

served as president of the South Carolina Entomological Society and has served on numerous committees with the Entomological Society of America.

Dr. McCutcheon serves as president of Gamma Zeta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. in Charleston, SC. She has participated in several units of United Methodist Women, UMW, and is currently serving as historian for the UMW at Trinity UMC in Orangeburg. She recently completed 12 years as a member of the Board of Trustees at Columbia College and participated in a Roundtable with Policy Makers televised from Washington, DC in 1995, "Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging America." Dr. McCutcheon was awarded the Unsung Hero Award for Outreach by the Congressional Black Caucus for her contributions to the community.

Married to Rev. Larry D. McCutcheon, she continues to grow and share in their ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. They have been blessed with two wonderful adult daughters: Priscilla is a political scientist and Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Georgia; Carmen is an attorney specializing in health policy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Gloria McCutcheon upon her retirement from Clemson University and for her extraordinary achievements. She has stayed true to the vision of her parents and her community service, and has commanded great attention by her words and deeds.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING THE
SUCCESS OF BUILDING SAFETY
WEEK

HON. JOHN J. H. "JOE" SCHWARZ

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the success of Building Safety Week 2006, an annual, nationwide event sponsored by the International Code Council, ICC, that took place from May 7 to 13. The goal of Building Safety Week is to increase awareness of building safety and fire prevention issues through a variety of activities on the national, State and local levels.

This year, the ICC Board of Directors and members of the ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee, GRAC, gathered here in Washington, DC and spent a day visiting with Members of Congress to help spread their message of public safety. I personally met with one of my constituents, Mr. Henry Green of Lansing, MI, who serves as president of the Board of Directors. It is my hope that my colleagues here in the House and the Senate will carefully consider the legislative priorities presented to us in these meetings.

I would like to thank these men and women for their service and dedication to ensuring that we all live, work and play in a safe built environment. Along with Mr. Green, these individuals include: Immediate Past President Frank Hodge, Vice President Wally Bailey, Secretary/Treasurer Steven Shapiro, Jimmy Brothers, Terrence Cobb, John Darnall, Gerald Geroge, John LaTorra, Ron Piester, Ed Berkel, Bill Duck, Bill Dupler, Greg Johnson, Barbara Koffron, Ron Lynn, Tim Ryan, Adolf

Zubia, GRAC Chairman Ron Nienaber, Becky Baker, Bill Chambliss, Ross Montelbano, Betts Nixon, Emory Rodgers, Lynn Underwood and George Wiggins.

Congratulations again to the hardworking and dedicated members of the ICC.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN HARRIS
FOR BEING NAMED THE 2006 AG-
RICULTURIST OF THE YEAR BY
THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Harris of Coalinga, CA, the recipient of the 2006 California State Fair Agriculturist of the Year Award.

John has been a lifelong farmer, businessman and Fresno County resident. He graduated from University of California, Davis, where he received a bachelor of science degree in agricultural production in 1965. He served as an officer in the United States Army from 1966 to 1968 and returned to the family's farming operation in 1968.

Becoming a true icon for California agriculture, John Harris strived for excellence since day one at the family farm. Currently, he runs an extremely diversified company growing over a dozen crops, feeding approximately 200,000 cattle a year, which are processed at Harris Ranch and sold throughout the west. In addition to his farming and cattle business, John Harris oversees the well-known Harris Ranch Restaurant and Inn located in the outskirts of the city of Coalinga in west Fresno County. As an avid horse-racing supporter, John also manages a large thoroughbred breeding farm and racing stable. John Harris is committed to bringing acclamation to the California's thoroughbred horse-raising industry. Mr. Harris is certainly a man who exemplifies an extraordinary ability to embark on new endeavors and be very successful at bringing many projects to fruition.

Aside from his businessman talents, John is a strong philanthropic supporter of his community and region as a whole. He is a member of many local community boards and contributes immensely to local groups and organizations with various missions to enhance the quality of life of Valley residents. Some of these include the National Beef Board, the California Beef Council, the California Cattleman's Association, and the Pacific Legal Foundation. Some of the community organizations he has contributed to include the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and the University of California at Davis, specifically the Veterinary School.

