

part of the problem, rather than a part of the solution.

We have 22 original co-sponsors of this legislation, each of whom I'd like to thank for their help and support in this growing effort to offer real relief to our farm families.

This proposal helps protect our family farmers today and is an important first step in a broader movement to maintain America's tradition of "agri-culture"—a way of life and a set of values that built the America we live in today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this movement and to support the Family Farm Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in the district and as a result missed rollcall votes 78–85. If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 78; "aye" on rollcall 79; "aye" on rollcall 80; "aye" on rollcall 81; "aye" on rollcall 82; "aye" on rollcall 83; "nay" on rollcall 84; and "nay" on rollcall 85.

THE DAVID CHETCUTI FIREARMS MODIFICATION ACT—H.R. 1428

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about legislation that I am introducing in the House to honor the memory of a brave police officer who was killed in my congressional district less than a year ago, Officer David Chetcuti. Officer Chetcuti was a devoted husband and a loving father to his three sons. He was also a decorated 11-year veteran of the Millbrae police department. On April 25 of last year, after responding to a routine call from an officer in a neighboring jurisdiction, Officer Chetcuti was shot and killed by Marvin Sullivan, a convicted felon.

Mr. Speaker, the weapon which Sullivan used to kill David Chetcuti was an assault rifle, a class of firearm that many of us thought we had succeeded in removing from our Nation's streets. Marvin Sullivan, who was not legally able to purchase the kind of firearm he used to kill Officer Chetcuti, assembled his weapon from a series of gun components which he was able to purchase without any of the restrictions which are imposed by law on the purchase of assault weapons.

Through mail order catalogues, over the Internet, and at gun shops—without any of the restrictions on the purchase of fully assembled firearms—Sullivan was able to purchase the components that he used to make his illegal weapon. That gun was created for the sole purpose of killing another human being. The weapon he built defied and circumvented all the firearm safeguards for which we have fought long and hard. The components were easy to procure, the assembly was simple,

and the final product was devastatingly deadly.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduced today—H.R. 1428, The David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act—would close the existing loophole which permits felons like Marvin Sullivan to have access to components which they can use to assemble these weapons. This is a simple proposal and does not require more enforcement effort than what currently exists. Quite simply, this legislation would extend the provisions of existing gun control legislation to those components which criminals, like Mr. Sullivan, can and do use to make assault weapons.

The adoption of this legislation would prohibit the sale to convicted felons of large capacity ammunition clips or other firearm components which make it possible for them to maim and kill. This legislation would also require that the purchase of these components be carried out in person. Today there are literally hundreds of mail order operations and Internet sites which offer items such as military issue ammo clips, silencer-fitting threaded barrels, and pistol grips capable of turning a hunting rifle into an automatic killing machine.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of these components is a public safety threat, already tragically felt by the Chetcuti family and by the law enforcement community in my congressional district. For the safety of our outgunned law enforcement officers and for the well-being of our communities, I urge my colleagues in the Congress to join me in working for the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said to honor the dedicated men and women who daily put their safety and their lives on the line to provide the citizens of our country with the security, safety, and peace essential for the maintenance of our civil society. These men and women of our law enforcement community are the "thin blue line" which stands between the decent and law-abiding citizens of this nation and the abyss of lawlessness, chaos, and anarchy. Our law enforcement professionals deserve the support and protection which this legislation will provide.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF UNIONTOWN HOSE FIRE CO. NO. 2 OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 1999, the Uniontown Hose Fire Company No. 2 in Hastings-on-Hudson will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Originally incorporated on August 19, 1899, by 30 charter members, the company has faithfully served the Hastings community by protecting the lives and property of their neighbors for nearly a full century.

Fire departments are one of our most vital organizations protecting the safety of a community and its citizens. Each year, throughout our Nation, fire kills over 6,000 people, injures about 28,000 people, and destroys more than 7 billion dollars' worth of property. Without the services that institutions such as the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. provide, these numbers would be even higher and the threat of

fire to Americans could be even more severe. Besides fighting fires, our volunteer firemen are involved in fire prevention and safety as well as providing first aide and rescue support in the event of major disasters. The protection the men and women of Uniontown Hose have furnished to the community of Hastings-on-Hudson over their many years of service is worthy of commendation, for its is their devoted work that helps make our neighborhoods safer and more secure.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. on its 100th anniversary and extending our best wishes to its officers and members for another 100 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO ROSLYN G. MORRIS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roslyn G. Morris, an extraordinary woman and my constituent of Atherton, CA, who will be presented the Leading Citizens Award by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula on Wednesday, April 21, 1999.

