

which is a relatively modest price to pay to insure a vibrant and growing U.S. aerospace export industry. In 2007, the U.S. exported nearly \$97 billion worth of aerospace products, producing a \$60 billion positive trade balance in an otherwise grim trade picture. Nevertheless, H.R. 5916 also requires a report within 90 days on possible means for DDTC to achieve 100 percent self-financing.

H.R. 5916 creates a special licensing authorization for U.S. manufactured spare and replacement parts or components in connection with defense items previously lawfully exported to our closest friends and allies. This will help free up time of DDTC employees to go after more significant threats to our national security. Finally, the bill augments the input of the private sector Defense Trade Advisory Group, DTAG, into the State Department's defense trade agenda.

In conclusion, the Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Reform Act of 2008 streamlines the export control process, reduces the application backlog, and allows greater scrutiny on sensitive exports that could harm our country. It will better protect our Nation while helping U.S. companies sell more goods and services to our allies, creating more jobs for Americans. I appreciate the Foreign Affairs Committee's bipartisan efforts on this issue, particularly Chairmen BERMAN and SHERMAN and their respective staffs, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5916.

HONORING MARCUS MATHES OF  
PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Army Sergeant Marcus Mathes of Pasco County, Florida, was killed Monday, April 28th outside Baghdad, Iraq, when the equipment truck he was working on was struck by enemy rocket fire. Sergeant Mathes is survived by his mother and step-father, Sue and Mike Sawyer of Sebring, his father, Ralph Mathes of Tampa, and two brothers, Kyle Mathes of Illinois, and Zach Sawyer of Sebring.

A graduate of Zephyrhills High School, Sergeant Mathes grew up in Highlands County before moving to live with his father in Pasco County. While in high school, Sergeant Mathes joined the JROTC, and had dreams of being a professional military member. Inspired by the events of September 11, he enlisted in the Army and left for boot camp on his 23rd birthday. Serving in Afghanistan from October 2006 until March 2007, Sergeant Mathes was sent to Iraq in November of 2007.

A devoted family man, Sergeant Mathes married his high school sweetheart Julia two weeks after her graduation. The two were planning to celebrate their six-year wedding anniversary this June and had wanted to start a family together. During a visit to his base in Louisiana, Sergeant Mathes introduced his sister-in-law, Julia's sister Heather, to one of his fellow soldiers. Two months later, Bryan Harvey and Heather were married. One of his best friends who served in his same unit,

Bryan was nearby when Sergeant Mathes was killed, even picking up his torn Bible where it was thrown from the truck.

Madam Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Marcus Mathes who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear. While brave men and women like Marcus have perished in the name of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget his sacrifice and commitment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON  
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,  
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, along with the gentle lady from Wisconsin, Representative Tammy Baldwin, I have sponsored legislation to allow farmers who grow fruit and vegetables for processing to opt out of farm programs on an acre for acre basis without limitation. That legislation would reduce farm program costs and improve the environment by allowing more extensive crop rotations. I am very pleased that the conference report takes a step toward that proposal by establishing a pilot project to allocate 75,000 acres of new authority for production of fruit and vegetables for processing in specified Midwestern states. USDA has broad discretion in administration of this pilot project to meet the objectives of the pilot project. The conference report does not specify a procedure for allocation of the pilot project acreage or other administrative matters, such as re-allocation of unused acreage allocations among states. However, USDA is clearly required to establish rules to assure that this additional fruit and vegetable production authority will not be abused. Only fruit and vegetables under contract for processing are to be produced under this authority. USDA is to assure that the crop produced is delivered to a processor and that the quantity of crop delivered under the original contract, the contract in existence upon Farm Service Agency certification, does not exceed the quantity that is produced on the contracted acreage. Further, the effects of the pilot project and FAV restrictions on the specialty crop industry, both fresh and processed, are to be evaluated. These restrictions are intended to ensure protection of the objectives of the pilot project, not to compel food waste or excessive regulatory burden. Further, the conference report includes an important statement of policy indicating that in the next recalculation of base acreage, fruit and vegetable production will not cause a reduction in farmer's base acreage. While this is a timid step in reducing restrictions on production of fruits and vegetables, I commend this step in the right direction.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 15, 2008*

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the city of La Crosse's Board of Park Commissioners for their 100 years of dedication to beautifying the largest city in western Wisconsin. Through their unrelenting hard work, a comprehensive park system consisting of 13 parks throughout the city was developed. Over the past century, countless families have benefited from the opportunities these parks have provided.

The Board of Park Commissioners was established through an ordinance passed by the Common Council in May of 1908. Mayor Wendell A. Anderson, a spirited advocate for park services, appointed Joseph M. Hixon, Edward L. Colman, Lucien F. Easton, and Henry Gund to the Board of Park Commissions. All 4 men were dedicated to public service and guided by a grand vision for the city of La Crosse. This vision was made into reality after the city hired landscape architect John Nolen, an understudy of the legendary Frederick Law Olmstead.

For 100 years, La Crosse's residents and visitors have enjoyed the comfort and recreation these parks offer. Having grown up on the north side of La Crosse, I know that the park system is an essential part of the community. Badger Park offered my friends and me a safe place to shoot hoops, play softball, and go ice skating. These parks are not only a way for families and friends to enjoy one another's company, but are also a means of creating lasting memories.

I applaud the La Crosse Common Council and the Board of Park Commissioners for their inspiration and dedication over the past 100 years. Their gift to the city of La Crosse will undoubtedly be enjoyed by many generations to come.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON  
H.R. 2419, FOOD, CONSERVATION,  
AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

**HON. PHIL HARE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 14, 2008*

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, as a Member who represents Illinois farmers and rural communities, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2419, the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act, which is endorsed by every major agriculture group in my home state of Illinois, is good for our farmers and maintains our ability to provide a safe, affordable and abundant food supply.

This bill improves nutrition and conservation programs, and supports biofuel production at great benefit to the Illinois farm economy.