

SUGAR FARMERS DESERVE A
HAND—NOT A SLAP IN THE FACE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, every morning when we wake up each of us have certain routines; we have our coffee with sugar and cream; we eat a bowl of cereal; or perhaps a piece of toast with jam; things we enjoy, but put little thought into from where the food came.

However, one thing is clear—without sugar farmers that coffee would be a little bitter and that cereal and toast would be a little bland.

American sugar farmers are among the most efficient in the world—and with a level playing field in the global market would easily provide the best value.

Foreign governments, however, heavily subsidize their sugar industry to the point where our farmers need stability to compete.

But what do some of our colleagues try to do year after year? There seems to be an annual attempt to knock out the modest safety net we put into place in the 1996 farm bill to ensure our sugar growers have a chance.

In fact, it's hard to believe that the modest loan program we put into place would face such repeated attacks.

The loan program operates at no net cost to the government.

It simply gives some assurance to our sugar growers and their families that they will have some stability and be able to meet their financial commitments.

At a time when the U.S. farm economy is in its worst shape in decades, the least we can do is honor the commitments we've already made to our farm families.

In the 1996 farm bill, we made a seven-year obligation to our sugar farmers. We need to keep that promise.

That is why I oppose efforts to weaken the sugar loan program, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STOP TAKING
AIM AT OUR KIDS STUDY
BILL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would require a federal investigation of the marketing practices of the firearms industry. Specifically, my legislation, the Stop Taking Aim at Our Kids Study Bill, would require the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission to work together to fully examine gun manufacturers' marketing efforts towards children.

As evidenced by the recent school shootings in Littleton, Jonesboro, and Springfield, children and firearms can produce a deadly combination. Gunshot wounds are the second leading cause of death among youngsters nationwide—second only to automobile acci-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

dents. Every year 4600 children are killed by gun fire, and each day 13 children are gunned down in America. That is the equivalent of one Columbine High School tragedy every day. Sadly, these numbers are rising.

To effectively combat this dramatic and disturbing rise in gun violence among our children, we must first understand the factors contributing to our culture of violence. We must examine the role the media and the entertainment industry play in glamorizing gun violence, we must analyze the availability of guns to children, we must evaluate the role parents play in teaching their children about gun safety, and we must investigate the firearms industry's targeting of children.

My legislation would take the important first step of combating youth violence by directing the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commissioner to look at the marketing practices of gun manufacturers towards children. While some firearms manufacturers have worked responsibly with their customers to educate them about the importance of using guns safely when near young children, others have unscrupulously identified young children as an important consumer group and targeted them with little thought to the social consequences of their actions. Advertisements for children's guns which herald the importance of "Starting 'em young" and encourage kids to buy guns that "will make them stand out in a crowd" need to be closely examined.

This legislation is not a panacea. I do not pretend that this bill will solve our nation's problems of youth gun violence. It will, however, begin an important dialogue about firearms manufacturers' and marketers' contribution to the high incidence of gun violence and gun death among our nation's children. By identifying those who carelessly target our children for profit, my bill will hold the firearms industry responsible for its actions. I hope that the House will act swiftly to adopt this important bill.

HONORING VFW POST #582

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. One hundred years ago, when the United States Army came back from the war in the Philippines, the survivors formed the Veterans of Foreign Wars. On June 12, VFW Post #582, located in Ortonville, Michigan, will join the celebration of preserving democracy by dedicating a stone monument to honor the many men and women who gave much to protect freedom.

Throughout Ortonville, as well as Oakland County, the members of VFW Post #582 are known as staunch community leaders. Year after year they provide a tremendous public service by organizing community blood drives, as well as food drives for the homeless and underprivileged. Post members have frequently contributed their time at various area hospitals, and have also provided a support network for each other, relying on each other

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as friends, colleagues, and fellow soldiers for support and advice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand before you today, asking you and my colleagues in the 106th Congress to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and VFW Post #582. For an entire century, they have stood firmly to their commitment to this nation. Their dedication to protecting and promoting the enhancement of human dignity of all Americans serves as inspiration to the entire country.

HONORING CONCHA HERNANDEZ
GREENE

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Concha Hernandez Greene, who recently received the Public Health Champion award. Ms. Greene is one of 13 Californians honored for spearheading local efforts to improve population health.

Ms. Greene has been extremely active in the Oceanside community. She has acted as a liaison to the Oceanside police department as well as implementing a community policing service that encourages residents to make their neighborhoods safer. Furthermore, Ms. Greene serves as the chairperson of Eastside United Community Action. This community group is a grassroots organization that provides a variety of language classes and health services such as nutrition, tuberculosis, and diabetes checks.

Ms. Greene has dedicated her life to the health and improvement of our community and her tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed. Her work epitomizes the values of good citizenship and her accomplishments are reflected in the enhanced quality of life in Oceanside, California.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Ms. Greene on receiving the Public Health Champion award, and thank her for her selfless efforts.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
TRIBUTE TO FRANK HIDALGO

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to proudly bring tribute to a fellow Arizonan and someone I am proud to call my friend, Mr. Frank Hidalgo. I am calling your attention to Frank's accomplishments in light of an award he recently received from Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., (CPLC), a well-respected nonprofit organization in Arizona that has long advocated for the Latino community. Frank was recently presented with CPLC's Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong dedication to promoting higher education in the Hispanic and Chicano community.