

Center. He was on the Board of Directors of the Monterey Resource Conservation District, and in the 1980's he assisted with the establishment of the Monterey County General Plan.

Bill died January 21, 1999, leaving his wife Norma; two sons, Bill and Tom; two daughters, Carole and Susan, and three grandchildren and a host of friends and admirers. Bill was always an advocate for and champion of the agricultural community. His vision and leadership will be greatly missed.

HONORING MR. ROBERT W. GRAHAM ON THIS, HIS SEVENTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY, FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY OF JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert W. Graham of Johnson City, Tennessee for his ongoing commitment to service toward his community. Throughout his life, Mr. Graham has displayed the hard work and honorable virtue that has won him the respect and admiration of his peers.

Ten years ago, Mr. Graham moved to Johnson City following distinguished service as a government engineer. As one might expect from Mr. Graham, the purpose of his move was to continue his dedication to public service. He organized a local chapter of the Service Corps of Retired Veterans (SCORE), an organization designed to assist under-funded individuals enter into business for themselves. Mr. Graham has been actively involved in SCORE for all of his ten years in Johnson City, and currently serves there as Chairperson of Chapter 584. Under Mr. Graham's watch the program has expanded to include five counties in upper east Tennessee as well as three regional offices.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to present to this Congress Mr. Robert W. Graham, who this September 18 will be celebrating his 75th birthday, and ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life of outstanding service and uncommon dedication.

HONORING BOB AND LINDA BARNES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR RETIREMENT FROM SPRINGVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 43 years of combined service of Robert and Linda Barnes to Springville Elementary School.

Bob and Linda retired from the Springville Griffith Institute School earlier this year, marking the first time in more than two decades

neither was there to greet incoming students at the onset of the school year.

Bob served as Principal of Springville Elementary School since 1976. His wife, Linda, has been secretary since 1979. They were married in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, from parental feedback to standardized test scores, Springville Elementary School has thrived under the Barnes' leadership, ability and devotion. Ninety-eight percent of the students read at levels above the state average; and the majority of second and fourth graders place in the 60th to 80th percentile of the Stanford Achievement Tests.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once noted that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Bob and Linda Barnes, the lives they've touched over their years at Springville Elementary School will ensure that their influence carries on far into the future.

But it's not just the children of the Springville community that have benefited from the Barnes' time and talents. Whether the Chamber of Commerce, the Salem Lutheran Church, the Concord Republican Committee, or countless other civic and community activities and organizations, Bob and Linda have always been there to provide a helping hand to their neighbors.

While I'm proud to honor the contributions of Bob and Linda Barnes both to the Springville Elementary School and their community, I'm also honored that they are among my closest and dearest friends. For many years we were next door neighbors, and through morning coffees and late-night conversations, I know how deeply Bob and Linda care about the children of the Springville community, and how sorely they will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this Congress join me in saluting Bob and Linda Barnes for their years of service to Springville Elementary School; and in wishing them great health and happiness in their retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent yesterday, Monday, September 13, 1999, and as a result, missed rollcall votes 405 through 407. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 405, "yes" on rollcall vote 406, and "yes" on rollcall vote 407.

HELP AMERICA'S FARMERS & RANCHERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the continuing crisis in the farm economy and share with this body a copy of a letter I recently received from a constituent in my Congressional District. America's farm-

ers and ranchers are struggling to deal with some of the lowest commodity prices in decades. Current commodity prices do not even allow farmers to recover their costs of production, much less provide for the needs of their families. When one considers that drought and other damaging weather conditions are also dramatically affecting our crop and livestock production, it is clear that this is nothing short of an emergency situation. And the following letter from a constituent of mine reminds all of us that this situation goes well beyond mere numbers, projections, and statistics. The fact of the matter is that real people are hurting; the livelihoods of real families and real communities are at risk. This letter from Mr. Bill Faris of Hayti, Missouri, the son of a farmer and someone whose family has farmed for generations, highlights the depth of the problems in farm country and explains why all Americans should be gravely concerned about what is happening out on the farm. I hope Members of Congress will keep Mr. Faris' comments in mind as they vote on farm relief measures that will be considered very soon.

BILL FARIS,

Hayti, MO, August 25, 1999.

Rep. JO ANN EMERSON,
The Federal Building,
Cape Girardeau, MO.

DEAR REP. EMERSON, This is a follow up to my earlier letters to you. I had the opportunity to hear you speak at the Rice Field Day on Aug. 18th as I work for the Univ. of MO Delta Center. I was encouraged by what you had to say as you are addressing the central issues facing farmers during this crisis, and it is obvious that you are truly concerned about the plight of our family farmers, and you are taking action to try and help our smaller farmers.

I want you to know I appreciate your efforts on behalf of farmers like my Dad. Unfortunately it is too late for my Dad as I am afraid it will be for many farmers this year.

Dad and I talked the other day, and he told me that he cannot farm after this year. Dad told me that he lost a little over \$50,000 last year due to the low commodity prices and adverse weather conditions and he knows that he will lose more this year than last year. At 72, after a lifetime of doing what he loves the most, farming, Dad knows he has to quit before he loses his home and our farm land. Dad said over the last five years he has used more and more of the money he had put back for his and my Mom's retirement to continue farming, but now he has to quit before he loses it all.

Ms. Emerson, it broke my heart to see the pain and frustration on my Dad's face, but it especially broke my heart to see the helplessness in my Dad's eyes, and to know that there was nothing I could do to help ease Dad's pain. The generations of Faris's farming the land end with my Dad. My Dad is a proud man, and he does not cry easily, but I could see the tears in his eyes as he looked over our land with the resignation that he would never farm it again.

Ms. Emerson, the really sad part of this story is that it will be repeated over and over again at the end of 1999. I fear that thousands of family farms will cease to exist, just as ours will.

I sense a helplessness and a lack of hope in our areas farmers, that I have never seen before. All the farmers laugh with no humor at President Clinton's announcement that many farmers are now eligible for low interest loans. Their standard commit is "what