

RECOGNIZING THOMAS HARTMAN

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thomas Hartman of Chestefield, who has been chosen to participate in the 1999–2000 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) program.

CBYX program was inaugurated in 1983 to commemorate the Tricentennial year of German settlement in the United States. Since then, more than 11,000 American and German students have spent a year studying in their host country. CBYX is designed to strengthen ties between the young generation of both countries and to create a better understanding among American and German youth of the importance of the partnership between the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Prior to departure, Mr. Hartman completed a two-month orientation in Washington, DC. While in Germany, he will learn the German language, study in German schools, and work as a trainee in a German business. At the conclusion of his academic year, Mr. Hartman, will participate in a Bundestag sponsored program whereby participants spend a full day in panel discussions on current events and German-American relations.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in commending Mr. Hartman for his interest in the United States and her foreign affairs, as well as congratulations for his acceptance to this important international youth program.

DOD AUTHORIZATION
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support for S. 1059, the Department of Defense Authorization Conference Report. I believe this bill is a step in the right direction—a step towards a strong military, heightened readiness, and a bolstered national security.

Among the bill's many critical provisions is a well-deserved and long-overdue pay raise for our military men and women in recognition of their hard work and dedication to their country. This bill provides for a 4.8 percent pay raise, .4 percent above the Administration's request. This critical pay raise provision will help ensure that increases are tied more to performance and promotion than years of service and will reduce the pay gap between military and civilian pay. Moreover, this salary increase is a step towards preventing the loss of the best and brightest men and women who find it increasingly difficult to manage on a military salary.

This legislation would also reform the military retirement system and provide service members an opportunity to choose which system better suits their individual needs. It would also extend pay and bonus authority, expand

recruiting and retention, and add additional funds for military housing. In addition, this bill addresses our nation's veterans and recognizes their contribution to this country by guaranteeing their burial benefits, providing retirement flags for reservists and all the uniformed services, and restoring equity to widows' entitlement.

This conference report also adds \$2.7 billion to the procurement account for weaponry modernization, a crucial increase for improving military readiness. It adds \$2.8 billion in operations and maintenance and repair facilities and builds upon the President's proposal to increase defense spending by \$112 billion over the next 6 years. It also restores procurement funding for the essential F–22 fighter jet, a critical part of ensuring our military forces maintain their air superiority.

The Defense Authorization Conference Report significantly increases funding for the procurement of weapons, ammunition, and equipment, and for military construction and will enable the armed forces to modernize while maintaining a high level of readiness and training.

AGRICULTURAL RISK PROTECTION
ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2559) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act, to strengthen the safety net for Agricultural producers by providing greater access to more affordable risk management tools and improve protection from production and income loss, to improve the efficiency and integrity of the Federal crop insurance program, and for other purposes;

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, this Member rises in strong support of H.R. 2559, the Agricultural Risk Protection Act, which provides for the reform of our Federal crop insurance program, and urges his colleagues to vote for it.

This Member would like to begin by expressing appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST), the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM), the Ranking Member of the Committee, for their assistance in expediting this legislation. This Member would also like to express his sincere appreciation to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EWING), the Chairman of the Risk Management Subcommittee, and the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CONDIT) the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, for their assistance with this legislation.

As an original cosponsor of H.R. 2559, this Member is pleased that this important legislation is being considered today. Agricultural producers throughout the country continue to suffer from disastrously low commodity prices and in some regions from adverse weather conditions. Clearly, an emergency agriculture

relief package is needed immediately. Producers are in desperate need of a quick infusion of cash to help them deal with low prices and increasing costs. However, as important as that relief is, it is only a temporary fix. A long-term approach is needed.

This Member believes that H.R. 2559 is an important component of that long-term approach. It is certainly not the only solution to current problems, but it does provide a more adequate safety net to farmers who are too often confronted with natural disasters and low prices.

The Agricultural Risk Protection Act will make crop insurance coverage more affordable at every level. It will offer producers significant incentives to purchase higher levels of protection and provide farmers with the flexibility to purchase the coverage that best meets their needs.

It is important to note that this crop insurance reform bill also improves the current risk management structure by providing better coverage for both production and revenue. It does so by making possible more affordable policies to protect farmers against price and income loss. The legislation also initiates a livestock pilot program to test the effectiveness of risk management tools to protect livestock producers.

This Member's constituents have made it clear that crop insurance is a necessary risk management tool. Unfortunately, it is often too expensive or offers too little protection to be of real value. This legislation takes these concerns into account and offers agricultural producers what they need—meaningful and more affordable crop insurance.

This Member urges his colleagues to vote for H.R. 2559.

IN HONOR OF DR. WOJCIECH
ROSTAFINSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski as he is being honored for promoting his Polish Heritage through his outstanding accomplishments by the Polonia foundation.

In 1961 Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski began working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lewis Center. While working as a scientist for NASA, his work on the motion of waves in nonlinear conduits was published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America. In a series of five papers, Dr. Wojciech Rostafinski solved one of the fundamental problems of acoustics. Following this achievement he went on to make more scientific discoveries. In addition to his work with NASA, he has published several new developments in applied mathematics, including a new indefinite integral that is now incorporated in all U.S. mathematical tables. While Dr. Rostafinski worked with NASA he received five NASA awards and certificates of recognition.

For his contribution to the Polish culture, Dr. Rostafinski was decorated in 1992 at the Polish Embassy in Washington, with Commander