

is not unheard of for one area of the state to be dealing with drought conditions while another area is having flooding.

This is exactly why this facility is so important to the panhandle of Nebraska. Western Nebraska grows a completely different set of crops from the eastern areas of our state. The land is different, the growing season is shorter, even the kinds of bugs and weeds are different. Timely and appropriate information and research can mean the difference between a successful growing season and a disappointing one.

The original experimental substation was constructed on 160 acres provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By July 1910 an office and laboratory had been built, in addition to a barn, grain bin, machine shed and other structures. USDA managed the plots until 1948, when the land and management were turned over to the State of Nebraska, and subsequently the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Today, the Panhandle Research and Extension Center has over a dozen faculty members—most of which hold joint appointments in research and extension. Disciplines such as entomology, weed science, irrigation management, machinery systems, plant pathology, alternative crops, dry bean breeding, cow-calf production and range management, and entrepreneur and business development—among others—are represented.

The Center has made a tremendous difference over the last 100 years, and I fully expect the impact to continue on long into the future.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF RICHARD D. GASKALLA, FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant, who has made an invaluable contribution toward safeguarding the future of agricultural production in our State and Nation. Richard D. Gaskalla, serving as Director, Division of Plant Industry, has distinguished himself through a marked career at the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. His exemplary service over the last 25 years is to be commended. I rise to honor Richard Gaskalla on the occasion of his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture, and congratulate him on his future endeavors as he moves on to serve and protect our Nation through the Department of Homeland Security.

Raised in Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Gaskalla graduated from Florida State University in 1975 with a degree in Biological Sciences. He began his career as a District Agricultural Products Specialist in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Bureau of Plant Inspection.

He quickly progressed, promoted to Agricultural Products Specialist Supervisor responsible for interpretation and dissemination of plant import and export regulations, post entry

quarantine programs, and the Bureau of Plant Inspection's interactions with the Division of Inspection, Bureau of Road Guard Agricultural Inspection Stations. In 1988, he was appointed Director of the Division of Plant Industry overseeing all division programs, including emergency pest and disease eradication activities and other functions.

Under his direction, the Division of Plant Industry has strengthened the state of preparedness against threats of serious agricultural pests and diseases. His steadfast and committed efforts, in collaboration with many agencies and organizations at the State, regional, and national level have directly enhanced policies affecting Florida and U.S. agriculture.

As a dedicated and knowledgeable leader in the field of plant pest regulatory programs, Richard Gaskalla has made valuable contributions through his service on many national panels and oversight bodies. His work on the Safeguarding American Plant Resources Review set forth a comprehensive policy designed to improve United States agriculture protection programs. Mr. Gaskalla also served on the National Plant Board Advisory Council, which provides a direct line for input and communication on policies, issues, quarantines that affect U.S. and international agricultural production.

He has facilitated safe trade among nations, based on sound phytosanitary scientific standards, formulating several successful export certifications for U.S. agricultural products to foreign markets. In his tenure with the Division of Plant Industry, Mr. Gaskalla was involved in several efforts to combat dangerous pests and disease threatening the State and region's agricultural production including the Mediterranean fruit fly, imported Fire Ants, shipment and preservation of nursery and foliage stock, biological control activities against exotic predators, and noxious weed detection. In addition, his leadership responsibilities strengthened and bolstered other regulatory programs involving honey bee inspections, boll weevil eradication, Caribbean fruit fly protocol, and commodity treatments.

Most recently, Mr. Gaskalla has been involved in the development and implementation of the Citrus Health Response Program, a critical national program designed to help mitigate the impact of dangerous pests and diseases facing North American citrus.

Richard Gaskalla has been awarded numerous awards and citations, including among other prestigious honors, the United States Department of Agriculture Honor Award.

It is my privilege to honor Richard Gaskalla's outstanding public service upon his retirement from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and thank him for his countless contributions and tireless efforts to safeguard and sustain American agriculture. I commend and recognize his efforts, and am pleased that our nation will continue to benefit from his future endeavors to protect America's valuable resources and secure our food supply.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL ROGER A. WILSON, JR.

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that Colonel Roger A. Wilson, Jr. is retiring as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. He has diligently served in this role for three years.

After earning degrees from The Citadel, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the U.S. Army War College, Colonel Wilson went on to lead engineering battalions across the United States and around the world. In addition to these assignments, he served in combat operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Afghanistan.

As Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, Colonel Wilson oversaw many military and civil works projects throughout the District. From overseeing construction projects at the region's many military installations to ensuring our levees and dams are structurally sound, Colonel Wilson ably led an office with diverse mandates and responsibilities. Although his résumé boasts many accomplishments, Colonel Wilson's work to maintain the superiority of the Emergency Operations Center, which plays a vital role in responding to natural disasters whenever and wherever they may occur, is most impressive.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Wilson is a true professional and has exhibited remarkable leadership during his time as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District Commander. I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing him well in the days to come.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF KENTUCKY'S METCALFE COUNTY AND CITY OF EDMONTON

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of Kentucky's Metcalfe County and city of Edmonton. Metcalfe County became the 106th county in the Commonwealth of Kentucky on May 1st 1860 and was named in honor of Kentucky's 10th governor, Thomas Metcalfe. Its sesquicentennial is a significant milestone for Metcalfe County and one I am pleased to honor.

Through the course of the history of Edmonton and Metcalfe County, its citizens have endured hard times and sacrifices. Its sons and daughters have answered the call to serve in every war beginning with the Civil War and continuing through this day. The town of Edmonton was settled as a result of the sacrifice, work and vision of Edmund Rogers, a Revolutionary War veteran and cousin to General George Rogers Clark and William Clark. In March of 1826, the first United States Post Office was established in Edmonton, which changed its image from that of a trading post