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will always be an example to all Americans that this country is at its strongest when we work together. I thank them for that lesson and with great pride, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Firefighters from Phoenix Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Team/Arizona Task Force-1.

STATE OF EMERGENCY AT  
BORDER

**HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, thanks to the gentleman from California, BOB FILNER, for organizing this special order series.

Living on the border is never easy.

NAFTA—commerce in the 1990s—brought lower unemployment, a larger tax base for border communities.

Like the nation, South Texas affected by national economy . . . so the economy been hurt by the dip in the national economy.

Increased inspections as a result of heightened security have resulted in longer wait times (sometimes more than four hours), that discourage thousands of Mexican citizens who legally cross into the U.S. to shop and conduct business along the border.

As former law enforcement officer, a border member—understand the need for security.

Say this only to illustrate small part of the picture that affects the border economy.

Weekend after the attack on the United States, barge hits the only bridge connecting South Padre Island to the mainland of South Texas.

Accident added even more to the burden of a faltering economy.

On Wednesday, immigration inspectors began checking the ID of each pedestrian against databases of 19 federal agencies, adding much more strain to an already difficult situation.

Finally, with Congress not extending laser visa deadline flow of traffic and commerce across our borders considerably slower.

Join my colleagues in asking President Bush to declare a state of emergency along the border in response to these assorted body-blows to the border economy.

The hostilities of September 11—and the resulting increased security throughout our nation—affected all of us . . . but they affect those who live on the border most profoundly.

Need to protect borders—ensure that terrorists who would do us harm not enter U.S. via our neighbors.

Stories of economic hardship in the past month are heart-wrenching.

Need for relief along the border in the economic stimulus package is evident.

In the Brownsville-Matamoros area: Traffic at bridges has decreased 40% (causing area bridges to lose almost \$5,000 daily) and businesses along the border are seeing sharp declines in sales; border crossers face increased border wait times for vehicle and pedestrian traffic; the causeway accident has had a major impact; under-staffing of Border Patrol and

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Customs agents continues to cause concern; lack of attention and sensitivity to border community are also concerns; and the laser visa deadline has only exacerbated the situation and will have drastic effects as the holiday season nears.

The Brownsville-South Padre Island airport is feeling the direct impact of the terrorist attack on airport revenue: As is the case elsewhere in the country, passenger traffic there is down about 35%; the airport projects their annual cost for new security measures alone \$632,000—an unbudgeted, unfunded cost which equals 35% of the annual airport budget, and the overall cost, of all these factors, to the airport will be \$845,000.

Border economies require immediate help.

Low-cost loans and grants, and other forms of help, are urgently needed.

Everything is affected—tourism, airports, maquiladora production and Brownsville merchants.

Here is an example of how intertwined the U.S.-Mexican economies are: Mexicans who come to the U.S. to shop derive much of that money from Winter Texans, who cross the border about six times while they are in the Valley.

This combination of factors means Winter Texans will cross less, therefore spend less—with a result of less income for Mexicans to spend in the U.S.

I urge the Ways and Means Committee, as well as the House leadership, to consider economic relief for the border communities in the upcoming stimulus package.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERAN'S OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.—NATHAN HALE POST NO. 1469

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Nathan Hale Post No. 1469. On October 16, 2001, the post will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in Huntington New York.

Chartered by Congress on October 14, 1926, the Post began with a membership of 40 veterans. Included among the original members were veterans of World War I, as well as a veteran of the Spanish—American War who survived the 1898 torpedo attack on the USS Maine. Today, with nearly 800 members, Post No. 1469 is the largest Veterans of Foreign Wars Post on Long Island and throughout downstate New York. Present members are veterans who proudly served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, the Gulf War as well as conflicts and actions around the globe.

The leadership of the Post has been very active in the local level offices as well as the County, District and State offices. The current Commander serves both as Post Commander and Jr. Vice Commander of Suffolk County which has a total of 48 Posts.