John Harris is a living legacy of what California agriculture should strive to be as an industry in order to coexist with other booming industries and our environment. He works hard to incorporate high technology innovations to his business practices to protect the air and the environment as much as possible. All the trucks used in his feedlot and meat packing plant run on biodiesel and both the feedlot and the meat-packing plant are state-of-the-art model buildings for the industry.

John Harris is a man of integrity, honesty and compassion. He genuinely cares for his

community and is willing to share his vast knowledge with others. In addition, he and I share the same passion for the well-being of California's Central Valley. For this and so much more, I am honored to consider John Harris as a friend and certainly commend him for all his accomplishments and extend my most sincere congratulations for receiving this prestigious award from the California State Fair.

TRIBUTE TO THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF WALL DRUG

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a milestone in the history of one of South Dakota's and the nation's most beloved and recognizable roadside landmarks. This fall, the Wall Drug Store will be celebrating its 75th year of continuous operation near Badlands National Park in Wall, South Dakota. Each year, hundreds of thousands of weary road travelers simply follow the billboards to enjoy a refreshing glass of ice cold water and experience a bit of small-town South Dakota.

Dorothy and Ted Husted began their version of the American Dream when they moved to tiny Wall, South Dakota and purchased a drug store in 1931. The Hustedes set out on their own in search of a small town with a Catholic church that needed a pharmacist and found it among the 362 residents of Wall. At a time when much of the plains were devastated by drought and the depression, running a small business was a difficult enterprise. In 1936, Dorothy Husted came up with the idea to put up signs along the road offering free ice water to travelers on the hot, dusty prairie. Well, the signs did the trick, and more and more travelers came by the store. So they put up more signs on the highway, and from that point on business was booming. Before long, the Hustedes were serving upwards of 20,000 cups of ice water per day and they had signs and billboards for hundreds of miles in every direction. Today, Wall Drug signs appear all over the world, places such as London, Moscow, and even the South Pole.

Seventy-five years after Wall Drug began, not much has changed. Wall is still a small town with a population of 818. Wall Drug is still run by a man named Ted Husted although he is the founder's grandson, and there is still a working pharmacist on site. However, Wall Drug now occupies 76,000 square feet and is one of the leading tourist attractions in South Dakota. The store has become a leading retailer of authentic western art and memorabilia, from cowboy boots to original oil paintings to "genuine" stuffed jackalopes. As such, it is a major part of the economy of western South Dakota, contributing tax revenue to the town and acting as one of Wall's major employers. In fact, in the summer, Wall Drug provides 230 jobs in this town of 818 people.

I want to congratulate the Hustedes and the community of Wall on the 75th anniversary of Wall Drug. Wall Drug is an important part of our state's history, and I wish them the best on their next 75 years of success.

Mr. Speaker, the next time you or any of my other colleagues find yourself in western South Dakota, on your way to visit Mount Rushmore or the Black Hills, I encourage you to stop by Wall Drug to enjoy a refreshing cup of ice water and take in a little bit of western culture. I assure you it won't be hard to find; just follow the signs.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE COMBAT ZONE TAX
PARITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, which would provide parity by extending the tax credit currently received by military personnel to the civilian Federal employees working along side them.

Just the other day I received an e-mail from a constituent who is currently stationed in Afghanistan. She said: "I am completing a one year tour with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Kabul, Afghanistan. I work with the U.S. military and I live in the same residences with the U.S. military. During the riots on Memorial Day, I listened to the same gunfire as the U.S. military and I wore the same 30 pounds of Individual Body Armor and the Kevlar Helmet as the U.S. military."

It is only equitable that both military and civilian employees who are serving side by side receive the same tax treatment. In fact, even contract employees can get a tax break through the foreign earned investment tax credit, but Federal employees are specifically exempted from that tax credit.

As a former Federal employee, I am keenly aware of the invaluable contributions Federal employees make to our country. I believe we must ensure that our Federal workforce is treated with fairness and respect.

The Pentagon stated in the proposed regulations for the new National Security Personnel System that "NSPS is essential to the department's efforts to create an environment in which the total force, uniformed personnel and civilians, think and operates as one cohesive unit." What kind of message does it send to civilian employees if they receive disparate tax status from their military colleagues?

Just as military personnel, Federal employees serving in combat zones must leave their families behind and this can increase the financial burdens on families. Families with two working parents suddenly have only one parent able to care for the needs of the family. Military personnel in combat zones were given a tax credit back in 1913 to help alleviate their tax burden, but Federal employees were left out.

