AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of
THE HONORABLE
E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

Tuesday, October 2, 2007
1300 Longworth Building
Washington, DC

COMMITTEE PRINT

A Ceremony Unveiling the Portrait of THE HONORABLE E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

A Representative in Congress from the State of Texas
January 3, 1965–January 3, 1997

Elected to the 89th Congress
Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture
Ninety Seventh through One Hundred Third Congresses

PROCEEDINGS

before the

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. House of Representatives
October 2, 2007

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 2009

53–103 PDF

A Ceremony
Unveiling the Portrait
of

THE HONORABLE
E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

U.S. House of Representatives

Tuesday, October 2, 2007

The Honorable E (Kika) de la Garza

Kika de la Garza was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1964 and sworn in as a Member of the 89th Congress in January 1965. He was a Member of the Committee on Agriculture since 1965 and was elevated to the Committee Chairmanship in 1981.

During his tenure as Agriculture Committee Chairman, Representative de la Garza was one of our nation's top agricultural policymakers. A nationally-known advocate for American farmers and ranchers, he authored Federal policies to strengthen the farms and rural economy; provide adequate price and income stability for producers; expand U.S. agricultural export opportunities; ensure the availability of affordable credit for producers; properly fund agricultural research activities; assure producers access to safe, effective crop protection methods and other technology applications; promote a diversified rural economy; ensure the safety of our nation's food supply; and promote the protection of our natural resources.

As Chairman, Representative de la Garza presided over the drafting and successful enactment of three major omnibus farm bills (1981, 1985, and 1990) that reformed the nation's agricultural policies. He also guided to enactment efforts to reduce the cost of agricultural programs through several deficit reduction bills.

A long-time proponent of closer trade ties with Mexico, Representative de la Garza helped rally Congressional support that led to approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in November 1993. His other accomplishments include legislation to streamline the agricultural lending system, strengthen Federal pesticide laws and various other measures to assist American agriculture, encourage rural economic development, and improve human nutrition.

Throughout his career, Representative de la Garza supported and fought for government policies to foster better living and economic conditions for all Americans. He worked hard and successfully to provide Federal funds to much needed water and sewer services to residents of impoverished Colonias in Texas.

A strong supporter of civil rights, Representative de la Garza also worked for improved access to health care for the elderly, veterans, and low-income individuals and for better educational opportunities for all Americans. He supported policies to improve the nation's infrastructure and maintain a strong, cost-effective national defense.

Mr. de la Garza was born in Mercedes, Texas. He received his LL.B. and J.D. degrees from St. Mary's University Law School, San Antonio, Texas. During World War II, at age 17, Representative de la Garza enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He later attended the U.S. Army Artillery School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and served as an artillery officer during the Korean conflict. He is married to the former Lucille Alamia. They have three children, Jorge, Michael and Angela, and seven grandchildren. The de la Garza's make their home in McAllen, Texas.

ARTIST: JENA RAWLEY-WHITAKER

THE HONORABLE E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

Agriculture Committee Chairman, 97th – 103rd Congress

PROGRAM

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
H.R. Bert Peña

INVOCATION
Father Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT
The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture

REMARKS
Senator Pat Roberts
The Honorable Charlie Stenholm
Senator John Cornyn
The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz

ADDRESS
The Honorable E (Kika) de la Garza

UNVEILING OF PORTRAIT
Mrs. Lucille de la Garza

SPECIAL GUEST
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives

Benediction
Father Daniel P. Coughlin
Chaplain, U.S. House of Representatives

The Unveiling and Presentation of the Official Portrait of

THE HONORABLE E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

REMARKS OF H.R. BERT PEÑA

Master of Ceremonies

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Washington, DC.

REMARKS OF H.R. BERT PEÑA

Master of Ceremonies

Mr. PEÑA. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Good evening, distinguished Members of the House and the Senate. The Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Conner, is here and other distinguished colleagues from the Bush Administration. Honored guests and ladies and gentlemen, my name is Bert Peña and I am the Master of Ceremonies tonight for the official action by the Committee on Agriculture to formally unveil the portrait of the Honorable E Kika de la Garza, a Congressman from Texas, Member of the Texas Delegation and of the Committee on Agriculture for 32 years and Chairman of the Committee for 14 years.