Post No. 1469 has also made outstanding contributions, both financially and with their

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time and efforts, to the local community. These include sponsoring the local Boy Scouts Troop members, holding chairs on the Town of Huntington Veterans Advisory Board, providing scholarships to students in the community and hosting ward parties for veterans confined to the local VA hospital.

I am proud to represent such an exceptional Post and wish them many more years of success as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in recognizing this milestone and congratulating these brave veterans.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 5, 2001*

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, the reauthorization of this country's agricultural policy is an occasion that we should treat with great seriousness and thoughtfulness. If we do not, we turn our backs not only on our agricultural producers, but on all of rural America.

Recent years have been devastating for our nation's farmers. Record low commodity prices, increased production overseas, and pressures from internal markets and agricultural consolidation have combined to depress farm income significantly. In recent years Congress has provided supplemental income assistance to American farmers. While this has prevented mass bankruptcy among our farmers, it has done little to provide them with income stability or to give them an assurance that in future years the market will better serve them.

The Farm Security Act, H.R. 2646, provides American farmers with a secure safety net. With this safety net firmly in place, some of our farmers can plant secure in the knowledge that, while the markets may fail them, America will not. The Farm Security Act sends the important message to our farmers that, because you have supported us for so long, so too will we support you. I support the Farm Security Act because it provides the measures necessary to ensure that agriculture can play the same important role in the 21st century that it did in the 20th.

However, the reauthorization of our farm policy must not be about only agricultural production, but about the long-term viability of our rural communities. The Agriculture Committee has been vested with responsibility for all of rural America. It is therefore appropriate that the Farm Bill should include significant components that speak to the specific non-farm struggles of rural America. While it is true that the farm economy must be strong for rural America to prosper, the farm economy alone is not enough to prevent the "great hollowing" out of rural America currently taking place.

The Farm Security Act, by including \$2 billion dollars for rural development, recognizes the entire mosaic of our rural communities and takes steps to provide for their long-term health. I am especially pleased that the Farm Security Act provides significant rural development funds for water infrastructure and for

rural strategic planning grants. Without a sound public and municipal infrastructure, our rural communities can have no economic base. Without funds for long-term planning and implementation, even the soundest of public infrastructures goes to waste. These two matters fit together for the benefit of our rural communities. I support the Farm Security Act, in part, because of the investment that it provides in these areas.

Finally, I am supportive of this Farm Bill because it recognizes the important connections between American agricultural producers and struggling working Americans who work so hard to put food on the table. This bill makes important investments in the Food Stamp Program that will make the program more user friendly both for those who utilize the Food Stamp Program and for those who administer it. I am especially proud of the measures that this bill takes to support working families who struggle in the low-wage sector of the economy. No longer is it enough just to have a job. In too many cases, a job isn't a ticket out of poverty but simply the maintenance of it. We must do more to support those working families who abide by the rules by ensuring that their children will not go to bed hungry.

This is not to say that I do not have reservations with the bill, some of them serious. In fact there are a number of areas where I believe that we can and should improve upon the bill reported out by the House of Representatives on Friday, October 5.

First, we must do more to pay attention to the needs of small, middle-income, and disadvantaged farmers. It is no secret that US farm policy has long favored large producers who are both politically and economically connected to the agricultural community. However, this trend has grown even more pronounced in the years since passage of the "Freedom to Farm" bill in 1996. A recent report from the General Accounting Office found that the vast majority of US farm payments go to large producers of a small segment of commodities that are grown primarily in the nation's heartland. This must change. A farm bill should benefit all producers, large and small, in California, in Nebraska, and in North Carolina.

We have done an especially poor job of providing assistance to low and medium-income farmers, producers of specialty crops, and disadvantaged and minority farmers. As the Farm Bill moves forward, we must do more to treat all farmers equitably. Such an effort should involve increased outreach to small and minority farmers and equitable distribution of farm payments, geographically, by farm size, and by commodity type. If we do not accomplish this, we are negligent in our responsibility to producers of all sizes and types.

