animals, learning, and community empowerment efforts. And of course, Mrs. Fajardo adored her husband and family.

One of Mrs. Fajardo’s most powerful traits was her innate passion for social justice. She served as a field deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, and was instrumental in helping empower community members and community-based organizations. She was also a Warden’s assistant who counseled families and prisoners at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. One of her duties was to assist family members and media representatives during scheduled prison executions.

Mrs. Fajardo was also a strong supporter of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) and served as an executive assistant to MALDEF President Antonia Hernandez. This is where she met and fell in love with her husband Richard Fajardo.

Mrs. Fajardo volunteered at the Central American Resource Center. During her years at CARECEN, she helped people in need and served as a strong supporter of immigrant and refugee rights.

Mrs. Fajardo will be dearly missed. Let us continue to keep her in our hearts and minds, and follow her example of leadership and caring.

**HONORING CHUCK AND LORENE TOBIN**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

**OF COLORADO**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 26, 2001**

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Charles “Chuck” and Lorene Tobin for their many years of devotion to each other as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

After their marriage, the Tobin’s moved to Dolores, Colorado in 1951, where Chuck began to work for the Texaco Bulk Plant and volunteered for the local fire department. After a dedicated career, he retired in 1992. Lorene was employed as a cafeteria cook with the Dolores School system until 1988. Since their retirement, they have both been enjoying the great outdoors and other events throughout the community.

Chuck and Lorene met at the Old Del Rio Restaurant where she was a waitress, and the two instantly fell in love. They are the proud parents of two sons, Chuck and Mike Tobin, and a daughter, Lynda Grossberg. The couple still resides in Dolores, Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a wonderful privilege and honor to salute the 50th anniversary of Chuck and Lorene Tobin. It is with excitement and admiration that I wish them many more great years together.

**LIFT THE UNITED STATES EMBARGO ON CUBA**

**HON. RON PAUL**

**OF TEXAS**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Thursday, July 26, 2001**

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, encouraged in part by a recent resolution passed by the Texas State Legislature, I rise again this Congress to introduce my bill to lift the United States Embargo on Cuba.

On June 29, 2001, the Texas state legislature adopted a resolution calling for an end to U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba. Lawmakers emphasized the failure of sanctions to remove Castro from power, and the unwillingness of other nations to respect the embargo. One Texas Representative stated:

“...we have a lot of rice and agricultural products, as well as high-tech products, that would be much cheaper for Cuba to purchase from Texas. All that could come through the ports of Houston and Corpus Christi.”

I wholeheartedly support this resolution, and I have introduced similar federal legislation in past years to lift all trade, travel, and telecommunications restrictions with Cuba. I only wish Congress understood the simple wisdom expressed in Austin, so that we could end the harmful and ineffective trade sanctions that serve no national purpose.

I oppose economic sanctions for two very simple reasons. First, they don’t work as effective foreign policy. Time after time, from Cuba to China to Iraq, we have failed to unseat despotic leaders by refusing to trade with the people of those nations. If anything, the anti-American sentiment aroused by sanctions often strengthens the popularity of such leaders, who use America as a convenient scapegoat to divert attention from their own tyranny. History clearly shows that free and open trade does far more to liberalize oppressive governments than trade wars. Economic freedom and political freedom are inextricably linked—when people get a taste of goods and information from abroad, they are less likely to tolerate a closed society at home. So while sanctions may serve our patriotic fervor, they mostly harm innocent citizens and do nothing to displace the governments we claim as enemies.

Second, sanctions simply hurt American interests, particularly agriculture. Every market we close to our nation’s farmers is a market exploited by foreign farmers. China, Russia, the middle east, North Korea, and Cuba all represent huge markets for our farm products, yet many in Congress favor current or proposed trade restrictions that prevent our farmers from selling to the billions of people in these areas. The department of Agriculture estimates that Iraq alone represents a $1 billion market for American farm goods. Given our status as one of the world’s largest agricultural producers, why would we ever choose to restrict our own and our trading partners’ freedom to sell their goods to the people of the world?

The sanctions have, however, created serious problems that have hurt our own citizens. Sanctions severely worsened the conditions in Cuba as Cuba slowly recovers from the severe economic recession it has endured following the withdrawal of subsidies from the former Soviet Union in the last decade; and whereas, Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Texas, and this state ranks among the top five states in overall value of agricultural exports at more than $3 billion annually; thus, Texas is ideally positioned to benefit from the market opportunities that trading with Cuba would provide; rather than depriving Cuba of agricultural products, the United States embargo succeeds only in driving sales to competitors in other countries that have no economic restrictions; and whereas, In recent years, Cuba has developed important pharmaceutical products, namely, a new meningitis B vaccine that has virtually eliminated the disease in Cuba; since products have the potential to protect Americans against diseases that continue to threaten large populations around the world; and whereas, Cuba’s potential oil reserves have attracted the interest of numerous other...