

the stockpiling and rapid transportation, delivery and distribution of shelf stable pre-packaged foods to needy individuals in foreign countries. This legislation creates a public-private partnerships to leverage the donation of nutritious food by volunteers to needy families around the globe at times of famine, disaster and other critical needs. I am pleased to join the Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr. COMBEST, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, and the Ranking Member of the Committee on Agriculture, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Mr. STENHOLM, and the distinguished Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the International Relations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska, Mr. BE-REUTER, in introducing this important legislation.

There is a gap in the United States' traditional international food relief effort and food reserve program that makes participation by non-profit organizations that want to contribute donated food extremely difficult. The major barrier to these volunteer contributions is the high cost of providing these donated food products to international relief organizations that transport and distribute food overseas. Agri-business efficiently and effectively provides assistance at times of greatest need through international food relief organizations that work through the Agency for International Development (AID). However, non-profits have a much more difficult time reaching international relief organizations to provide food assistance because of the high cost of processing, packaging, maintaining and shipping donated food. Consequently, food donated by non-profits is often delayed from reaching affected populations, or is simply not used for this purpose.

The International Food Relief Partnership Act will fill this gap by providing grant assistance outside the traditional food relief program to non-profits that should be matched 50 cents on the dollar by funds raised by non-profits. These grant funds will be used by non-profits to ensure that food donated by farmers can be processed, packaged, stored, and transported overseas at the time of need. AID would be responsible for the administration of this program, although funding for it would be made available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food for Peace program.

Non-profits such as Breedlove, Child Life International, and Feed the Starving Children provide direct hunger assistance at times of disaster, famine, or other critical need. Organizations such as these are located throughout the United States. These organizations accept gleaned crops donated by regional farmers, and help transport and distribute this food overseas. Once the donated food is processed, it can be stored for years for use in food emergencies. Donated food reduces the cost of famine and disaster assistance because these products cost only pennies to process and ship and supplement the traditional food basket.

We need to encourage more volunteer efforts from non-profits. The International Food Relief Partnership Act accomplishes this objective by providing a means for non-profits to accept donated food and process it into a product for use in times of disaster, famine, or other critical need.

Through the enactment of this bill we create a new and inexpensive mechanism that provides more food relief for less money. The fifty-percent matching preference included in this legislation also ensures that viable and deserving organizations earn the grant funds that they seek.

I have introduced the "International Food Relief Partnership Act of 2000" today because the time to plan for a food crisis is before it occurs. I look forward to working with my colleagues in supporting the spirit of volunteerism and goodwill by rapidly passing this important legislation.

HONORING PHIL RAMONE

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the incredible philanthropy and achievement of Phil Ramone. On September 24th Mr. Ramone will be awarded the Michael Bolton Charities Lifetime Achievement Award. Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. was established in 1993 to assist children and women at risk from the effects of poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, and physical and sexual abuse. Mr. Ramone's indefatigable generosity has enhanced the lives of countless women and children around the world for over three decades. This honor stands as a testament to Mr. Ramone's selfless acts which reflect his inherent benevolence and vision of life.

Throughout his remarkable career Mr. Ramone has produced award winning works by some of the world's most talented recording artists. His genius embraces all aspects of the entertainment business, working brilliantly in both the technical and creative sides of the industry. Mr. Ramone is one of the recording industry's most well respected and prolific producers with a resume so vast and encompassing that his peers have deified him as the undisputed "Pope of Pop." Mr. Ramone has produced galas for several U.S. Presidents and has been the driving force behind megastars such as: Frank Sinatra, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Barbara Streisand, Madonna, B.B. King, Elton John, Gloria Estefan, Jon Secada, Fito Paez, Sinead O'Connor and Paul McCartney to name a few. Phil Ramone is invaluable to the artists he works with, such as Michael Bolton, and is an eight time Grammy Award winner, including Producer of the Year. As Chairman Emeritus of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, he is recognized by his peers as the most transcendent audio technician and stylistic creator in the music industry today. His grasp of technology revolutionized the recording studio with his first use of the Dolby four-track discrete sound system, satellite links, optical surround sound, fiber optic systems, and digital live recording.

In addition to all of these accomplishments and accolades, Mr. Ramone possesses a kindness and humility that make him one of the recording industry's most profound humanitarians. Since his earliest success Mr.

Ramone's charitable commitment has helped children living in poverty around the world improve their education and their lives. It is with great respect and appreciation that we acknowledge Mr. Ramone's lifetime charitable achievements and his exemplary character on September 24. I commend Michael Bolton Charities, Inc., for their recognition of Phil Ramone's lifelong contributions to both music and humankind.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing gratitude to Grammy winner Michael Bolton for his steadfast efforts to educate the Congress on the need to assist women and children at risk from the dangerous effects of poverty, domestic violence, homelessness, and physical and sexual abuse. With programs that foster self esteem, leadership skills, job training, and social awareness his charity provides the access and education that underprivileged women and children need for a better life.

Phil Ramone has a positive outlook and steadfast commitment to a better future for all our children when he notes that, "Our kids won't even think about virtual reality—it will be a regular part of their lives. Sometimes it's just so obvious to me, the future. It shows its face to me ever so often and then I say, 'Oh, of course. Why shouldn't we do this . . . ' It's like an inner vision that lets you understand that there's something better, more beautiful just ahead." Thank you, Phil Ramone.

HONORING THE 112TH BIRTHDAY OF WORLD WAR I VETERAN JOHN PAINTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a happy 112th birthday to Tennessee's oldest surviving World War I veteran, John George Painter of Hermitage Springs. He is also believed to be the nation's oldest surviving veteran.

Born on September 20, 1888, in the Keeling Branch community of Jackson County, Tennessee, Mr. Painter enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 29 to fight what was then called the "War to End All Wars".

Mr. Painter saw action in France's Argonne Forest where he hauled ammunition and field guns to the front lines with teams of horses and mules. He was honorably discharged on April 12, 1919, and returned home to Jackson County where he resumed his career as a blacksmith. There he married his childhood sweetheart—the former Gillie Watson—and raised two daughters.

Mr. Painter's courage during that brutal war earned him one of France's highest honors, the Order of the Legion of Honor. Only five other Tennesseans have received the distinguished award.

As we celebrate Mr. Painter's birthday today, I congratulate him for the tremendous contributions he has made to the United States and to the never-ending fight for freedom.