

benefit spaghetti dinner and auction which took place on July 22, 2001. The outpouring of support was overwhelming, as country music artists, local merchants, and the media all offered time and talent to make this event a huge success.

As a result of the community outpouring, Post 82 raised more than \$10,000 for this family. Due to the hard work and compassion of the American Legion, a burden was indeed lifted from this gentleman during a time of personal crisis and loss.

I commend American Legion Post 82 of Inglewood, Tennessee, for thoughtfulness and sacrifice on behalf of one's fellow man. Individuals such as this exhibit compassion and charity at the very highest levels.

HONORING THE DIXSON RANCH

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to celebrate the consummation of placing the Dixon Ranch property in a Conservation Easement. This easement will ensure that the Dixon Ranch, which has been farmed for over a hundred years, will be in agricultural use in perpetuity.

The Dixon Ranch was purchased by Mr. A.W. Dixon on October 2, 1905, for \$12,000 in gold coins. The property consisted of 41 acres, and a farmhouse that was built in 1894. The Dixon family grew row crops on the farm, including several different varieties of lettuce, and eventually leased the ranch to the Kingo Kawaoka family, who farmed it until they were removed to the Japanese internment camps during World War II. In 1941, A.W. Dixon's son Gordon, Gordon's wife, Wilma, and their two young daughters, Sara, age 6, and Molly, age 4, moved to the farm.

After the war ended, Kingo Kawaoka's family moved back to continue farming in the area. A cousin of the Kawaokas, Noriharu "Bill" Kawaoka, managed the Dixon Ranch from 1954 until his death in 1992. In 1975 the ranch was designated as an agricultural preserve through a land conservation contract with the City of Arroyo Grande. This contract stated that the land would be used for farming purposes rather than property development. Additionally, the Coastal San Luis Conservation Resource District awarded the first annual Soils Stewardship Award to Wilma Dixon at age 89.

Today, the Ikeda Family leases and manages the farm, while Jim Dickens, the son of Sara Dixon, and his family live in the farmhouse, making them the 4th generation of Dixsons to live on the ranch.

The Dixon family is committed to soil conservation and agricultural land stewardship as well as sound economic planning. In order to ensure that they would be able to permanently protect their productive farmland, the Dixsons were awarded a grant through the State of California's Farmland Conservancy Program. The program promotes cooperation between

government, non-profit organizations, and individual landowners in order to purchase agricultural conservation easements. This was augmented by a federal grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I believe this easement is a prime example of the public and private sector working together to ensure agriculture remains viable while simultaneously preserving open space, I am honored to have the Dixon Ranch in my congressional district.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 408, H. Con. Res. 243, Expressing the Sense of Congress Regarding the Presentation of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor in Response to the Terrorist Attacks of September 11. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 409, H.R. 2559, the Federal Long-Term Care Insurance Amendments Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 410, H.R. 2910, the Norman Sisisky Post Office Designation Act. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was unavoidably detained for Rollcall No. 411, H. Con. Res. 233, Expressing Congress' Profound Sorrow for the Death and Injuries Suffered by First Responders in the Aftermath of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF JOHN E. SIRLES III

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mr. John Sirles for his 30 years of service to our nation as a civil servant with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since February 1999, he has served as the Deputy District Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers' Chicago District.

Over the course of his career with the Corps, Mr. Sirles has received numerous awards. He's been awarded the Bronze Order of the deFleury Medal, the Special Act Award, and the Superior Civilian Service Award. He's also received the Exceptional Performance Award on four separate occasions and the PMRS Performance Award five times.

But Mr. Sirles' legacy will not be the countless awards and citations he's received—his legacy will be the public works projects he's worked on and the countless number of individuals he's inspired over his three decade long career with the Army Corps.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Chicago Shoreline project. Mr. Sirles oversaw and led the completion of the third Project Cooperation Agreement, a critical component to a \$276 million project that will help protect downtown Chicago from flooding.

If any of my colleagues should visit Chicago, I would encourage them to take a look at the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan, an ongoing project with an extensive network of tunnels and reservoirs. This project will help reduce flooding to hundreds of thousands of households and improve water quality of the rivers and streams throughout Chicagoland.

Mr. Sirles helped champion these projects and many more during his tenure at the Chicago District.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Sirles. He's been an exemplary public servant, and his record serves as an example for others.

RECOGNIZING FOWLER PACKING COMPANY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fowler Packing for setting a standard of excellence in fruit picking, packing and shipping. Fowler Packing's strict attention to detail and a willingness to try new innovations has resulted in the production of top quality Tree-Ripe fruit since 1966.

Sam Parnagian established Fowler Packing Company in the early 1950's. In 1966, Sam recognized an opportunity in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry and focused his company's attention to peaches, plums and nectarines.

Mr. Parnagian went on to influence major advances in western fruit packing. In the early 1970's he built and operated the first commercial hydro-cooler used in stone fruit packing. He was also a big promoter of plastic fruit trays, or "Panapack," as they are commonly called today.

In addition to marketing their own fruit, grown on an estimated 2500 acres, Fowler Packing also packs and markets fruit for more than 50 Central Valley growers. The "Sam-Son" label was created by Sam Parnagian and named after his four sons: Dennis, Phillip, Randy and Ken.

Today, Sam's sons continue Fowler Packing's tradition of quality and innovation. Fowler Packing recently switched from wooden to plastic bins in order to reduce the potential for fruit damage. Progressive ideas like these have made Fowler Packing a leader in the Tree-Ripe fruit industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Fowler Packing for their commitment to producing quality fruit in the California Central Valley. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Parnagian family and Fowler Packing many more years of continued success.