Finally, I would like to express my disappointment that this bill does not do more for the minority-serving colleges and research institutions. The minority-serving institutions have long played a positive role in advancing the interests of not only the minority agricultural community, but of American agriculture as a whole. The minority-serving institutions, even more than other institutions, are strategically placed to ensure that the American agricultural community enters the 21st century a diverse and vibrant one.

However, the minority-serving institutions have long suffered from lack of resources and historic inequities in research and development funding. As a result, these institutions have fared poorly in competitively awarded research grants. For example, a cursory examination of the grants awarded under the National Research Initiative reveals that, fiscal year 1999, the 1890s obtained just one half of one percent of total funding. Clearly, this situation warrants closer examination and amelioration.

This Farm Bill does nothing to change that situation and I will continue to work to see that it does. The current bifurcation between the mainstream land-grant institutions and the minority-serving institutions is unacceptable and it must change.

The burden now lies squarely with the Senate to draft their version of the Farm Bill. I look forward to their efforts and to working with them to achieve a final product which is not only fair to American farmers, but to all of the other myriad interests that this Congress must represent with the Farm Bill.

#### MEMORIAL FOR THE HEROES OF SEPTEMBER 11TH

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the horror, pain and anger of the catastrophe of the World Trade Center Towers on September 11th defy description in words. Nevertheless, in memory of the thousands who died, poets, musicians and artists of all kinds must make the effort to express our sorrow, appreciation and hope. The following RAP poem is one of the numerous attempts to call forth hope out of this unprecedented devastation.

#### TOWERS OF FLOWERS

Pyramid for our age  
Funeral pyre  
Souls on fire;  
Monumental Massacre  
Mound of mourning  
Futures burning  
Desperate yearning  
Excruciating churning;  
For all the hijacked years  
Cry rivers,  
Feel the death chill  
Iceberg of frozen  
Bloody tears;  
Defiant orations of Pericles  
Must now rise  
Out of the ashes  
Jefferson's profound principles  
Will outlive the crashes.  
Funeral pyre  
Souls on fire  
Lincoln's steel will  
In the fiery furnace;  
Mound of mourning  
Futures burning  
Desperate yearning;  
Thousands of honored dead  
Perished in pain  
But not in vain,  
Martin Luther Kings courage  
Will scrub the stain;  
A new nation  
Will overcome its rage

And for peace  
March forever fully engaged.  
Souls on fire  
Funeral pyre  
Pyramid for our age;  
O say can you see  
The monument of towers  
Ashes hot with anger  
Mountain of sacred flowers  
Under God  
Blooming with new powers.

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DONALD R. MYERS

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, Mr. Myers was born and raised in Martins Ferry, Ohio; and,

Whereas, Mr. Myers is one of six Manpower Specialists in the United States; and

Whereas, his expertise has contributed to the creation of the Ohio Valley Plaza, Fox Commerce Industrial Park, Belmont Correctional Institution, Ohio Carings Company, Mayflower Vehicle Systems, Lesco, and Fox Run Hospital; and

Whereas, Mr. Myers served 16 years as the Director of Development for Martins Ferry, Ohio, before being named Assistant Director of Belmont County in 1987, and then in 1990 serving as Belmont's Development Director; and

Whereas, Mr. Myers currently serves as the President of Eastern Ohio Development Alliance and Ohio Mid-Eastern Government's Association;

Therefore, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in thanking and recognizing Donald R. Myers for his countless years of service to the state of Ohio.

#### IN HONOR OF THE MIDWEST ASSO- CIATION FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 12, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies, MALAS, on their 51st Annual Conference at Cleveland State University.

The Midwest Association for Latin American Studies was originally organized as an interdisciplinary program designed to encourage students and practitioners of Latin American Studies to come together for formal events and informal networking. To accomplish this objective, MALAS organizes national and international annual conferences that address the many themes reflected in the diverse interests of the membership. This association provides for tremendous opportunities for those studying Latin America and a great way for these people to come together and truly discuss issues.