.

Throughout the years, John has been a good friend of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alva Edison, Charles Edison, and former Governor Brendan Byrne. John has two children, John and Robert, three grandchildren, Karen, Bryan and Kevin, and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, John's family and friends, and the township of West Orange in recognizing John Petroll's outstanding and invaluable service to the community of West Orange.

CARDOZO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL'S  
CONSTITUTIONAL SCHOLARS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 1997*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, students from Cardozo Senior High School gave an outstanding performance in the national finals competition "We the People . . . The Citizens and the Constitution National Academic Program" which is administered by the Center for Civic Education.

These talented young students competed against 50 other classes from throughout the Nation and demonstrated a working knowledge of the fundamental ideas and values of the American constitutional government. The national finals competition simulated a congressional hearing where students testified as constitutional experts before a panel of judges.

I want to encourage these promising Cardozo Senior High School constitutional scholars Davida Baldwin, Ta Hoang, Andrea Jones, Thomas Richardson, Suleimon Shifaw, Tiffany Simms, Antoinette Stephenson, Zerai Kifle, Quana Teleferro, Levi Ruffin, Veronica Nguyen, and Toan Vu. I want to also salute Mr. Bruce Pendleton for utilizing strong learning patterns in teaching American Government.

I ask that this body join me in congratulating these young people, Mr. Bruce Pendleton, and the District of Columbia Coordinator, Sharon Yohannes-Bocar on this worthy accomplishment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM—NEW YORK STATE'S 1997 STATE CHAMPIONS

**HON. SUE W. KELLY**

OF NEW YORK  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 1997*

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, for the second year in a row, the members of Yorktown High School's girls lacrosse team have won the New York State Public High School Athletic Association's [NYSPLHSAA] girls lacrosse State championship, and I would like to take

a few moments to recognize these young women from my district, each of whom has exhibited great dedication, outstanding teamwork, and extraordinary perseverance.

In 1996, the Yorktown Cornhuskers won the NYSPLHSAA girls lacrosse competition in Division B. Over the past year, increasing student enrollment at Yorktown High School placed the girls lacrosse team in Division A.

Mr. Speaker, any sports fan would be inspired by the manner in which the Yorktown High School girls lacrosse team responded to their placement in the highly competitive Division A. The Cornhuskers found themselves competing against teams representing schools with student bodies as much as four times larger than Yorktown's. In spite of the odds, the Yorktown High School girls lacrosse team played a remarkable season, decisively winning the NYSPLHSAA Division A championship. In doing so, the Yorktown Cornhuskers became the first girls' lacrosse team in the State of New York to first win a championship in one division and then win in a higher division the immediate following year.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate each of these motivated young women, as well as their parents and coaches, for the Yorktown Cornhuskers' repeated success. High school varsity athletes are expected to commit a great deal of time to their sport. For the members of the Yorktown High School girls lacrosse team initiative and hard work are the norm.

However, the coaches and parents of these young women also deserve recognition, because without their devotion, these young women would have had trouble reaching the goals that they have. So by supporting their children, the parents of these young women have profoundly nurtured their daughters' ambitions. And certainly no less significant than their parents' guidance, a sound coach who positively motivates the members of a team—such as their's surely does, by constantly pushing them to fulfill their potential, also played a significant role in their success.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the young women of the Yorktown High School girls lacrosse team. Their hard work, commitment, and teamwork should serve as a model for us all. I congratulate the Cornhuskers for their hard-fought and well-deserved victory, and I wish them continued success in all their future seasons.

PRESERVE OUR NATION'S  
FARMLAND

**HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 1997*

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, the family farms of Lancaster and Chester Counties are national treasures. Sadly, pristine farmland which has been operated by families in the 16th District of Pennsylvania for generations is at risk due to the Federal estate tax. Many family farms in southeast Pennsylvania and across this Nation are sold in an effort to pay off huge estates taxes, and others are sold to developers in fear of the impending estate tax. Thanks to excessive taxation, our Nation's farms are slowly being eliminated.

That is why I am introducing the Farm Preservation Act today. This bill will protect our

farmland by eliminating estate taxes on a farm which has a covenant ensuring that the land will remain a farm. By eliminating the estate tax on farms, families can be rest assured that their life's work will not be abandoned once the farm is left to a family member who will continue the farming tradition. Further, this bill waives all capital gains taxes on the sale of a farm which will be used only as farmland. This provision provides a real incentive for people who must sell their farm to ensure that it remains in agricultural production in the future.

Mr. Speaker, in order to preserve our precious farmland, we need to end the tax practices which destroy them. We must also provide incentives for people to keep farmland undeveloped. The Farm Preservation Act accomplishes these important goals. As we consider another tax relief bill in 1998, I urge Members to join me in protecting our Nation's farmland and provide real opportunities to keep family farmers in business.

WHY I SUPPORT NORMAL TRADE  
RELATIONS FOR CHINA

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 1997*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention my monthly newsletter on foreign affairs from June 1997 entitled "Why I Support Normal Trade Relations for China."

I ask that this newsletter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The newsletter follows:

WHY I SUPPORT NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS  
FOR CHINA

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives voted to extend normal trade relations, known as "most favored nation" (MFN) status, for China for another year. The MFN debate was hotly contested. Opponents argued that China's record on human rights, trade, proliferation and other issues did not justify extending normal trade relations. I disagree. Engagement—including normal trade relations—is the best means to bring China into the international community and to achieve U.S. political, economic and security objectives.

China matters. China is the world's most populous country, with the largest army and one of the largest economies. Its actions directly affect peace and stability throughout East and Southeast Asia. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has a say in many decisions affecting U.S. interests. How China evolves will profoundly affect our economic, political and security interests. If China becomes a threat, the U.S. defense budget will go up, tensions in Asia will rise, and Asia's prosperity will be at risk. If we keep U.S.-China relations on track, peace and security in Asia will be strengthened, prospects for human rights will be enhanced, and Asia's remarkable economic growth will continue.

A policy of engagement. By extending normal trade relations for another year, the House chose a policy of engagement over a policy of isolation. I agree. Engagement has been the policy of every President, Democratic and Republican, for twenty-five years. Engagement is not appeasement. It does not mean ignoring our differences with China. It means actively engaging China to resolve our differences. It means hard bargaining in pursuit of American objectives.