

RECOGNITION TO SALVATORE M.
SCHIBELL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a friend of the Sixth District of New Jersey. Mr. Salvatore Michael Schibell, who is being honored as the Man of the Year for the Amerigo Vespucci Society.

Mr. Schibell is being honored for his untiring dedication and remarkable assistance to his community. Mr. Schibell, a native of Long Branch, attended Long Branch High School and later graduated from Monmouth University with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a Master's Degree in Business Administration. In 1990, Mr. Schibell was awarded his Masters Degree in Tax Law by Fairleigh Dickenson University. He holds CPA Certificates in both New Jersey and New York.

In 1989 Mr. Schibell was a founding partner of Rescinio, Schibell & Company. Prior to the formation of the firm, he spent fifteen years in public accounting, most of them with an international Big 6 firm. Formerly a senior manager, he left public accounting to serve eight years as the senior financial officer and general manager of a major beverage distributor. In 1993, Mr. Schibell became a partner of the accounting firm of Lawson, Rescinio, Schibell & Associates, P.C. in Oakhurst, NJ.

Mr. Schibell's professional memberships are numerous, some of which include: The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants; Community Associates Institute, and the Estate Planning Council of Central New Jersey, for which he served as the past president and was on the Board of Trustees. In addition, Mr. Schibell has served on numerous committees for charitable organizations, such as: the Amerigo Vespucci Society, and the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch.

Presently, Mr. Schibell and his wife Lois reside in Eatontown, New Jersey where they enjoy the company of their four children Stephanie, Andy, Sean, and Denise and their first grandchild, Ashley Brook.

On this day we celebrate and honor the distinguished Mr. Salvatore M. Schibell for his extensive accomplishments and his dedicated service to his community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending him in his dedication.

T.C. ROBERSON FUTURE FARMERS
OF AMERICA

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the T.C. Roberson High School Future Farmers of America organization and their teacher, Lonnie Johnson. The organization was recently recognized in the November/December 2002 issue of New Horizons magazine for their efforts to help poor and elderly individuals by participating in MANNA FoodBank's Plant a Row for the Hun-

gry project. Through their hard work, these outstanding high school students provided hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables to needy individuals throughout western North Carolina. The T.C. Roberson High School Future Farmers of America organization was also recognized in a July 8, 2002 editorial and a July 5, 2002 article in the Asheville-Citizen Times, which I am happy to share with my colleagues.

[From the Asheville Citizen-Times, July 5, 2002]

FUTURE FARMERS RAISE CROPS FOR THOSE IN
NEED

(By Barbara Blake)

SKYLAND.—Lonnie Johnson can almost see the smiles on the faces of the elderly people who will soon be eating fresh corn, beans, tomatoes, squash and peppers his horticulture students are growing out at Roberson High School.

And thinking about the pleasure these nutritious vegetables will bring to those senior citizens and others who live on the edge of hunger brings a smile to Johnson's face.

"Elderly people go crazy with fresh produce," he said. "A lot of these people don't get much fresh, and we're going to be giving them hundreds of pounds all the way up into September and October. And we won't stop then—in the fall, we'll plant our fall garden with greens and cabbage and turnips and broccoli, and we'll keep it coming."

Those are sweet words to the staff at MANNA FoodBank, which will receive the vegetables from the Roberson students and immediately distribute them to the poor and hungry in Western North Carolina as part of the nonprofit's Plant a Row for the Hungry project.

Johnson, who formerly was the horticulture teacher at the Swannanoa Valley Youth Academy, started the Plant a Row project on that campus two years ago, providing MANNA with nearly 2,000 pounds of produce.

Early in the spring, Johnson found his Future Farmers of America students at Roberson equally interested in participating. So they worked together to plant more than one row for the hungry after clearing brush to make beds, working the soil and carefully planting seeds—all while learning about all things gardening and horticulture.

Throughout their summer vacation, students have come one, two or 10 at a time to replant, weed, water and, now, harvest the vegetables of their labor.

"It's fun—I like to work with my hands," said rising sophomore Levi Dowdle, peering into a bushy hill of squash loaded with yellow flowers and tiny fruits. "I like seeing how much stuff has grown, and how fast it grows, and how much time different things take.

"And," he said, "I like helping people."

This produce will definitely help people, according to Kitty Schaller, director of development at MANNA, which netted more than 15,000 pounds of donated produce from local gardens last year.

"Lots of times during the year, we're able to access produce because it's not in great condition. But this puts the freshest stuff in the hands of the agencies that need it—and the need is great," Schaller said.

"This is first-quality stuff, and as soon as it comes in, it goes out."

Schaller said the Youth Academy and the Roberson FFA kids are the only two schools formally involved with the Plant a Row for the Hungry project, and said she hopes other schools will take part.

"We love having children do this, because it establishes a pattern for them—making a

connection with the soil, making a connection with hungry people," Schaller said. "We're grateful to the folks at Roberson for taking this on, and we hope other schools will decide to do it as well."

Schaller said MANNA also is grateful for more informal donations of fresh vegetables, ideally between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., weekdays.

"But if someone needs to come on Saturday, they can call and we'll make special arrangements," she said.

"While we emphasize the 'plant a row' concept, we also are very, very welcoming of people's excess produce, even if it's just excess," Schaller said. "It's a lot of people doing a little amount that really makes a difference—and a few people doing extraordinary stuff."

[From the Asheville Citizen-Times, July 8, 2002]

ROBERSON'S FFA GOOD SIGN OF BRIGHT
FUTURE FOR WNC CITIZENSHIP

Thanks to a group of Future Farmers of America at Roberson High School and their teacher, Lonnie Johnson, poor, elderly people in Western North Carolina will be benefiting from one of summer's greatest pleasures—a bounty of fresh, homegrown vegetables.

As any backyard gardener knows, nothing tastes as good as a ripe, freshly picked tomato. And nothing is more nutritious than homegrown vegetables that are eaten soon after they were harvested.

Johnson and his students decided to participate in MANNA FoodBank's Plant a Row for the Hungry project, but they planted more than a row. They're growing corn, beans, tomatoes, squash and peppers. Before coming to Roberson, Johnson taught horticulture at the Swannanoa Valley Youth Academy, where he started a Plant a Row project two years ago. That project provided MANNA with nearly 2,000 pounds of produce.

"Lots of times during the year, we're able to access produce because it's not in great condition," said MANNA's Director of Development Kitty Schaller. "But this puts the freshest stuff in the hands of the agencies that need it—and the need is great. This is first-quality stuff, and as soon as it comes in, it goes out."

The project benefits not only those whose consume the vegetables, it gives young people an opportunity to learn about gardening. Throughout their summer vacation, students have come singly and in groups to replant, weed, water and harvest the vegetables. They're learning more than practical horticultural skills.

"We love having children do this," pattern for them—making a connection with the soil, making a connection with hungry people.

The Youth Academy and Roberson FFA are the only two schools formally involved with the Plant a Row program, Schaller said, but she'd love to see others participate.

As for Johnson, he gets a lot of satisfaction thinking about those who will relish the vegetables his students grow.

"Elderly people go crazy with fresh produce," he said. "A lot of these people don't get much fresh, and we're going to be giving them hundreds of pounds all the way up into September and October. And we won't stop then—in the fall, we'll plant our fall garden with greens and cabbage and turnips and broccoli, and we'll keep it coming."

Kudos to Johnson and his students, who have pointed the way for other schools. But in this time of fiscal austerity, participating in the Plant a Row project is a tremendous and inexpensive opportunity for anyone who has a garden spot to give a great bounty to