

waterways help reduce soil loss to erosion. Indiana is rapidly becoming urbanized. Around the larger cities, land prices are rising, housing developments are spreading, and farm land is being destroyed by development. Indiana farmers have a responsibility to protect and preserve Indiana's prime farmland.

The conservation of Indiana's most productive land and the continuation of high yielding traditions are important to the future of Indiana agriculture. If we do not save the land now, how will future generations of Hoosier farmers carry on the tradition of feeding the world?

1997-98 District Winners

District 1: Jennifer Claypool, Rajiv Kumar
 District 2: Brittney Hess, Kit Venderley
 District 3: Tara Wireman, Russell Trudeau
 District 4: Candace Northam, Bradley Rice
 District 5: Kathryn Haselden
 District 6: Jamie Ann Boone, Andrew Twibell
 District 7: Courtney Reynolds, Scott Dugan
 District 8: Mary Jean Word, Ben Wicker
 District 9: Jessie Borden, Matthew Bender
 District 10: Chandra Smith, Dusty Daulton

1997-98 County Winners

Allen: Zachory Veit, Brittney Hess
 Cass: Aaron Tribby, Tara Wireman
 Dearborn: Danny Powell, Elizabeth Sedler
 Delaware: Andrew Twibell, Katherine Riley
 Fayette: Mary Jean Word
 Franklin: Chad Meyer, Kelsey Kaiser
 Hamilton: Luke Nelson, Jamie Ann Boone
 Hancock: Justin Christopher
 Hendricks: Kathryn Haselden
 Jasper: Bryron Courtright, Kara Kohlhausen
 Jay: Justin Knapke, Candace Northam
 Jefferson: Dusty Daulton
 Lake: Mike Dlugokinski, Megan Kabella
 LaPorte: Laurie Marsh
 Marion: Chris Shaw, Rachel Grounds
 Martin: Courtney Reynolds
 Newton: Russell Trudeau, Amanda Chamberlan
 Porter: Rajiv Kumar, Jennifer Claypool
 Posey: Jacob Eisterhold, Ellen Herrenbruck
 Rush: Ben Wicker
 St. Joseph: Keegan Boucek, Megan Bauer
 Spencer: Crystal Foertsch
 Steuben: Kit Venderley, Jamie Brunner
 Sullivan: Scott Dugan, Ash Lynn Thompson
 Vermillion: Ashley Hughes
 Vigo: Amy Jackson
 Wabash: Bradley Rice, Sarah Andersen
 Warrick: Matthew Bender, Jessie Borden
 Washington: Jeremy Givens, Chandra Smith
 Wayne: Christopher Cope Nicholson, Lynn Hamilton
 Wells: John Stauffer, Lindsay Leas
 Whitley: Derek Leininger.●

IN RECOGNITION OF BEN HALPERN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today is the 100th birthday of a very distinguished citizen of Michigan.

Benjamin Halpern was born in Poland 100 years ago today. His story, in one sense, is the story of many immigrants who came to this land seeking safety and freedom and opportunity.

He and his wife, Esther, worked hard, raised a wonderful family, and contributed to the strength of the country which gave him so much, including utilizing his amazing language skills to help immigrants to adjust and adapt and become productive citizens, and supporting a number of charitable and community organizations.

Many of his and Esther's family were destroyed in the Holocaust. But they and part of their families did more

than survive: they persevered, and in the process, helped preserve values of family and community which so characterize the ancient Jewish people of which they are so proudly a part. Along the way, his sense of humor has brought cheer to multitudes.

This wonderful man happens to be my wife Barbara's father, and three of his loving grandchildren are our daughters Kate, Laura and Erica.

They and Barbara's brothers, Irving and Daniel, and many other family members and a host of friends will be soon gathering together to say Mazel Tov to Ben as he heads toward the next millennium, when he will be well into his second century and the third century that he will have touched.●

RHINO AND TIGER PRODUCT LABELING ACT

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for Senate Bill 361, the "Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act." This legislation is desperately needed and I thank my friend and colleague Senator JEFFORDS for introducing it in the Senate.

The Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act amends the Endangered Species Act to prohibit the sale of products labeled as containing endangered species, even if they actually do not. Rhino and Tiger parts are two of the more widely advertised ingredients in a number of powders and balms which claim to cure a host of ailments. None of these claims is supported by scientific research, nevertheless, demand for these ingredients has encouraged the widespread poaching of these endangered animals and threatens their existence.

As I understand it, the world's population of rhinos has declined by 90 percent since 1970, and tigers populations are even more threatened. Today, less than 5,000 remain in the world. The greatest threat to many of these animals in the wild is the poacher, and poaching thrives in part because the demand for products containing rhino horn, tiger parts and others remains high.

A U.S. ban on all wares containing, and claiming to contain, parts of endangered species will greatly reduce the size of the world markets. This should lower the value of these animals and, I hope, stimulate their recovery. I am pleased to hear that the House is moving forward on a similar bill and trust that the Congress will soon send legislation addressing this problem to the White House.●

COMMEMORATING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF DESRON 61

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the heroic actions of DesRon 61. DesRon 61 consisted of 9 U.S. destroyers which participated in the only surface action in Tokyo Bay during World War II. As part of Admiral William "Bull" Halsey's Task

Group 38.1, DesRon 61 entered Tokyo Bay on July 22, 1945 and proceeded to engage a Japanese convoy which was attempting to leave the bay undetected. Under the command of Captain T.H. Hederman, DesRon 61 opened fire on the convoy sinking several Japanese ships and forcing the convoy to retreat back into Tokyo Bay.

All of us, as Americans, owe a great debt of gratitude to those who served our nation with such dedication and patriotism. Our losses in World War II, especially in the Pacific Theater, were considerable, and we always should remember the brave men and women who fought to defend the freedom and liberty that is so precious to all of us. Mr. President, I would like to commend and thank the crew members of DesRon 61 for their valiant service. Their action that July night, as well as the heroic deeds of all our armed forces in the Pacific, helped defeat the Japanese empire and restore freedom in that theater of the world.●

AUSTIN DABNEY

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, as we near the end of Black History Month, I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize the bravery, patriotism and service of one of Georgia's Revolutionary war heroes. Austin Dabney served in the Revolutionary War and was wounded in 1779, in the Battle of Kettle Creek, one of the most difficult and bloodiest battles fought in Georgia. Austin Dabney was a slave brought to Wilkes County, Georgia by a man named Richard Aycock. Dabney was granted freedom in order to serve in the war in his master's place, as an artilleryman in Colonel Elijah Clark's corps.

In the Battle of Kettle Creek, Dabney was seriously wounded by a shot through his thigh. His life was saved by a white soldier named Giles Harris, who took the soldier to his home and nursed him back to health. To show his gratitude to the Harris family, Dabney worked for them for the rest of his life, living with them in Madison, Newton and Pike Counties. Dabney's devotion to the Harris family didn't stop there. Dabney used money from his own pocket to send Harris's son through college, and even made arrangements for the son's legal training.

In 1786, the Georgia Legislature emancipated Dabney to prevent his former master from seizing him as a slave to benefit from the soldier's fame. Despite Dabney's veteran status with pension, because he was black, he was denied the opportunity to enter the land lottery for Revolutionary veterans in 1819. The Georgia legislature voted in 1821 to grant 112 acres of land for Dabney's "bravery and fortitude," but that grant was bitterly contested with law suits. A land lot was finally granted to Dabney in 1824.

Austin Dabney and Giles Harris both illustrate an important lesson in American History. Divided racially but