We have a full program tonight, and my first duty, as Master of Ceremonies, is to call on the chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Honorable Daniel Coughlin, to deliver the invocation. Father Coughlin.

INVOCATION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Father COUGHLIN. Let us pray. Father God, America the beautiful is not only blessed with awe-inspiring beauty, it also produces the safest, most abundant and affordable food in the history of humanity. By the constant custodial care of farmers, herdsmen and this government, you have led us to a land of plenty, making of us a people grateful and gracious and generous.

Tonight, Lord, it is most fitting, during Hispanic Awareness Month, that we celebrate with Members and staff of the House Committee on

Agriculture to remember the leadership and service of Chairman Kika de la Garza. By divine providence, you brought him here to serve on this Committee and then he was selected by his colleagues to be Chairman of the Agriculture Committee until he stepped down in 1994. But over those years, under your inspiration, guidance and the help of others, his efforts, with three major omnibus farm bills, reformed the nation's agriculture policies.

So Lord, we celebrate tonight with his wife, Lucille, family and friends because to this day, he is a man of balance. Family life and government work, faith and human labor, farm policies and the civil rights of minorities have always been a part of his background, his daily life and his hopeful vision for America that offers equal justice for all.

May his own memory of this place this evening, the people who surrounded him during his work here and this portrait give him great joy and be balanced by the gratitude of many and the just reward, Lord, that you have promised to faithful servants who live and serve both now and forever. Amen.

Mr. PEÑA. Thank you, Father Coughlin, for that very important message and beautiful invocation. It is now my pleasure to introduce the Chairman of the Committee, the Honorable Collin Peterson, for the presentation of the portrait.

PRESENTATION OF THE PORTRAIT BY HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

Chairman, Committee on Agriculture

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you very much, Bert, and welcome, everybody, to the House Committee on Agriculture and we are pleased to see so many familiar faces here. Some of you folks I haven't seen for a while. Welcome back. Senator Harkin. You got the bill written? You ready to go? I have learned that. Well, we are glad to have you here, Mr. Chairman. And I am pleased to be here to be part of the ceremony and honor my good friend and mentor, my Chairman, Kika de la Garza. When I came in 1990, I was way back down on the end of the last row. I don't even think Kika could even see me down there. I tried to behave myself and I didn't do it all the time, right, Kika? But, I did most of the time.

But Kika, as you all know, served in the House of Representatives for, I guess a little over 30 years, from 1965 to 1996. He was appointed, as a lot of us on the Committee, to serve on the House Agriculture Committee during his first term in Congress and he was named Chairman of the Agriculture Committee in 1981, after former Agriculture Committee Chairman, Tom Foley, was chosen to serve as Majority Whip. He was Chairman during the drafting of three farm bills in 1981, 1985 and 1990. He then served as Ranking Member during the 1996 Farm Bill.

During the 104th Congress, Pat Roberts, who is here someplace—where is Chairman Roberts?

Mr. ROBERTS. Right here.

The CHAIRMAN. There he is. Move up to the front here. You are a prominent person, Pat. During the 104th Congress, Pat Roberts succeeded him as Chairman. Come on up here. Charlie, come on up here. We might as well get you guys organized. Pat Roberts is with us tonight. He is going to share a few words, as well as Congressman Charlie Stenholm, who we all know served on this Committee for a long time, and served as Ranking Member prior to my becoming Ranking Member. And as I said, we are pleased to have all these leaders in agriculture. We have a lot of Members here. I am not going to start trying to name them, because I will forget somebody and screw up and be in trouble. But we appreciate you all being with us tonight.

There are many famous stories about Chairman de la Garza. Mr. D, as many people knew him, often talked about his own experience of the American Dream and referred to his roots as a shoeshine boy in Mission, Texas. Anybody who spent any time with Kika in Washington knows the famous submarine story. And I hope, Kika, that you will share that story with us one more time here in the Agriculture Committee tonight. But that is up to you.

Kika was a constant defender of American agriculture. When farm programs were unfairly singled out for deficit reduction, he never hesitated to bring out what became known simply as *The Chart*, which is right over here. Anybody that served on the Agriculture Committee has seen that chart more times than they want to think about. And as you can see, Kika's chart simply showed the fact that for all the attention farm spending receives, you really can't get much deficit reduction from it. There isn't much there below that little line on the bottom which represents how much agriculture is, even if you got rid of all of it. Right, Kika?

