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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