

hemp has such a low content of THC (the psychoactive chemical in the related marijuana plant) that nobody can be psychologically affected by consuming hemp. Federal law concedes the safety of industrial hemp by allowing it to be legally imported for use as food.

The United States is the only industrialized nation that prohibits industrial hemp cultivation. The Congressional Research Service has noted that hemp is grown as an established agricultural commodity in over 30 nations in Europe, Asia, North America, and South America. The Industrial Hemp Farming Act will relieve this unique restriction on American farmers and allow them to grow industrial hemp in accord with State law.

Industrial hemp is a crop that was grown legally throughout the United States for most of our Nation's history. In fact, during World War II, the Federal Government actively encouraged American farmers to grow industrial hemp to help the war effort. The Department of Agriculture even produced a film "Hemp for Victory" encouraging the plant's cultivation.

In recent years, the hemp plant has been put to many popular uses in foods and in industry. Grocery stores sell hemp seeds and oil as well as food products containing oil and seeds from the hemp plant. Industrial hemp is also included in consumer products such as paper, cloths, cosmetics, and carpet. One of the more innovative recent uses of industrial hemp is in the door frames of about 1.5 million cars. Hemp has even been used in alternative automobile fuel.

It is unfortunate that the Federal Government has stood in the way of American farmers, including many who are struggling to make ends meet, competing in the global industrial hemp market. Indeed, the founders of our Nation, some of whom grew hemp, would surely find that Federal restrictions on farmers growing a safe and profitable crop on their own land are inconsistent with the constitutional guarantee of a limited, restrained Federal Government. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to stand up for American farmers and cosponsor the Industrial Hemp Farming Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABODE SERVICES

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 20th anniversary of Abode Services, formerly known as Tri-City Homeless Coalition, based in Fremont, California.

Abode Services' roots lie in a coalition of Tri-City church congregations that mobilized support in the 1980s to help growing numbers of individuals and families who had no place to live. Former Fremont Councilmember Judy Zlatnik, a community activist and member of one of the congregations, remembers the day people came together at Fremont's Senior Center to develop a plan. The newly formed coalition implemented a plan to shelter people in churches on a rotating schedule, at first during the winter months only, but later, on a year round basis. In 1989, the coalition became known as the Tri-City Homeless Coalition of Fremont.

In the beginning, the coalition thought that it would serve as an emergency solution for

homeless individuals and families seeking a safe place to get out of the cold. When it soon became apparent that the need for shelter was long-term and enduring, the agency set its sights on a permanent building. They then selected a site to build Sunrise Village, one of the first shelters in the country designed and built from the ground up as a shelter for families and single adults. In August 1993, their goal materialized when the first residents moved into Sunrise Village.

Abode Services became an early adopter of Housing First, a national movement pioneered in the 1990s that addresses the most pressing and urgent needs for homeless families and individuals with a full complement of social services. Abode Services collaborates with more than 30 organizations to leverage program resources.

Abode Services now offers eleven housing programs linked to support services for homeless families and individuals. These programs provide an essential safety net for approximately 2,000 people annually who are homeless or at risk of becoming so, including single adults, families, emancipated foster youth, people with disabilities and seniors. Abode Services' Project HOPE Mobile Health Clinic, operated in collaboration with Tri-City Health Center, serves more than 1,000 homeless persons annually. Since 2005, Abode Services has created 325 units of permanent supportive housing for previously homeless families.

I join the community in congratulating Abode Services on this significant milestone of 20 years of exemplary leadership and service. The organization continues to fulfill its vision and mission of providing affordable housing and supportive services to individuals and families throughout Alameda.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. XAVIER BECERRA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 1, 2009, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 175 on a motion to table H. Res. 312. If present, I would have voted "yea."

386TH ENGINEERING BATTALION

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

Since December 2006, members of the 386th Engineering Battalion have been working side-by-side with their civilian counterparts in the only level three trauma center in the Corpus Christi area. During their drill weekends, these soldiers are assigned to duties inside the hospital's emergency room to work in triage, fast track or trauma.

Through this joint effort, the 386th Engineering Battalion was able to utilize these real world experiences on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan.

I would like to take some time now to honor Lt. Col. John Beignano and Lt. Col. Francisco Zuniga. These gentlemen worked tirelessly with the Christus Spohn Healthcare System administrators to make this idea a reality. By participating in this important work, these soldiers are making significant contributions to the community and to their fellow soldiers. Their families and loved ones should be proud of their service to the country and the extraordinary way they have improved people's lives.

Today, I ask that my colleagues join me in commemorating the men and women of the 386th Engineering Battalion and the Christus Spohn Healthcare System.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY AS A FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the University of Michigan and its University Library System in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library.

Since 1884, the University of Michigan Library has served the University of Michigan and the Southeastern Michigan community as a public space where citizens can find information about their government. As part of the Federal Library Depository Program (FLDP), the University of Michigan Library provides free access to journals, electronic resources, microfilm and more on an endless number of topics and is equipped with thoroughly trained librarians to help navigate. Throughout its history, the FLDP has striven to make our citizenry more informed and ultimately more engaged in the democratic process.

The University of Michigan Library in Ann Arbor is one of the largest university library systems in the United States. It consists of 19 libraries in 11 buildings, which combined, hold over 8 million volumes. These impressive statistics and the fine work of its employees mean this library system has consistently ranked as one of the top ten academic research libraries in North America. The fact that the University of Michigan has, for 125 years, been home to a FDLP library speaks to both its remarkable record as an educational institution and its committed role in ensuring access to our civic process.

Once again, I congratulate the University of Michigan on this tremendous achievement and I wish the library system and the entire university the very best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HOPE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP ACT

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 2, 2009*

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I raise to introduce the Hope Plus Scholarship Act, which