

is the world's most important grain for human nutrition, but genomics and biotechnology research have lagged behind. The WGGRC is leading an international effort to map and sequence the wheat genome. The WGGRC gene bank currently maintains 12,000 lines and these collections are continuously expanding as the Center acquires, develops, and distributes new genetic and genomic resources to facilitate wheat genetics, genomics, and breeding research. Kansas State University and Kansas wheat producers have already made an investment of almost \$1.0 million towards the purchase of a DNA sequencer and a robot for arraying and printing of DNA filters. Funding will be used collect, conserve, and distribute wheat genetic and genomic resources; develop improved germ plasm; develop genetic stocks; develop genomic resources; and support training and outreach. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
ALICE TERRY SKAGGS

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and accomplishments of a woman who dedicated more than fifty years of her life to educate and help others, Mary Alice Terry Skaggs of Plano Texas, who passed away this past March.

Mrs. Mary Skaggs was born in Celina, Texas on April 22, 1908. She attended high school at Gunter Bible College and Kidd-Key College in Sherman. Mary received both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Austin College in Sherman, leading her later become the first Independent School District teacher to hold a master's degree.

Mary Skaggs taught English, economics, and journalism in Plano where her expertise in educating others did not go unnoticed. The Texas Federation of Women's Clubs acknowledged Mary as Teacher of the Year in 1958, and the Plano Business and Professional Women's Club honored her with the Career Achievement Award in 1968.

Mary's legacy to better educate, mentor, and improve young lives in the community at large are immortalized in a 2006 No Child Left Behind Ribbon School, the Mary Alice Skaggs Elementary, established by the Plano school district. In recognition of her 30 years as a Plano teacher, the school has been a source of exemplary education since its opening in 1996.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband James Harold Skaggs. She will be missed by her two sisters Addie Lee Cox and Benny Cox, and her niece, and the countless lives that were touched and influenced by her years as an outstanding educator.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mary Alice Terry Skaggs for her lifelong devotion to education and her community.

COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL
FOOD PROGRAM

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, last Thursday I attended an event back home in Michigan where a coalition of community organizations came together and committed to delivering 575,000 meals to those in need this summer in southeast Michigan. The Ford Foundation and two Ford dealerships provided new mobile pantries. Gleaners Community Food Bank, Forgotten Harvest, and the United Way are partnering to ensure that the pantries will be fully stocked and sent to the areas which need it the most.

The need for assistance in our country is staggering. In southeast Michigan 600,000 people are at risk of hunger. Food banks and pantries nationwide are seeing a 30 percent increase in demand for emergency food assistance, with some food banks reporting as high as a 65 percent increase in need, according to Feeding America. An astonishing 72 percent of food banks report that they are not able to adequately meet the needs of their communities without adjusting the amount of food distributed due to rising unemployment and food prices.

The federal government has a vital role to play in providing emergency food assistance. We provided some relief in the Recovery Act earlier this year. The Agriculture Appropriation bill before the House continues this investment by providing a 10 percent increase to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) food aid program as well as a \$19.6 million increase for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

I want to highlight the Commodity Supplemental Food Program because it reaches out to low-income seniors—a group of people who too often fall through the cracks of our food safety net. The program, which has 41,000 monthly participants in southeast Michigan, comes from a partnership between the government and local community organizations. Ninety-three percent of CSFP participants are seniors and many who receive delivery of their food packages are unable to leave their homes. The food packages, as well as the visit from the volunteer, are important in assisting them to maintain their independence and a healthier lifestyle.

Under this bill, the CSFP will be able to increase the number of eligible individuals who participate for the first time since 2003. The program, which currently operates in only 32 states, will expand to six new states, some of which have programs and seniors that have been waiting for six years. The program will grow in Michigan and overall expand from 475,000 participants to 622,000.

Much more must be done. I will introduce legislation soon that will provide an additional incentive for farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and restaurateurs to donate wholesome food to food banks and pantries to replenish the shelves for hungry Americans.

According to a report released by USDA last November, 36.2 million Americans, including 12.4 million children, are food insecure. The report paints a stark picture of the pervasiveness of hunger in our nation, a picture that

has only grown worse as the recession has deepened since the report data was collected in 2007. Hunger puts our children's health, learning, and development at risk; hunger causes unnecessary pain and suffering on already stressed working poor families, and hunger causes our elderly to make difficult choices between buying food or medicine. I applaud the work of the community organizations who work tirelessly to alleviate hunger, and the Appropriations Committee for providing them with more resources. Hunger poses a real threat to our children, seniors, and everyone in our communities. Our progress is important, but we cannot stop here.

ASSESSING THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2009

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, a May 5 Washington Post article opened with these words: "The Obama administration has backed away from overt expressions of support for human rights and democracy in favor of a more subtle approach, worrying advocates who say that the issues are being given short shrift as President Obama seeks to rebuild relations with allies and reach out to adversaries."

I join the ranks of those who are deeply troubled by the trajectory of this administration on human rights.

In a February visit to Asia, Secretary of State Clinton plainly indicated that human rights would not be a priority in her engagement with China. She said, "We pretty much know what they [the Chinese government] are going to say" on human rights issues.

With that logic, the administration will rarely find it advisable to raise human rights concerns with any country, particularly the worst offenders.

Clinton went on, "We have to continue to press them. But our pressing on those issues can't interfere with the global economic crisis, the global climate change crisis, and the security crisis."

Human rights organizations were dismayed. How had impassioned advocacy for the dignity of every person been relegated to a position of mere interference? And this in spite of Obama campaign promises to "be frank with the Chinese" and "press them to respect human rights."

Following Secretary Clinton's Asia comments and subsequent remarks during a visit to the Middle East where she indicated that Egypt's abuses would not negatively affect our bilateral relations, the Washington Post editorialized on March 11, "Ms. Clinton is doing a disservice to her own department—and sending the wrong message to rulers around the world that their abuses won't be taken seriously by this U.S. administration."

Against this backdrop, President Obama in April moved to lift restrictions on travel and remittances for Cuban Americans absent any commitment by the Castro brothers to release even one of the hundreds of political prisoners who languish in jails.

Frank Calzon of the Center for a Free Cuba cautioned, "Lifting the travel ban means the