Roslyn Morris has a distinguished volunteer resume. Described by friends as "quietly loving and giving", Roslyn Morris is often found behind the scenes working diligently on causes important to her. Initially on the Board of the Florence Crittendon Home, she was a founding member of the Peninsula Children's Charter Auxiliary. Her deep commitment to Peninsula Volunteers (PV) led her to serve as President of the Board of Directors in 1980. In 1995, the newly renovated PV Senior Center Little House was named in her honor.

Roslyn Morris is actively involved with the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco. She recently assisted with the opening of the new Iris & Gerald Cantor Center for the Visual Arts at Stanford University.

Roslyn and her husband of almost 50 years, Mervin, also being honored by the Boys & Girls Club, have 4 loving children and 12 beautiful grandchildren.

Very importantly, Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Morris' example of excellence has inspired others to provide opportunities for achievement, especially for the young and particularly, for those who come from disadvantaged circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, Roslyn Morris is a woman of outstanding character and I salute her for her remarkable contributions to our country and our community. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her as she is being named a Leading Citizen by the Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula. No one deserves this more.

ALAMANCE COUNTY, N.C.'s SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. RICHARD BARR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. BARR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Alamance County, North Carolina for its upcoming 150th Anniversary. Alamance County's

charter was granted on April 24, 1849, but its rich history goes back much farther. The area was first an important crossroads on the well-known Indian Trading Path which connected villages in eastern Virginia, South Carolina, and eastern North Carolina. This path became an important avenue for trade and migration in the new colony, and it helped bring Alamance County's first European settlers—English and Irish Quakers, Scotch-Irish Presbyterians, and German Lutherans. Most of these settlers traveled many miles from Pennsylvania and northern Virginia to make Alamance County their home, and their legacy lives on today. The Cane Creek Meeting, established in 1751, is the oldest active Quaker meeting in North Carolina, and Hawfields Presbyterian Church, established in 1755, is the oldest Presbyterian Church in the county.

A desire for freedom has always been deeply ingrained in the people of Alamance County. As a result of their frustration with land tenure problems, inequitable taxation, and inadequate representation in the colonial General Assembly, many of the county's residents joined the Regulator Movement—established to protest corrupt and inefficient county courts. The hostilities between the Regulators and the colonial government escalated into general insurrection and climaxed when Royal Governor William Tryon quelled the uprising by mustering a 1,000-man militia and defeating the Regulators on May 16, 1771 in the Battle of Alamance. While the county's loyalties were split early in the American Revolution, Alamance County played a key role in America's independence. General John Butler, a Swepsonville resident and one of our country's most distinguished Revolutionary War soldiers, led patriot troops in the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge and was later elected Brigadier General of the Hillsborough District. Moreover, Pyle's Massacre, a major American victory, occurred in Alamance County four miles west of the town of Graham.

Before Alamance County's charter was granted in 1849, the area was part of Orange County. Residents of the section of Orange County west of the Eno River, however, felt removed from the county seat of Hillsborough, and in January, 1849, one of Orange County's Representatives in the General Assembly introduced legislation creating Alamance County. Separate legislation introduced at the same time established Graham (named after Governor William A. Graham) as the Alamance County Seat. On April 19, 1849, the residents of Orange County approved the creation of Alamance County by a narrow margin, and five days later, on April 24, 1849, Alamance County's Charter was granted—the event we will celebrate next Saturday.

Since its establishment, Alamance County has had a strong and growing economy. In 1856, the North Carolina Railroad was completed. Running from Goldsboro to Charlotte, the railroad spurred great economic growth in the county. Because of the efforts of Benjamin Trollinger and Edwin M. Holt (local mill owners and members of the railroad's board of directors), the North Carolina Railroad was run through the middle of Alamance County, and the railroad's repair and maintenance shops were located near Graham at Company Shops. In 1887, Company Shops' name was changed to Burlington which is now the county's largest municipality.

