

he has been able to travel around the country and around the world with his wife, Jeanne—a delightful and special person in her own right.

But Don Pease's service is not finished, and neither is Don. He is sharing his wisdom and experience, educating and guiding the next generation of leaders at Oberlin College in his Ohio hometown.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting tribute to Congressman Don J. Pease that we name a public building for him. It is a tangible symbol of the esteem in which he is held by those privileged to know him, to work with him, and to learn from him.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1405.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

KIKA DE LA GARZA UNITED STATES BORDER STATION

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1901) to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1901

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the border station referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LaTourette).

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1901 designates the United States border station in Pharr, Texas, as the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station. Congressman de la Garza was born in Mercedes, Texas, in 1927. He attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, earning his law degree in 1952.

Prior to that, he served in the United States Navy from 1945 until 1946 and in

the United States Army from 1950 until 1952. After serving in the Texas State House of Representatives for 11 years, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1964. He was reelected to serve for 16 consecutive terms.

Congressman de la Garza began serving on the Committee on Agriculture in 1965. He served as chairman of the committee from 1981 until 1994. As chairman, he compiled an impressive record of achievement and dedication to America's farming community.

During his tenure as chairman, the United States Department of Agriculture underwent major restructuring. This bill and this naming is, at this time, fitting tribute to an esteemed former colleague. I support passage of the bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), my good friend.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1901, a measure designating the U.S. border station at Pharr, Texas, as the Kika de la Garza Border Station. I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to honor Congressman de la Garza, my predecessor.

Many of my colleagues here in this Chamber had the pleasure and privilege of working with him during his long tenure and especially as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture.

Naming the Pharr, Texas, border station after the Honorable Mr. de la Garza is important to our district because it honors his role in service as international ambassador for American agriculture, an industry which thrived during Kika's tenure in the House.

Agriculture is a strong element of our economy, and it only seems fitting to honor the man who did so much in this area. H.R. 1901 is indeed a tribute to a man who dedicated his life to public service and is known throughout all of Texas and the Nation simply as "Kika."

Kika made a dignified institution all the more distinguished with his vision, his keen insight, and his devotion to his constituents and to his country. No one deserves this honor more. I urge my fellow Members to join me in passing this measure to say, Thank you, Kika; we are indebted to you for your decades of outstanding work on behalf of the residents of the 15th congressional district of Texas and to the Nation.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN).

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) for yielding this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1901, to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station. I want to join with my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) from Mercedes, in his comments.

Kika de la Garza was clearly an institution in this body. He served the State of Texas in this body for 32 years from the 15th congressional district in the Rio Grand Valley; prior to that, having served in the State legislature.

As my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), stated, Mr. de la Garza was known perhaps more than anything else for his work as chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture and the work that he did on drafting and writing successive omnibus farm bills as both the chairman and the ranking member. But I think it is also important to note that Congressman de la Garza fought for much legislation that would help the constituents of what is also one of the poorest congressional districts in the United States.

He fought for legislation to provide affordable housing programs for rural home buyers. He pushed for hunger relief measures to feed hungry children, and he helped launch a full scale Federal offensive against the spate of devastating birth defects in the Rio Grand Valley in Texas.

It is a special honor for me because not only was Mr. de la Garza a close family friend of my grandfather Lloyd Bentsen, Sr., who was a rancher and farmer in south Texas for many years until his death in 1989, but Kika held the seat that my Uncle Lloyd Bentsen, Jr., the past Secretary of the Treasury and Senator from Texas held.

So our families have had a very longstanding relationship, and I was really pleased and proud to have the opportunity to serve with Kika during my first term in Congress. I spent a great deal of time with him not just on the House Floor but also sitting next to him on the flight from Houston to Washington, as he would catch it from McAllen and he would tell me stories going back to his early days in the House of Representatives when things certainly were not as they are today.

I also want to commend not just Kika but his wife of many years, Lucille, who has clearly been his partner in his days in Congress. She was always very kind to all of the spouses, I believe, up here in telling them how things are done and, in particular, whereas she was close to many of my relatives in south Texas also became close not only to my wife but to my daughters as well having gotten the opportunity to spend time flying back and forth to Texas with them.

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So I think, Mr. Speaker, this is a tremendous honor for one who has been a

tremendous public servant for the people of Texas, not just the Rio Grande Valley, and I strongly endorse it and urge my colleagues to adopt it.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1901 to designate the United States border station located in Pharr, TX, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station."

