

Rev. Dingle will retire at an October 26th celebration in his honor. He and his wife Marguerite Dingle will, however, continue to serve Advent ministries and the community on a part time basis.

It is with great honor that I commend Rev. Dingle for his commitment to the community and dedication to enriching the lives of his parishioners. His presence at the Church will be sorely missed, however his spirit will live on forever within those who he has touched.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I bring to the attention of my colleagues the following exchange of letters between the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Ways and Means with regards to H.R. 2646.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
September 17, 2001.

HON. LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture.

DEAR CHAIRMAN COMBEST: I am writing concerning H.R. 2646, the "Agriculture Act of 2001," which was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Agriculture on August 2, 2001.

As you know, the Committee on Ways and Means has long maintained a jurisdictional interest over matters concerning trade. Contained in the bill are two provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means. Sec. 127 of the bill changes the level of import quotas on cotton permitted under U.S. law, and Sec. 146 requires importers of dairy products to pay assessments applied to domestic dairy producers to offset the costs of dairy sales promotion programs. These provisions fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration we will not seek action on these particular proposals. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee's jurisdictional prerogatives on these measures or any other similar legislation, and it should not be considered as precedent for consideration of matters of jurisdictional interest to the Committee in the future.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2646, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on these matters be included in your committee report.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
September 18, 2001.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: As you are aware, on July 27, the Committee on Agriculture favorably reported H.R. 2646, the Farm Security Act of 2001. As ordered reported, H.R. 2646 contains matters within the jurisdiction of your committee.

In the interest of expediting consideration of this matter by the House, I respectfully

request that you forego seeking a referral of this bill. I understand that such an action does not waive your committee's jurisdiction, and I will support your inclusion as additional conferees in any eventual House-Senate Conference on this bill, should you seek it.

I greatly appreciate your cooperation in this matter. I will insert a copy of our exchange of letters in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2646 on the Floor.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST,
Chairman.

WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my Colleagues to a new book written by a native of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "A Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt" vividly conveys the fear gripped a young girl as her family home was posted for sheriff's sale.

This story about life during the Great Depression truly depicts what America is all about, and should be a must-read for all Americans. Author C. Coco DeYoung based the award-winning novel on her family's experience, with vivid details brought to her through her family's tradition of storytelling.

Though written as a children's book by a former educator, the short novel is equally compelling to adult readers. Published by Delacorte Press, the book won the Sixth Annual Marguerite de Angeli Prize for historical fiction and the 2000–2001 Keystone to Reading Book Award. Selected by Booklist as a Top 10 First Novel of 1999, and a Teachers' Choices 2000 by the International Reading Association, this book has also been recognized as a Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People by the Children's Book Council and the National Council of Social Studies. To date, it has been nominated for state book awards in seven states.

The story is based on real events involving De Young's grandfather, and her father whose childhood is depicted in the character role of Charlie Bandini in the book. As a six-year-old boy, Charlie injures his leg, the bone becomes infected and doctors want to amputate. Charlie's father (De Young's grandfather in real life) uses everything the family owned to borrow \$5,000 to bring in a doctor from Massachusetts to save the leg. But as the Great Depression set in deeper, he cannot keep up with the payments through his business as a shoemaker in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. "Papa" Bandini, an Italian immigrant, spoke five languages doing business with the various immigrant groups that had settled in the mill town. Despite their difficulties, he sometimes feeds hobos who come to the house for food, and when customers had no money, he would accept produce from their gardens as payment for fixing shoes.

Having witnessed the fate of neighbors whose homes had been posted for Sheriff Sale, the sense of security of 11-year-old Margo Bandini crumbles when she comes home to discover that her own family home had been posted by the Sheriff.

As the family struggles and grapples with their fears, desperate to save the family from despair, Margo writes a letter to the First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Distributor Random House, in its Online Teachers Guide available free at www.randomhouse.com, says the book is an excellent tool not only for teaching about the history of the Great Depression, but also for teaching about brotherhood, family, pride, fear and courage.

The real-life Coco family became one of the first in Johnstown to receive a loan through the Home Owners Loan Corp., a New Deal relief project created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. And De Young's father, the book-character "Charlie," remarkably is now in his 77th year of working in his shoe business—he's been at it since the age of six.

A "Letter to Mrs. Roosevelt" creates a vivid sense of time and place during the Great Depression and tells a heart-warming story of one family's struggles and courageous triumph through dark times. I recommend it to anyone.

A TRIBUTE TO WAR DOGS

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on November 11th, the citizens of our country will celebrate Veteran's Day. We use this day to acknowledge our veteran's contributions to our national security and to recognize the sacrifices given by the members of our military.

But let us not forget about the courageous efforts of the war dog.

Over twelve thousand dogs served in World War 11, fifteen hundred in the Korean War, and more than four thousand in Vietnam. These brave dogs have served as sentries, scouts, messengers, trackers, and mine-sniffers.

The Humane Society of Greater Miami honors war dogs by flying an American flag over the grave of Fella, a war dog who is buried in their Oak Lawn Pet Cemetery. Fella served in the Pacific during World War 11 and was credited with saving many lives. This Veteran's Day, the Humane Society of Greater Miami-Dade will honor America's war dogs at Fella's memorial. Miami's K-9 officers and their partners will also be honored at this event.

Please join me in honoring all who served in the U.S. Military this Veteran's Day, including our faithful war dogs who dedicated their lives to the duty of protecting our soldiers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay for tonight's votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both H. Con. Res. 244, authorizing the printing of the Our American Flag publication, and H. Res. 250, urging the Secretary of Energy to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.