

Food and Nutrition Education Program, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance programs.

Whereas Cooperative Extension provides rapid response to disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network and other similar efforts by providing real-time alerts and resources so Extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock and crops.

Whereas Cooperative Extension translates science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks where educators are uniquely available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find answers and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions.

Whereas Cooperative Extension engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next generation of leaders.

Whereas many states and land-grant institutions are celebrating and commemorating the centennial of the signing of the historic Act.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the United States House of Representatives:

Recognizes the significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension nationwide.

Encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for Cooperative Extension.

Honors the university faculty and local educators who dedicate careers to providing trusted education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

Expresses its appreciation to Cooperative Extension volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence for 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and consumer sciences and other programs in their communities.

Encourages the continued collaboration and cooperation among federal, state and local governments to ensure Cooperative Extension's sustainability as the nation's premiere nonformal educational network.

Celebrates the millions of youth, adults, families, farmers, ranchers, community leaders and others who engage in Cooperative Extension learning opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.

HONORING ROGERS BENJAMIN MORRIS, SR.

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable farmer and hero, Mr. Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., who is a resident of Mound Bayou, MS.

His father, Mr. Ajax Julius Morris, Sr., was a fortunate man. His parents afforded him the

opportunity to attend Alcorn State College, currently known today as Alcorn State University, during a time when most African Americans received very little or, in many instances, no educational opportunities at all. Also, his wife, Rowena Bell Morris, attended Natchez College. In 1974, after rearing and formally educating all five of their children, Mrs. Morris returned to college at Mississippi Valley State University and graduated with a degree in education at the "tender age of 68."

As staunch proponents of hard work and educational excellence, Mr. and Mrs. Morris worked unstintingly to ensure that their three sons and two daughters received the best education possible. Among those five children was Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., the youngest in the family. He was born on November 9, 1945, in the small, rural community of Winterville, MS, where he received his early education.

In 1964, he graduated as salutatorian from O'Bannon High School, in Greenville, MS. In 1968, he graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry. In 1972, Mr. Morris received a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Health from the University of Cincinnati and furthered his education toward a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

As a youngster growing up on a farm, he learned what it meant to work hard and persevere; these qualities helped direct his career back to the family farm more than 35 years ago. Realizing that farming involves a lot more than the growing of crops, he taught his own sons farm work during the early stages of their lives, thereby providing them with experiences that cultivated and shaped their character, as well as careers.

In the early 1900s his grandfather acquired over 100 acres of land in Washington County, MS—land that has remained in the family for over a century. Presently, as a third generation farmer, he farms this land, in addition to over 600 other acres of crops in the region. As the owner of Morris Farms, he produces corn, rice, soybeans and wheat. He manages some timber and raises sweet potatoes.

Mr. Morris is a member of the Mound Bayou First Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and chairman of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the sanctuary choir. He is also a member of the Shelby-Bolivar County Credit Union and a past member of the Mound Bayou School District Board of Trustees. As a member of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau and Delta Council of Mississippi, he has an opportunity to communicate the needs of farmers to all political and apiculture leaders. He is the assistant secretary of the National Black Growers Council, an organization that defines its mission as, "We simply love farming".

Mr. Morris states that "We smile knowing the food and fiber we produce feed and clothe the world. We farm on lands handed down from generation to generation. We constantly integrate technology The organization confers with industry leaders to strengthen their mission of improving the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of Black row crop farmers."

One of Mr. Morris' greatest concerns is the lack of job opportunities for young people in the community. Sweet potato farming allows him to employ a limited number of persons in planting and harvesting.

In June of 2007 a reporter, Carol Guzy, shadowed Mr. Morris for a day on the farm and he was featured in an article in the Washington Post newspaper which detailed the plight of small Black farmers. On July 12–14, 2012, he was selected to present on the African American Farmers' Panel at the Urban-Ag Academy conference in Des Moines, IA.

Mr. Morris has been married to Mrs. DeVoyce Morris for 44 years and they are the proud parents of four adult sons, Rogers Benjamin Morris, Jr., Jeremy Kyle, Justin and Bertrand. They are gracious grandparents of three granddaughters, Jordan, Sydnee and Nia Marie and one grandson, Kyle Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing farmer, Mr. Roger Morris for his dedication in agriculture.

TO RECOGNIZE SHUJI MARUYAMA SENSEI

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the House is pleased to recognize Shuji Maruyama Sensei, the founder of Kokikai Aikido, on the 45th anniversary of the introduction of Aikido to the greater Philadelphia region. Mr. Maruyama, who is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest living martial artists, brought Aikido to the United States 45 years ago. Now, at the age when most men are considering retirement, Shuji continues to educate his students and lead Kokikai Aikido on a successful path in the U.S. It is understood that this self-defense training system provides personal realization and ethical self-defense. The students of Aikido learn that as they become stronger, a peaceful resolution of conflict becomes more, not less, possible. So on this special anniversary, I am pleased to acknowledge Mr. Maruyama's personal achievements and the beneficial role Kokikai Aikido has played in enriching the lives of men and women in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and the United States.

HONORING JERRY L. SMITH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jerry L. Smith, who is a remarkable Small Black Farmer, Businessman and public servant.

Mr. Jerry L. Smith was born in Leflore County, Mississippi on August 29, 1961 to Emma Lee and Elone Smith, Sr. He is the 7th child of twelve.

Mr. Smith attended Amanda Elzy High School. He was reared on a farm with his family. He and his brothers helped his father to farm part-time until their father decided to stop. He and his brothers took over the farming business and started the Smith's Brother Farm in the early 1980's. Later one of Mr. Smith's brothers was killed and one became disabled. He then continued the farming business under the present name Smith's Farm.