

RECOGNIZING MAY AS TEXAS  
MOHAIR MONTH

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, May has been recognized by the Governor of Texas as Mohair Industry Month. More than one million Angora goats are raised in Texas and the lion's share of them are raised in the 23d Congressional District, that I represent.

The mohair industry in Texas traces its roots back to 1849 with the arrival of a small flock of seven does and two bucks. The goats were originally from Turkey, near the city of Nakara. Angora goats were highly regarded and jealously protected from exportation by Turkey until the 16th century when they were exported to Spain and France.

Today the United States is the second-leading mohair producer in the world and more than 90 percent of that production is in Texas. In 1998 Texas produced more than 4.654 million pounds of mohair. This hair was shipped to more than 10 countries around the world and provided a \$12 million infusion into the state's economy.

Mohair is said to be the fabric of kings. The rich luster and soft texture of the fiber, in combination with the durability, make it a highly valued textile. Because of its durability Mohair is used to decorate many public places such as symphony halls and theaters.

I encourage all of my colleagues to seek out and wear clothes made of mohair. Biblical wise men once wore robes made of this special fabric. It has endured over time and fashion trends. I am proud to honor Texas mohair producers.

HONORING THE AMERICAN FUJIAN  
ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE  
AND INDUSTRY

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry, an organization that has become an integral part of our diverse community in New York. It is an organization that understands the importance of diversity, and seeks to tap into the vast spectrum of talent and initiative of the Chinese-American community. The association has always worked to strengthen families and businesses throughout our city.

Started in 1992, the American Fujian Association of Commerce and Industry has been dedicated to helping Chinese-American business owners who immigrated to this country. The Association's 1,000 members truly epitomize the American Dream. They came to America from poverty. Once in the land of opportunity, they seized their chance and worked to make their dreams a reality. Through hard work, discipline, and sacrifice, they have become successful and productive American citizens.

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Their efforts have helped build strong families and strong communities. The association takes a dynamic approach to their mission. Though they focus on business and economic development, they do a great deal of work in other key areas. The American Fujian Association understands that economic development must be accompanied by many important attributes.

For this reason, the American Fujian Association is active in the community in humanitarian efforts, immigration support, job training, and health services for families. By ensuring that these services are available, the association gives back to their communities and America.

I would urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the American Fujian Association for Commerce and Industry for their contribution and the efforts they make on behalf of Chinese-Americans and all Americans in the New York community.

RECOGNIZING THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES ON  
OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce House Resolution 168, recognizing the Foreign Service of the United States on the occasion of its 75th anniversary. I am joined by Representative SAM GEJDENSON, the Ranking Democrat on the Committee on International Relations and Representative CHRIS SMITH, Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights.

Mr. Speaker, only when unrest or tragedy strike abroad do some Americans become aware of the work of the thousands of men and women who serve in the Foreign Service of the United States. The members of the Foreign Service take responsibility for helping Americans in danger. As we saw this past summer in Kenya and Tanzania, Foreign Service members and their families sometimes also become the victims of violence, along with other Americans stationed abroad and their families. We need to do more, and we will do more, to protect all the Americans we ask to work for us overseas.

Indeed, more American Ambassadors than American Generals have been killed abroad since the end of the Second World War, and many in the rank-and-file of the Foreign Service—and their families—have, tragically, fallen victim to terror or to the more mundane hazards of life abroad in the service of their country.

But every day, these dedicated individuals stand ready to promote the interests of the United States. They do this by carrying out tasks such as protecting the property of an American who dies overseas, reporting on political developments, screening potential entrants to the United States, promoting the sale of American goods, or securing American personnel and facilities overseas. They and their

families often live in dangerous circumstances and are separated from their extended families and friends.

At home, the men and women of the foreign service perform essential functions in the Departments of State, Commerce, and Agriculture, in the United States Information Agency and in the Agency for International Development.

The modern Foreign Service was established by the Rogers Act of 1924. We are quickly approaching the 75th anniversary of its enactment, on May 24. It is fitting at this time to congratulate the men and women of the Foreign Service and commemorate the sacrifices they have made in the service of their Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of the Resolution to be printed in the RECORD at this point.

H. RES. 168

Whereas the modern Foreign Service of the United States was established 75 years ago on May 24, 1924, with the enactment of the Rogers Act, Public Law 135 of the 68th Congress;

Whereas today some 10,300 men and women serve in the Foreign Service at home and abroad;

Whereas the diplomatic, consular, communications, trade, development, administrative, security, and other functions the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States perform are crucial to the United States national interest;

Whereas the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States, as well as their families, are constantly exposed to danger, even in times of peace, and many have died in the service of their country; and

Whereas it is appropriate to recognize the dedication of the men and women of the Foreign Service of the United States and, in particular, to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the interests of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Foreign Service of the United States and its achievements and contributions of the past 75 years;

(2) honors those members of the Foreign Service of the United States who have given their lives in the line of duty; and

(3) commends the generations of men and women who have served or are presently serving in the Foreign Service for their vital service to the Nation.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. BRYAN  
SWILLEY, OF PORTAGEVILLE,  
MISSOURI, WWI VETERAN AND  
CENTENARIAN

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 15, 1999, the American Legion Post 595 in New Madrid, Missouri, will be honoring Mr. Bryan Swilley at their annual Armed Forces Day Ceremony. At the age of 102, Mr. Swilley is the sole World War I veteran in Missouri's