

SNAP CUTS IN THE FARM BILL

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the \$20 billion cut over the next decade to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, included in the reauthorization of the Farm bill and supported by some of my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture. SNAP is the cornerstone of our nation's nutrition assistance safety net and touches the lives of over one in seven Americans. To highlight the importance of this critical safety net, last week I participated in a one day SNAP Challenge by limiting my total daily food budget to \$4.50—the equivalent of the daily benefits received by individuals living in Michigan.

If these cuts are enacted into law, nearly 2 million low-income Americans will lose benefits and 210,000 children from low-income families will lose free school meals, which may be their only meal of the day. My colleagues claim that cuts are needed to reduce the federal debt. However, every major deficit reduction package signed into law over the last thirty years has always been negotiated according to the principle of not increasing poverty or inequality.

Moreover, families are already facing cuts to SNAP benefits. Under current law, the temporary boost in benefits provided in April of 2009 by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are scheduled to end on November 1. This expiration of enhanced benefits will cause a family of three to experience a \$20–\$25 month deduction in benefits, which amounts to a cut of \$1.40 per person per meal. This reduction, coupled with the draconian \$20 billion cut proposed in the Farm Bill, is simply cruel.

In 2007, 26.3 million Americans participated in SNAP nationally. In 2012, more than 46.2 million people received benefits—doubling of the number of participants in 2007. This is a testament to the fact that when people struggle to put food on their tables during an economic downturn, SNAP is able to respond to meet their needs. SNAP is our nation's most important anti-hunger program and we must protect it for the future sake of vulnerable children and families. I encourage my colleagues to stand up for low-income Americans and fight for this vital safety net.

HONORING JUNETEENTH,
VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vallejo Juneteenth Celebration.

On Saturday, June 15, 2013, the Solano County African Family Celebration Committee marks the City of Vallejo's 25th anniversary of the Juneteenth Celebration. Juneteenth is the national observance of African American freedom from slavery in June of 1865. Juneteenth

is also a time to also celebrate the positive contributions of African Americans nationally and locally, and to promote a cultural connection of the observance as an opportunity to build strong communities through access to health services and education resources.

For over two decades the Solano County African Family Reunion Celebration Committee has served the community with its network of volunteers serving as the African American Family Reunion Committee, AAFRC.

The AAFRC has partnered with local non-profit and for-profit health care organizations to provide free health services to community. The Juneteenth celebration also emphasizes education as the key to a successful future and includes participation by local educational institutions and after school programs that seek to increase the number of African American students enrolling in college.

Mr. Speaker, on this occasion it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the Juneteenth Celebration in Vallejo, California on the 25th anniversary of their momentous event. I join our colleagues in celebrating the African American Community of Solano County's rich history and wishing them a successful 25th year with many more to come.

HONORING HAROLD A. PETERSON
III**HON. JEFF DENHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor Mr. Harold A. Peterson III, President/Chief Executive Officer of Community Hospice, Inc. who is retiring after 18 years of outstanding service to the Central Valley.

Community Hospice, Inc. is a non-profit, standalone Medicare Certified hospice headquartered in Modesto, with a branch office in Stockton, and a 16 bed inpatient facility; the Alexander Cohen Hospice House is located in Hughson, California. Community Hospice provided compassionate care to over 1800 patients last year and 260 patients on a daily basis. Beyond medical and nursing care; the organization provides bereavement support to those in the community who have lost a loved one. Additionally, Community Hospice operates six Hope Chest Thrift Stores, a logistics and recycling center, a durable medical equipment division, and the Community Hospice Foundation, which raises additional funds to support the hospice mission.

Prior to coming to Community Hospice, Mr. Peterson worked for 23 years in a Fortune 500 food manufacturing company. Harold has held positions from front line supervision to Senior Vice President of Distribution; a position he had held the last seven years.

In addition to a busy work schedule, Harold has a history of active involvement in the community. Following is a partial list of his participation: 17 year member of Modesto Rotary, Past Chair of the Stanislaus County Economic Development Company, Past Chair of the Stanislaus County Private Industry Council, Past Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, Past member of the Board of Directors for the Hughson Cham-

ber of Commerce, Past Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Stanislaus County, Past member of the Board of Directors of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association (CHAPCA), Past Chair of the Tri Valley Credit Union, and graduate of the 1990 Modesto Chamber of Commerce Leadership Modesto. Most recently, Harold has been a Supervisory Committee Member of the Community Trust Credit Union.

Harold has received many acknowledgments for his volunteer work, which include receiving the Hughson Business Man of the Year award in 2008, J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award in 1995 and the United Way President's Award in 1994.

Harold and his wife, Kathy of 42 years have three grown sons, and with their wives, five grandchildren. The Peterson family lives in Modesto, California. They enjoy playing golf and travelling in their motor home to visit family and friends. Harold is a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War and holds a Bachelors Degree from the University of San Francisco in Organizational Behavior.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending Harold A. Peterson III after numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

HONORING LEHMAN COLLEGE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 17, 2013

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am a graduate of Lehman College and I am proud of that. I have a Bachelors degree and a Masters degree and the education I received at Lehman College has served me well. I am proud of my Bronx roots and have had the honor of representing the Bronx for many years, first in the New York State Assembly and now in the U.S. House of Representatives. I was a member of the first graduating class of Lehman College in 1969 and in 1994 I was honored to give the commencement speech to the school's 25th graduating class.

The first office for which I ever ran was the Student Government at Lehman and the skills I honed there and as president of my fraternity laid a strong foundation for me as in my life in public service.

For four generations, Lehman College, and its predecessor, the Bronx branch of Hunter College, have given students a first-rate liberal arts education in preparing them for careers in teaching, business, social work, the health sciences and other areas. The school's more than 360 full-time faculty members represent a broad spectrum of scholarship in over 30 fields and includes seven Distinguished Professors, the highest rank attainable within City University of New York.

Lehman's more than 63,000 alumni are making important contributions to industry and organizations both professionally and within their communities here, and across the nation and the world.

Lehman has more than 90 graduate and undergraduate programs for the more than 12,000 students who enjoy some of the finest academic and athletic facilities available. These include state-of-the-art labs in biology, geographic information science, and new