

MALT's success demonstrated that environmentalists and ranchers working together can accomplish their mutual goals. "We tried to develop a different system for protecting land," he said. "You could be going along just great for a few years, and then the political nature of the county changes. We wanted to move away from the political area . . . and be fair to land owners." Protecting this land ensures our nation's food supply ("No farms, no food" is the AFT catchphrase), while preserving our soil, water, wildlife, and rural beauty.

Phyllis Faber, who developed the idea for MALT with rancher Ellen Straus, emphasized Ralph's key role in making the concept work. "He was so respected by the ranchers," she says. "By becoming the first Chair, he secured their interest and support. Ralph was the spark."

Ralph's grandparents emigrated from Switzerland and began ranching in 1896. His father James, one of eleven children, continued the family tradition, as did many of his siblings, establishing the family ranch in 1917. James and his wife Rose, also from a Swiss family, had four children, who learned the business at a young age. Ralph described following his dad around from the age of four or five, then "when we were about seven or eight years old, we got our first chores to do, feeding some calves or taking care of some small livestock."

Ralph later graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with a degree in agriculture. He continued working on the family ranch and developed the first methane digester West of the Mississippi, becoming an early innovator in converting cow manure into power. Along the way he married college sweetheart Judy Lamb, and the couple has three daughters Amy (married to Brian Carr), Erin, and Katie.

Madam Speaker, although Ralph Grossi will be returning with Judy to the hills and meadows of Marin County to focus on the family's Marindale Ranch, he will continue to champion the cause of farmland preservation. Ralph led the way for so many of us and has been a partner to me in these efforts. I know we will continue to work together to ensure that we protect the lands that are the backbone of this country. I wish Ralph and Judy and their family the very best.

COMPREHENSIVE AMERICAN ENERGY SECURITY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act. This comprehensive energy bill provides a marked change to Republicans' solitary drumbeat of their flawed energy policy which only maintains the oil-consuming status quo. Instead of trying to score cheap political points, Democrats in Congress are paving the way forward with real sound solutions to the pain at the pump the American people are feeling.

The Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act expands

domestic and alternative sources of energy to increase our nation's national security. Additionally, it extends and expands tax incentives for renewable energy and reduces transit fares for commuter rail and buses. Provisions in the bill would responsibly open up the Outer Continental Shelf for drilling with significant environmental protections while demanding that oil companies use the leases they have already been issued.

This bill allows for safe responsible drilling while investing in domestic alternative technologies and green jobs. In return for opening up more areas for drilling, the bill requires oil companies to pay American taxpayers royalties owed to them and ends subsidies to oil companies for drilling. This bill provides long-term solutions to help us achieve real energy independence, strengthen our national security, and reduce global warming.

Under the agreement reached between Florida Democrats and House Leadership, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Taxpayer Protection Act includes provisions maintaining a 2006 compromise protecting the Eastern Gulf of Mexico from offshore oil drilling. These limitations protect the military areas off the coast of Florida, as well as Florida's tourism and fishing industries.

I am pleased that this bill protects Florida's coast from expanded offshore oil drilling, much to the dismay of the oil men in the White House and corrupt Interior Department officials who were accepting gifts from the oil companies they regulate. Drilling off Florida's coast only further subjects our beaches to oil spills that become exacerbated by hurricane damage and contributes to global climate change. Although the struggle to maintain the existing protections for Florida's coast is far from over, I promise to be the last man standing in the fight to prevent expanded offshore oil drilling in Florida.

HONORING MS. LILLIAN PERRY

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Lillian Perry, a dedicated public servant in my home district.

Ms. Lillian has been a resident of the area since the 1950s, when she made a move from the state of Georgia to establish roots in Aurora, Illinois. She has spent her life taking up the causes of civil rights, integration, and equality.

As an active member of the community, she has volunteered for various organizations, including Blacks in Politics, the Aurora Youth Job Program, and the Citizens for Neighborhood Improvement Program.

This work above is not the extent of her involvement in the community. Ms. Lillian was part of an effort to establish the Kane County Health Department, and she also speaks out on a regular basis against violence in her community.

Currently, Ms. Lillian serves as a liaison to area communities in the Office of State Representative Linda Chapa LaVia. In this position she works with Representative Chapa LaVia's constituents on a daily basis, and is a strong advocate for their needs.

Her work has not gone unnoticed in the community. She has been the recipient of awards from various city organizations, and was named a Women of Distinction by the Aurora YMCA. This summer, her community selected her as the Grand Marshal of the Aurora Independence Day Parade to honor her work and achievements.

I join the community in thanking her for her continued work for those who face adversity, and I look forward to seeing some of the great things that Ms. Lillian will continue to do for the great people of my congressional district.

CONGRATULATING RALPH "TOM" BROWNING, TRIS S. CASTLE, ROBERT F. DELKER, WILLIAM H. WALLACE—INDUCTEES TO THE ARIZONA VETERANS HALL OF FAME

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph "Tom" Browning, Tris S. Castle, Robert F. Delker, and William H. Wallace, the Class of 2008 inductees to the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. As veterans, these citizens have bravely served our country and their selfless efforts deserve considerable recognition.

The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society is committed to promoting camaraderie among those who have served and continue to serve the state of Arizona and our country. Its message of perpetuating service and patriotism through recognition is inspirational to the entire community. These individuals have been selected for this prestigious honor by the Office of Governor Janet Napolitano as well as the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.

These Arizona residents were selected to be part of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame not just because they honorably served our country, but because they have continued their commitment to the idea of selfless service throughout their lives.

I commend the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society for awarding such deserving citizens. These four people truly exemplify the courage and patriotism that we as Americans value so highly. As members of Hall of Fame Society, I am sure these veterans will continue to serve and inspire future generations.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ralph Browning, Tris Castle, Robert Delker, and William Wallace's continued service to the community.

RECOGNIZING DR. ALBERT L. LORENZO

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Albert L. Lorenzo, as he retires from the presidency of Macomb Community College after nearly 30 years of devoted and talented service. It has been a distinct honor working with Al Lorenzo throughout the years. I have come to know him as an active and passionate advocate for the education system,