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worked for the Palm Beach Daily News and the Selective Service System. Most recently, Mr. Ross has been an advocate for the voting rights of U.S. military personnel serving overseas. He is also an avid golfer.

Mr. Speaker, please let the RECORD reflect this Congress' appreciation for his efforts.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY
NEEDED

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial, entitled President Needs Trade Authority, from the September 5, 2001, edition of the Norfolk Daily News, which emphasizes the need to grant the President "fast track" trade negotiating authority.

This Member is a longtime supporter of Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), or "FastTrack Authority" (as it was previously called), because TPA is necessary to enable the United States to commence, conclude, and implement trade agreements with foreign nations. Without the enactment of TPA, the United States will continue to fall further behind in expanding its export base, which in turn will cost America thousands of potential jobs. Congressional passage of TPA for the President is absolutely essential for America to live up to its export potential.

Therefore, this Members urges his colleagues not only to carefully read this editorial, but also to support granting trade promotion authority to the President now!

[From the Daily News, September 5, 2001]

PRESIDENT NEEDS TRADE AUTHORITY
FORMER SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE OF ONE
MIND REGARDING "FAST TRACK" ISSUE

Members of Congress ought to be impressed that 10 former secretaries of agriculture, Democrats and Republicans alike, are in agreement on an important matter of trade policy. From Orville Freeman, who served under President Kennedy, to Dan Glickman, who served under President Clinton, all were in agreement that President Bush ought to be granted "fast track" trade negotiating authority.

With some exceptions among those in farm organizations who fear only big companies find ways to profit from exports, the agricultural community seems unified regarding benefits of foreign trade. That accounts for broad bipartisan support of measures to promote it.

Presidents had fast-track authority beginning in 1974, and until congressional Republicans failed to renew it for the Clinton administration in 1994. They erred, and that error should not now be compounded. Trade negotiations are already conducted under broad guidelines approved by Congress and the president.

Having arrived at specific trade pacts under such authority, Congress must not pick and choose, second-guess and thereby jeopardize agreements. With the fasttrack

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

arrangements, it can either accept or reject an agreement, not nitpick and rewrite the terms. Thus Congress retains an overall veto; the president retains negotiating power. It is the right balance.

Through the administrations of Presidents Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I and early in the first Clinton term, the fast-track authority existed in the White House. The error of failing to restore it after 1994 should not be compounded now by defeat of the proposal.

America's efficiency in all phases of food production means it can compete effectively on a worldwide basis. This advantage cannot be exercised to improve the economic status of agriculture by tying the hands of the one individual who can, with a cooperative Congress, do most to encourage beneficial trading terms to reach consumers in foreign nations.

The letter to current Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, signed by those 10 former secretaries, said, "American agriculture has much to gain by passage of Trade Promotion Authority and too much to lose if Congress fails to seize this opportunity."

Re-establishing this authority would do much to assure Americans, and especially those involved in farming and ranching, that their economic opportunities will not be hostage to narrow partisanship.

HONORING 76 YEARS OF THE NEW
ENGLAND COUNCIL

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New England Council as they celebrate their 76th Anniversary of being a regional voice for the people of New England.

For over seventy-five years, the New England Council has been instrumental in uniting the region's business and political leaders to discuss and shape public policies and programs that advance the economic well-being of the region. As a non-profit alliance of schools, hospitals, corporations, public agencies and other organizations throughout New England, the Council has worked diligently to promote economic growth and quality of life in the six-state region.

I commend your leadership in looking for regional solutions on issues including energy, workforce development, health care, transportation and privacy. Under the leadership of Jim Brett and the Council's esteemed Board of Directors, the Council has played a significant role in both providing a forum and in advocating an agenda that addresses those issues impacting New Englanders and the regional economy.

I applaud the Council's efforts to promote the economic growth of New England and to improve the quality of life for those who live throughout the region.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 76th Anniversary of the New England Council and in wishing the Council continued success as it faces the challenges and possibilities of the 21st Century.

September 25, 2001

"BAND OF BROTHERS": THE
STORY OF EASY COMPANY, 101ST
AIRBORNE DIVISION

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it was during the early morning hours prior to the D-Day invasion of June 6, 1944 that the men of Easy Company parachuted into Normandy. Company E, as was their official designation, was part of the 101st Airborne Division that carried out many objectives during World War II. Their acts of heroism begin with their participation in Operation Market Garden and continue on to the climactic Battle of the Bulge. Their service continued through Germany, ending with the capture of "Eagle's Nest," Adolf Hitler's mountain fortress. Their brave deeds, documented in Stephen Ambrose's book, "Band of Brothers" is now an HBO television mini-series.

On Monday, September 24, 2001, we had the opportunity to meet many of the great members of Easy Company. They came from far and wide to share, with Members of Congress, their story of defending freedom across Europe. In these trying times, their story is an inspiration to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Last evening we watched in a special screening of the television mini-series as Easy Company landed behind the German battlements and took out an artillery battery that was firing on the Allied forces at Utah Beach. By destroying four 105mm guns, and killing or running off 60 soldiers, Easy Company significantly contributed to the successful landing of Allied forces on D-Day. Because of the overwhelming success of this mission, Easy Company's maneuvers are still studied at West Point today.

Those Members of Congress who represent the veterans of Easy Company were privileged to speak briefly of these heroes. It is my pleasure to represent Major Dick Winters. He was the commanding officer of Easy Company, and perhaps best represented the heroism of Easy Company through his courage, character, and charisma. Unfortunately, Dick could not make the event from his home in Hershey, Pennsylvania, but he sent me his remarks which I was honored to read.

Here are the kind words written by Major Winters about his fellow soldiers, "In 1942, I was assigned by Colonel Sink to Company E. Ever since then the men of Company E have been my buddies in combat, my friends, my family—forever. I shall never forget them."

At the conclusion of the event, everyone in attendance rose in applause for several minutes to praise the heroic efforts of Easy Company. Among Members of Congress, top military personnel and guests alike, dry eyes were few and far between.

The story of Easy Company is testament to the Allied forces' fight for freedom in World War II. Today, we benefit from their sacrifices made nearly sixty years ago, and for that, we are all eternally grateful. I know that the