

America and in my home of northeastern Wisconsin.

It's a simple proposal, really—and rather than increase government's role in agriculture, it actually eliminates one of the burdens government places upon our family farmers.

This bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—will exempt farmers from the Federal capital gains tax when they sell their farm to a family member.

This bill removes one of the multitude of burdens our farmers face, and will help to keep family farms within the family.

Our farmers are suffering through the toughest farm crisis in 15 years—maybe longer.

We used to call farming “agriculture,” today, it's more often called “agribusiness.”

I think there's a reason for that.

America used to be an “agri-culture”—farming was more than a business.

It was America's way of life—we were a culture built around an agrarian center.

Washington and Jefferson were both farmers.

But today, we can see our “agri-culture” slipping into history.

As more family farms go under, the farming way of life—America's “agri-culture” goes with them.

We cannot let that happen.

While the U.S. economy is booming, farmers face a real crisis—no matter how hard they work.

In the past, we in the Congress have had a tendency to get government more involved in the midst of a farm crisis.

But this bill—the Family Farm Protection Act—recognizes that government is often a part of the problem, rather than a part of the solution.

We have 22 original co-sponsors of this legislation, each of whom I'd like to thank for their help and support in this growing effort to offer real relief to our farm families.

This proposal helps protect our family farmers today and is an important first step in a broader movement to maintain America's tradition of “agri-culture”—a way of life and a set of values that built the America we live in today.

I ask my colleagues to join me in this movement and to support the Family Farm Protection Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in the district and as a result missed rollcall votes 78–85. If I had been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall 78; “aye” on rollcall 79; “aye” on rollcall 80; “aye” on rollcall 81; “aye” on rollcall 82; “aye” on rollcall 83; “nay” on rollcall 84; and “nay” on rollcall 85.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE DAVID CHETCUTI FIREARMS MODIFICATION ACT—H.R. 1428

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about legislation that I am introducing in the House to honor the memory of a brave police officer who was killed in my congressional district less than a year ago, Officer David Chetcuti. Officer Chetcuti was a devoted husband and a loving father to his three sons. He was also a decorated 11-year veteran of the Millbrae police department. On April 25 of last year, after responding to a routine call from an officer in a neighboring jurisdiction, Officer Chetcuti was shot and killed by Marvin Sullivan, a convicted felon.

Mr. Speaker, the weapon which Sullivan used to kill David Chetcuti was an assault rifle, a class of firearm that many of us thought we had succeeded in removing from our Nation's streets. Marvin Sullivan, who was not legally able to purchase the kind of firearm he used to kill Officer Chetcuti, assembled his weapon from a series of gun components which he was able to purchase without any of the restrictions which are imposed by law on the purchase of assault weapons.

Through mail order catalogues, over the Internet, and at gun shops—without any of the restrictions on the purchase of fully assembled firearms—Sullivan was able to purchase the components that he used to make his illegal weapon. That gun was created for the sole purpose of killing another human being. The weapon he built defied and circumvented all the firearm safeguards for which we have fought long and hard. The components were easy to procure, the assembly was simple, and the final product was devastatingly deadly.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation I introduced today—H.R. 1428, The David Chetcuti Firearm Modification Act—would close the existing loophole which permits felons like Marvin Sullivan to have access to components which they can use to assemble these weapons. This is a simple proposal and does not require more enforcement effort than what currently exists. Quite simply, this legislation would extend the provisions of existing gun control legislation to those components which criminals, like Mr. Sullivan, can and do use to make assault weapons.

The adoption of this legislation would prohibit the sale to convicted felons of large capacity ammunition clips or other firearm components which make it possible for them to maim and kill. This legislation would also require that the purchase of these components be carried out in person. Today there are literally hundreds of mail order operations and Internet sites which offer items such as military issue ammo clips, silencer-fitting threaded barrels, and pistol grips capable of turning a hunting rifle into an automatic killing machine.

Mr. Speaker, the availability of these components is a public safety threat, already tragically felt by the Chetcuti family and by the law enforcement community in my congressional

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district. For the safety of our outgunned law enforcement officers and for the well-being of our communities, I urge my colleagues in the Congress to join me in working for the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, much has been said to honor the dedicated men and women who daily put their safety and their lives on the line to provide the citizens of our country with the security, safety, and peace essential for the maintenance of our civil society. These men and women of our law enforcement community are the “thin blue line” which stands between the decent and law-abiding citizens of this nation and the abyss of lawlessness, chaos, and anarchy. Our law enforcement professionals deserve the support and protection which this legislation will provide.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF UNIONTOWN HOSE FIRE CO. NO. 2 OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, NY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on April 18, 1999, the Uniontown Hose Fire Company No. 2 in Hastings-on-Hudson will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Originally incorporated on August 19, 1899, by 30 charter members, the company has faithfully served the Hastings community by protecting the lives and property of their neighbors for nearly a full century.

Fire departments are one of our most vital organizations protecting the safety of a community and its citizens. Each year, throughout our Nation, fire kills over 6,000 people, injures about 28,000 people, and destroys more than 7 billion dollars' worth of property. Without the services that institutions such as the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. provide, these numbers would be even higher and the threat of fire to Americans could be even more severe. Besides fighting fires, our volunteer firemen are involved in fire prevention and safety as well as providing first aid and rescue support in the event of major disasters. The protection the men and women of Uniontown Hose have furnished to the community of Hastings-on-Hudson over their many years of service is worthy of commendation, for it is their devoted work that helps make our neighborhoods safer and more secure.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Uniontown Hose Fire Co. on its 100th anniversary and extending our best wishes to its officers and members for another 100 years of service.

TRIBUTE TO ROSLYN G. MORRIS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Roslyn G. Morris, an extraordinary woman and my constituent of Atherton, CA,