

Jr., and Preston. Roscoe, Jr., director of the Midlands Marine Institute, a foundation for troubled youth, is married to the former Eva Rakes, and has two children, Renaldo and Asia. Preston is a well-known carpenter in the Columbia area, most noted for his woodwork.

Social activism has appropriately been the hallmark of Reverend Wilson's pastoral career. During the early civil rights movement, he worked to peacefully integrate public health facilities such as the Crafts-Farrow Mental Hospital and the Bryan S. Dorn Veterans Hospital. Saint John Baptist Church, which has a large outreach ministry, runs a progressive preschool serving approximately 100 children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. This preschool program has been an enormous success. Its pupils begin first grade with strong skills and high confidence.

In the little free time he has, Reverend Wilson enjoys the outdoors. He loves to hunt and fish and occasionally returns to Texas to visit family. It is at home in Columbia, though, where he indulges his true passion, gardening. He says that tending his roses helps him to focus on the important things. It is this care and focus which has made him such a successful pastor. He tends his congregation like his rose bed. Saint John Baptist Church will dearly miss Reverend Wilson though his work with the church and the community will undoubtedly continue. All of us in South Carolina are very grateful for this Texas transplant. We wish him the very best in his future endeavors.●

RURAL CREDIT NEEDS

● Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I address today an issue of significant importance to my home State of Utah. As you know, the State of Utah is largely rural. Of 29 counties in the State of Utah, 25 are classified as rural by the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]. For this reason, I have a keen interest in rural issues in general and, as a member of the banking committee, rural credit issues in particular.

I have read with interest the recent reports from the Rural Policy Research Institute [RUPRI], the General Accounting Office [GAO], and the USDA on rural credit needs. I have also reviewed the proceedings of the Kansas City Fed's conference on "Financing Rural America." These documents present no surprises for those of us who represent rural areas. While each study approaches its task in a unique manner, all of these reports are similar in their conclusions. They note that while rural financial markets work reasonably well, not all market segments are equally well served. They all agree that small businesses from rural areas can have a difficult time obtaining financing, have fewer credit options, and may well pay more for their credit than

comparable urban enterprises. At a time when small businesses are being recognized for their valuable contributions to our economic growth and stability, small businesses are facing increasing demands for credit, and Small Business Administration funding is frequently being challenged.

Historically, rural economic activity has been synonymous with agricultural production. Today, this is no longer the case. The number of farms in the United States has declined dramatically from about 6 million in the first half of this century, to about 2 million farms in 1990. While agriculture is still an important component of rural America and its credit needs are reasonably well addressed; the financial needs of rural nonagricultural business require attention now more than ever.

While government sponsored enterprises [GSE's] have contributed to the successes of agriculture and rural housing by providing competitive and reliable credit, there has been no GSE financing for rural nonagricultural businesses. As all of these reports point out, credit options for nonagricultural business are relatively scarce, expensive, and sometimes nonexistent. Yet, as the GAO and the Fed reports point out, economic development in these areas is actually hindered by these borrowers' difficulties in obtaining capital.

The facts are worrisome. As the RUPRI study points out, many rural areas were bypassed by recent employment growth. Existing rural employment is concentrated in slow-growth or declining industries. Job growth in rural areas, particularly rural areas that are not adjacent to metropolitan areas, is biased toward low-skill, low-wage activities. USDA has stated that "Rural economies are characterized by a preponderance of small businesses, fewer and smaller local sources of financial capital, less diversification of business and industry, and fewer ties to non-local economic activity."

Rural nonagricultural businessmen seek to be contributing members of our economic society. They do not seek a Federal hand out. They look for equal credit opportunities and an opportunity to participate fully in the same business activities of their urban counterparts.

As a political body, we need to consider the plight of rural nonagricultural businesses and the great potential that they offer our economy. I bring this issue to the attention of my colleagues in the hope we can work together and review constructive solutions to this program.●

GUYANA

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Guyana as it celebrates the thirty-first anniversary of its independence. The Guyanese American community has a great deal of history to celebrate, and I wish to recognize the changes and advance-

ments that have been made in Guyana in the past 31 years.

For 32 years, the country of Guyana has worked to improve its standing within the international community and establish itself as a well-respected democracy. I am sure you will agree that Guyana has succeeded in these two goals. Participation in both the United Nations and the Caribbean Free Trade Area have meant better relations with the rest of the world. In addition, the smooth transition of power between President Hoyte and President Jagan in 1992 signify the end of political oppression in Guyana.

I have been pleased with the United States' decision to reinstate the economic assistance to Guyana it had suspended in 1982 because it represents our willingness to take an active interest in Guyana. I hope that this partnership between Guyana and the United States will continue to flourish as Guyana capitalizes on the progress that independence has encouraged. Privatization, growth and decreased inflation are only a few of the ways in which the quality of life in Guyana has improved. These reforms can and must continue.

The Guyanese have made tremendous achievements so far. With the continued commitment of its population, ongoing growth can be a reality. I look forward to 32 more years of positive news from this country.●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM F. LUEBBERT

● Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to William F. Luebbert of Hanover, NH, for his outstanding service as a volunteer executive in Vladivostok, Russia.

William worked on a volunteer mission with the International Executive Service Corps, a nonprofit organization which sends retired Americans to assist businesses and private enterprises in the developing countries and the new emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

William assisted the Vladivostok State University of Economics with its computer technology. He is the retired director of academic computing at USMA (West Point). William is also a retired U.S. Army colonel.

William, and his wife Nancy, spent a month in Russia. Their outstanding patriotic engagement provides active assistance for people in need and helps build strong ties of trust and respect between Russia and America. William's mission aids at ending the cycle of dependency on foreign assistance.

I commend William for his dedicated service and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate.●

SOUTH CAROLINA WATERMELONS: MOTHER NATURE'S PERFECT CANDY

● Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, as Americans across the United States celebrated Independence Day this past weekend, many enjoyed the summer