EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE
OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999
Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Food Assistance Enhancement Act of 1999. My bill increases TEFAP commodity purchases from $100 million to $125 million in an attempt to help food banks meet the needs of their communities. It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that there is a need for food banks. Even though our farmers and ranchers are the most productive and efficient in the world, the need for food banks continues. Food banks often meet the needs of their communities by managing donations from the Government and the private sector. Most Government donations are the product of the Emergency Food Assistance Program. It is a unique program that has the ability to provide nutritious domestic agriculture products to needy Americans while at the same time providing support to the agriculture community. In the welfare reform bill, Congress made TEFAP commodity purchases mandatory because of the integral role that this program has in the provisions of food assistance to needy families. This program is a quick fix, something to get families through tough times. It gives them the support they need, but it doesn’t ensnare them into a cycle of dependency for which other Federal assistance programs are infamous. TEFAP purchases also provide much needed support to the agriculture community. While other food assistance programs are much larger, TEFAP has a more direct impact for agriculture producers, while at the same time providing food for those in need.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included hundreds of millions of dollars for Employment and Training Program aimed at those able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) whose eligibility for the Food Stamp Program was restricted by a work requirement in the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. The money is dedicated to training programs that keep any ABAWD on the food stamp rolls if they participate. Several hearings and reports have said that the money is going unspent because very few are taking advantage of the programs. At the same time, food banks are reporting an increase in demand from the same demographic group. Why not put the money where the need is? Annually the Secretary reviews the States employment and training programs and allocates the money he considers appropriate and equitable. If a State doesn’t use the money allocated to them, the Secretary can reallocate the money to another State. My bill does nothing to change or restrict that authority. My bill simply allows the Secretary of Agriculture to spend up to $25 million of unobligated employment and training money on TEFAP commodity purchases.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the Emergency Food Assistance Enhancement Act will enjoy resounding and rapid support from the full House of Representatives. It is important that we increase commodity purchases for this important program.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JILL COCHRAN

HON. JACK QUINN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999
Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join Chairman STUMP and Ranking Member EVANS in acknowledging and saying thank you to Ms. Jill Cochran, long-time Democratic staff director for the Subcommittee on Beneficiary Rights who will retire next month following 25 years of dedicated service to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Jill’s contributions to the enactment of legislation such as the Montgomery GI bill, on which she worked with our distinguished former chairman for 7 years, vocational rehabilitation, veterans employment and training, homeless veterans, and transition assistance issues—just to name a few—I believe, are unsurpassed.

Jill personifies unsullied public service in her commitment to America’s sons and Daughters who have served our Nation. We’ll miss her compassion, her great spirit of cooperation, her expertise, and most of all—her exceptional leadership.

Jill, our kindest wishes and godspeed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999
Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and memory of a great American, Mr. John Kay. John was a constituent of mine from Rio Rancho, NM, who passed away in October. He was a personal friend and a strong advocate for veterans, John had a very distinguished career, having retired from both the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency. He loved our country and was very proud to have dedicated his life to serving it.

During his military service, John served with distinction in World War II and in the Korean conflict. In recalling his own military career, he was very proud of his service during World War II where he served with the famous 9th Reconnaissance troop of the 9th Reconnaissance Division. A unit that fought courageously in virtually every major campaign of the European theater.

What made John so special was his open hearted and generous nature. After his retirement from the CIA, he dedicated himself to informing his fellow veterans about the issues important to them. Specifically, he was the author of a monthly column in a local newspaper dedicated to helping veterans.

Mr. Speaker, John Kay was a true gentleman who constantly searched for new proposals and reforms in an attempt to help his community. He was always open minded and he was always generous in his assistance to others. He will be sorely missed by myself and by his community.