The presence of the railroad was also a blessing to the county's emerging textile industry. Within a short period, many new mills opened, including Alamance County's most successful textile operation—the Alamance Cotton Mill. Established by Edwin Michael Holt on the site of his father's grist mill on Alamance Creek, Alamance Cotton Mill contributed greatly to the prominence of the southern textile industry when it became the first mill south of the Potomac River to produce commercially dyed cotton plaids—known as Alamance plaids. The success of the mill enabled the Holt family's business to grow and include 22 mills in Alamance County alone. Some of these mill holdings would later be consolidated into the multinational corporation Burlington Industries. Today, the textile industry continues to be a major source of the county's economic growth and stability.

Mr. Speaker, after 150 years, Alamance County exemplifies the best attributes of a rural county. Its people have worked hard to develop its economy and community—all while preserving its heritage and culture. It is a friendly place where people still stroll the sidewalks in the evening and greet friends and strangers with a smile. I am proud to have Alamance County in my district, and I wish them success and happiness for the next 150 years.

THE DEATH TAX ELIMINATION ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will improve the prospects of every family-owned and operated farm, ranch, and business in America. These small family farms and businesses are the backbone of the Texas economy, and the estate tax, often called the death tax, threatens their continued existence. It is time to end this tax—and my bill does just that.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that farmers' and ranchers' estates are six times more likely to face estate taxes than others' estates. In my travels around the 19 counties of the First Congressional District, evidence of the accuracy of this estimation pours forth. At nearly every stop I make, I hear horror stories from family members who were forced to sell all or part of the family farm just to pay estate taxes.

The death tax represents one percent of the Federal tax revenues. However, the impact to the taxpayers is far from insignificant. Not only does this punitive tax cause financial problems for families who are forced to sell property that has been in the family for generations or businesses built over a lifetime, but also local economies feel the impact as jobs disappear and businesses close. Clearly, the social and economic costs of the estate tax far outweigh the revenue it provides for the federal government.

The time has come to end this ill conceived tax. The tax that was originally intended to break up huge family estates now inhibits the passage of 70 percent of family businesses

from one generation to the next. Two years ago, we took meaningful steps to reduce the burden of death taxes on family farms and small businesses in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997. The next step is to completely eliminate it and free families from this burden forever.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRANSPLANTATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness Week, April 18–24, I rise today to recognize the American Society of Transplantation, an organization comprised of 1,400 transplant physicians, surgeons, and scientists actively engaged in the research and practice of transplantation medicine and immunobiology and represents the majority of professionals in the field of transplantation in the United States. AST members play a critical role in the management of transplant patients from the onset of end-stage disease to post-transplantation are involved in basic research that translates from “bench to bedside,” improving the care of transplant patients.

The 1999 National Donor Recognition Ceremony, sponsored by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), will kick-off the week's activities that will be promoting organ and tissue donation and celebrating donors. AST's President, John F. Neylan, MD will be a speaker at this event along with U.S. Surgeon General, David Satcher, MD, PhD. Similar events will be taking place around the country next week. Organ procurement agencies, transplant centers and transplant-related organizations across the nation will sponsor activities with a donation theme ranging from health fairs to sporting events. Donor memorial services and transplant recipient reunions will take place to celebrate and recognize those individuals who have given the ultimate gift . . . “the Gift of Life.”

As a strong supporter of medical research, I commend the AST, headquartered in my district, for their dedication and commitment to research, education, advocacy and patient care in transplantation science and medicine. These dedicated physicians are integral members of the “transplant team” and in many cases, are the directors of their transplant program.

Through the work of AST, the transfer of information to the transplant clinics from basic science laboratories will lead to new scientific advances and improvements in patient care. Next month, AST will be holding their 18th Annual Scientific Meeting which will attract an international attendance to the city of Chicago and will feature the cutting edge science that is opening new frontiers in transplantation medicine and immunobiology. AST members assist in providing the “Gift of Life” and I commend them for their contributions to our society's health care.