Since 9/11 it has become ever more vital to have a thriving civil service participating in our efforts to fight the war on terrorism. Now more than ever in our nation's history we must take action that reflects the contributions both our civilian and military employees are making—in the war on terrorism and as well as the daily operations of the Federal Government in providing the services upon which every American relies.

Federal employees are on the front lines of the war against terror.

The first American to die in Afghanistan was a CIA agent from my district.

Federal employees are in Iraq helping the Iraqi people to build a free nation.

Throughout the world, America's civil servants are serving our government and our people, often in dangerous locations.

How can we tell them we will not give them a fair and equitable tax credit that recognizes their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice?

We are asking Federal employees to take on more and more responsibility every day. They are on the ground in the war on terrorism taking over new roles to relieve military personnel of tasks civilian employees can perform. They are all playing a vital role in keeping us safe and deserve to be treated with respect and fairness.

We have a long tradition in the Congress of recognizing the valuable contributions of our federal employees in both the military service and in the civil service by providing fair and equitable treatment. This is not the time to shirk our duty to the civil service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK ROMERO

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an upstanding member of my community. Frank Romero passed away on Monday, July 24, 2006. He was 77.

Frank was a good man whom I knew well. He was a man committed to his family, his community and the Lord.

Frank spent 20 years as the treasurer for Conejos County. In that time, he produced some of the best audit reports the county had ever seen.

Frank was a tireless advocate for agriculture in the San Luis Valley. A farmer and rancher himself, Frank was connected to the land and knew the value of a hard day's work.

In our community, Frank was a servant in the true sense of the word through his work in the Knights of Columbus and other organizations.

Frank will be remembered as a loving family man, a devoted public servant and a genuinely good man. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, dancing, welding, traveling, reading, working on his ranch, snowmobiling and all outdoor activities with his family.

My heart goes out to Frank's family including his wife Philomena and his many children and grandchildren. I would like to express my personal gratitude for Frank's friendship.

TRIBUTE TO GREATER PHILADELPHIA
HEALTH ACTION, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc. (GPHA) as it joins commu-

nity health centers nationwide in celebrating "National Health Center Week," August 6–12.

National Health Center Week highlights the importance of community health centers as a vital part of health care systems in medically underserved areas. "Celebrating Patient Voice and Community Choice," is the theme of this year's campaign. The theme emphasizes the vital role that community boards of directors provide related to the delivery of health care to the community and determining the range of affordable services provided by the centers.

GPHA was founded in 1970 by the late Carl Moore, a long-time community activist who came together with other community leaders to form GPHA, one of the first medical managed care programs in Philadelphia. It is a community-based, grass roots effort whose mission is to provide quality comprehensive primary health care, health education, human services and child development services to families and individuals throughout the Delaware Valley, regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

The celebration of National Health Care Week also affords the opportunity to highlight the contributions of Mr. Moore and GPHA CEO Ron Heigler, recently elected chair of the Pennsylvania Primary Health Care Forum and his committed staff. All are to be congratulated for continuing to carry on Mr. Moore's vision of providing quality health care to the underserved.

Today GPHA operates six full-service health centers and a behavioral health program, as well as the Woodland Academy Child Development Center in Southwest Philadelphia. The centers also offer specialized treatment and patient education related to asthma, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes and HIV/AIDS.

There is no doubt that GPHA and the nation's community health centers fill a major void in our Nation's health care safety net.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF PATROL
AGENT SIMON GARZA, JR.

HON. HENRY BONILLA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American soon scheduled to end his lifelong career of service to our Nation—U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol Marfa Sector Chief Patrol Agent Simon Garza, Jr.

Born in Laredo, Texas, Chief Garza has spent his entire career fighting to secure our borders and ensure our freedoms. Chief Garza began his career, after studying engineering at the University of Houston, by serving in the United States Army, including service in the Republic of Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. In 1975 he joined the United States Border Patrol as a member of the 10th Session at Port Isabel, Texas. After graduation from the Border Patrol Academy, he received his first assignment in his home State in the Del Rio Sector. After much hard work and determination, Chief Garza was promoted in 1985 to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent. By 1990 he was again promoted to Patrol Agent in Charge, and by 1994 he was part of the senior staff at the Del Rio Sector Headquarters, serving as Assistant Chief Patrol Agent.