I believe this is an appropriate way to honor Congressman de la Garza's many years of service to the United States and the state of Texas, during which he provided tremendous leadership in support of agriculture, improved relations with Mexico, a better quality of life for residents along the border, among many other issues.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve in Congress with Kika de la Garza, even if for only 2 of his amazing 32 years in this body. He is an example to all of us of a true gentleman and public servant who brought honor to this House through the civility, respect, and commitment to doing what is right that he brought to conducting the people's business. He is also a true Texan who worked with his colleagues from both sides of the aisle to further the best interests of our state.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Congressman de la Garza never forgot the people he represented, who live in a district considered to be the poorest in the state, and which is now ably represented by my esteemed colleague RUBÉN HINOJOSA. Congressman de la Garza fought for legislation to provide affordable housing programs for rural homebuyers. He pushed for hunger relief measures to feed hungry children. And he helped launch a full-scale federal offensive against the spate of devastating birth defects in the Rio Grande Valley.

When he was named the Texas Legislative Conference's Texan of the Year in 1991, Congressman de la Garza said:

I bring with me centuries of people who at times were not recognized properly. From the conquistador on the trek north to the most humble of migrant workers, they stand with me here.

Naming a border station after Congressman de la Garza is a fitting tribute to an individual who is a true son of the Lower Rio Grande Valley of south Texas.

Congressman de la Garza is perhaps best remembered for his leadership on behalf of American agriculture. He served as chairman of the Agriculture Committee for a longer uninterrupted period than anyone else in history and presided over the drafting and successful enactment of three major omnibus farm bills (1981, 1985, and 1990) that have reformed our nation's agricultural policies. He also guided efforts to reduce the cost of agricultural programs through several deficit reduction bills that have been approved by Congress. His other legislative accomplishments include legislation to streamline the agricultural lending system, strengthen federal pesticide laws, and various other measures to assist American agriculture, encourage rural development, and improve human nutrition.

Congressman de la Garza was also one of Congress' leading experts on United States-Mexico relations and a proponent of greater trade with Mexico. In 1966, he became the first member of Congress from the Texas-

Mexico border area to serve on the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group, which promotes dialog between legislators from the two countries. He was an early congressional supporter of opening negotiations with Mexico to develop a free-trade agreement and helped rally congressional support that led to approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Throughout his career, Kika de la Garza also fought for government policies that fostered better living and economic conditions for all Americans. He obtained federal funds to provide much-needed water and sewer services to Texas' impoverished colonias. He was a strong supporter of civil rights for all Americans, better educational opportunities, and improved access to health care for the elderly, veterans, and low-income individuals. He also supported policies to improve the nation's infrastructure and maintain a strong, cost-effective national defense.

Our entire nation benefited from Kika de la Garza's service in Congress, and his legacy includes an agricultural system that continues to lead and feed the world, better relations and expanded trade with Mexico and other nations, and a better quality of life for many Texans and Americans. I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring Kika de la Garza and in urging approval of this legislation to designate the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station.

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of the bill, I want to associate my remarks with those of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), who succeeds Kika, our good friend, and has done an outstanding job for the 15th Congressional District. I salute the gentleman for his words and for his efforts. The gentleman seems to be cut out of the same mold and has some big shoes to fill.

I also want to associate myself with the comments of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BENTSEN) on the historical ramifications of his family and the association with Kika. I think it really lends a lot to the discussion here today.

As the sponsor of this legislation, I just simply loved Kika. He was the first Hispanic American to serve as the chairman of a major committee, the Committee on Agriculture. I think that was a significant achievement for a man of such humble roots who developed into such a powerhouse here in the Congress.

I can remember one time, Mr. Speaker, standing down there at the voting booth on a key vote years ago, and I saw the leaders come up to Kika and say, "Kika, we really need your vote. You didn't vote with us on this particular bill." I will never forget as long as I live, Kika looked at them, and he was very loyal, and he said, "I wish I could, but I am going to give my vote to my people. My people are not for this. I don't think it is good for my people."

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), that was Political Science 101 that I will never forget. I admired Kika for that.

I also want to say and place upon the record that he was one of the most ardent and outspoken advocates for United States agriculture and for programs to protect and improve the farm and rural economy. He had much more to do with the economics of farming than many people gave him credit for.

Chairman de la Garza led the effort to enact landmark legislation, such as the Federal crop insurance reform and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, which established a federally funded catastrophic risk coverage policy for crop losses that touches every farmer in America today. Kika has touched every farmer and has helped anyone who produces a food product in our country. In 1990, Kika helped pass the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, which reformed export assistance programs and established new initiatives to strengthen environmental protection of our agricultural lands.

Mr. Speaker, one of the few surpluses we have had in trade has been our agriculture base, and Kika de la Garza deserves much of the credit for those tremendous improvements to our agriculture community.

So I think it is just really overdue. We have passed this a couple times in the House. I would make this pledge to my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE): If the other body does not act on it this year, I am personally paying a visit over there.

This is overdue, the distinguished career of Congressman de la Garza must now be commemorated by designating the border station in Pharr, Texas, as the Kika de la Garza Border Station.

Before I yield back my time, I want to thank the committee staff. It does a great job for this committee, Mr. Barnett, Ms. Brita, and I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) for working with us as he has.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1901.

The question was taken.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.