

In 1973, John and Janet Trefethen opened a modern winery on the property and began producing small batches of premium wines with the help of vineyard manager Tony Baldini. Trefethen Family Vineyards 1976 Chardonnay was recognized as "Best in the World" at the 1979 Wine Olympics in Paris. Since then, Trefethen Family Vineyards has continued to produce wines of the highest quality, as reflected in this latest, international award.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we congratulate Trefethen Family Vineyards and the Trefethen family for the award they have received. This award is fitting testimony to the family's commitment to excellence and their dedication to helping build on the Napa Valley's reputation as the world's premier wine region.

HONORING THE RICHARDSON AND  
SUNNYVALE INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DALLAS  
COUNTY, TEXAS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts in Dallas County, Texas for excellence in education.

Education is a fundamental part of the development of our Nation's youth. The Texas Education Agency recently released the 2007 annual performance ratings for schools across Texas. It is notable that Richardson Independent School District was able to maintain its rating of "recognized"—which is the second-highest possible rating—and the Sunnyvale Independent School District was able to increase its rating to "exemplary"—which is the highest possible rating.

Their performance illustrates the commitment and dedication of the administrators, teachers, and staff who provide students with a quality education. In particular, I would like to recognize the work of Superintendents David Simmons and Doug Williams.

Madam Speaker, as a representative for Dallas County, I would like to commend the Richardson and Sunnyvale Independent School Districts for their continued achievements in education.

HONORING BARREN COUNTY,  
KENTUCKY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Barren County, Kentucky, recently designated as the "Best Place to Live in Rural America" by The Progressive Farmer magazine.

Each year, The Progressive Farmer ranks ten top counties in rural America according to several quality-of-life indicators and statistics. Barren County won top honors for 2007, citing its strong and growing economy, great edu-

cation, superior access to health care, and low crime rate.

Settled by Scottish immigrants in the late 1700's, nearly 40,000 residents now call Barren County home. Rolling farmland and a strong agriculture heritage continue to influence local attitudes, consistently ranking Barren County as a top producer of Kentucky agriculture.

Located along Interstate 65 midway between Louisville and Nashville, TN, Barren County is ideally situated as a place to live and work. Local officials and business leaders continue to attract new industries to the region, establishing four industrial parks throughout the county to accommodate future economic growth.

Barren County schools maintain some of the highest achievement scores in the State. The county also ranks high in health-care services, attracting new doctors through a local residency program.

It is my great privilege to congratulate the citizens of Barren County, Kentucky today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for their example of prosperity and growth in rural America.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER GREGG  
PASSAMA

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. STARK, Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Officer Gregg Passama on his retirement from the City of Newark, California, after serving 20 years as a member of the Newark Police Department and over 33 commendable years in the field of law enforcement.

Officer Passama began his law enforcement career in January 1974 as a police officer for the Southern Pacific Railroad located in San Francisco, California. During this time, he was elected Union President to represent all Southern Pacific Railroad police officers. Mr. Passama also found time to attend the prestigious George Meany School of Labor Studies.

On June 1, 1987, he began his career with the Newark Police Department as a police officer. He also served as a field training officer and a member of both the Criminal Evidence Response and Trauma Support Teams during his career.

Officer Passama received Newark's Police Officer of the Year award in 2000 after being nominated by his peers for his compassion for others and his tireless efforts as a Newark Police Association board member, vice president, and president for two terms.

He has also previously held the positions of secretary, treasurer, and director of the California Organization of Police and Sheriffs (COPS), an organization dedicated to serving peace officers. He is currently the president of COPS, a position he has held since 2004.

Officer Passama transferred to the Training Department of the Newark Police in January 2001, where he will finish out his career as the training officer.

I join the Newark Police Department in thanking Officer Passama for his dedicated service to law enforcement and commitment to the community.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, August 2, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 3161, the Agriculture Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2008. This bill provides funding to support our farmers, protect the environment, ensure a safe and stable food supply, and care for the most vulnerable members of our society. H.R.3161 also fulfills the reforms included in the recently passed Farm Bill, by increasing funding for nutrition, conservation and energy programs.

I am pleased to support funding increases for important conservation programs for my home state of Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. This legislation also restores funding for many programs that the Bush Administration's budget would have cut or eliminated, including Resource Conservation and Development and watershed programs. H.R. 3161 also encourages the expansion of renewable energy research and production by nearly doubling funding for renewable energy loans to businesses, resources for research, and grants to farmers and ranchers.

After recent food scares, Americans have become more concerned about where their food is produced. After six years of delays, I am pleased that H.R. 3161 includes a time line for implementation of country of origin labeling for our meat. This legislation fully funds the Food Safety and Inspection Service at the Department of Agriculture in order to fill vacancies and invest in research, and will also fund a transformation of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) food safety regulations. This measure also prevents cuts to FDA field operations and provides additional funding for processing generic drug applications and drug safety reviews.

H.R. 3161 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This includes the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, as well as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to non-profit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools. H.R. 3161 also includes funding to help improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children. It also expands the Simplified Summer Food