During his first year as Chairman in 1981, Kika had to deal with, perhaps, the most difficult farm bill ever written, as some other folks might—Pat might disagree with that. Near the end of that process, he was asked how he liked being Chairman and he told them that the only hard job he ever had was harvesting asparagus. Is that right? I got it right.

Kika has received many honors. There is an elementary school named in his honor and is it in La Hoya, La Hoya, Texas? And the National Resources Conservation Service established the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville, Texas in 1981. And then there is the Kika de la Garza Institute for Goat Research at Langston University in Oklahoma. And I can think of a few folks that they might have singled out, but for good reason, they chose Kika, because Kika has been a tireless advocate for America's farmers and ranchers and

will be remembered always as a great lawmaker, a great leader and a great friend.

His portrait shows him back at home in Texas where he and his wife, Lucille, have retired. I have been down to visit them. It is a great part of the world, and a good place to be in the wintertime. A lot of my constituents are down there. I can probably campaign down there just as well as up home. And as it hangs in our hearing room, which it now is doing at a place of prominence, it will remind us always of Kika's great legacy of leadership and the beautiful, bountiful agricultural landscape that our Committee is privileged to represent.

So I am pleased, on behalf of the House Agriculture Committee, to be here this evening, to take part in the ceremony and honor my great friend and mentor, Kika de la Garza. Congratulations.

I am going to introduce Mr. Roberts, Senator Roberts. Were you in here when I asked Tom if he had the farm bill done?

Mr. ROBERTS. No.

The CHAIRMAN. I can ask you, too. You guys have got to get going over there. Anyway, Senator Roberts and I have also been good friends and as a former Chairman, I am expecting great things out of him over in the Senate to help pull things together because he knows what we have to go through. We are pleased to have you here this evening, Mr. Chairman, and we welcome our good friend.

REMARKS OF SENATOR PAT ROBERTS

Mr. ROBERTS. Thank you, thank you. Frank, are you still back there? Oh, Frankie. All right. That is my wife, Frankie. She is the speaker in my house and I was talking about a member. I just had a suggestion, Bert, if people would step forward about five paces, so that will let some people out on the patio come in, if they want.

And I would like to ask staff members who have served here so long just to take the member chairs. Mario, why don't you take the lead? You always did before. Why don't you take the lead? And Bert, why don't you—well, no. No, you got to do this. Mario, grab some of your staff guys that I remember. Go up here and just sit over here with the Members. Okay, sit down over there. I am trying to create more room so people out there on the patio can get in. Those that are not trying to leave the premises by a hanging rope. All right. Settle down, settle down.

My name is Pat Roberts and I am pretty much an antique piece of—now, come on, settle down, people. This is good stuff. I wrote this. All right, okay. Keep going, keep going. You are not done. I remember sitting clear back on the Republican side where you couldn't move for a lot of different reasons. Hi, Dale. I am just fine, thank you. You sure got a lot of staff, Collin. Always screwing things up. And my time has

expired. It is about time for Fred and Randy to knock over the—that is an old joke.

All right. Okay, listen up and I can get this done. My name is Pat Roberts. I am pretty much of an antique piece of House Agriculture Committee furniture, now stored in the Senate Assisted Living Home across the way. I spent 28 years, 12 as a staff bucket toter, 16 as a Member of this Committee. Now, it is important to remember that for 26 of the 28 years I was in the Minority. However, I had very important duties other than my primary job as administrative assistant to a great Congressman, Congressman Keith Sebelius, a Member of this Committee. You all remember Keith. If you don't—I messed them up. That was his great quote. You can use that if you like.

My primary duties on the Minority, as a staffer, were to learn the art of ice sculpturing for Mario. I was to file Vernie's legal papers. I was to arrange flowers for Diane. I was to get buckets of ice for Bert and the Majority Members—we didn't get any buckets of ice on our side—and remind the Chairman that it was Chip Connelly, not Chips Connelly. We met in 1336A to work out the CBO mark. I didn't give a damn for about 26 years and then all of a sudden I was Chairman and I really gave a damn. And we made the mark one time by actually counting up a conditioning grain and then we drank it.

Mel Thompson was my sidekick in the Sebelius office and by doing all of these unbecoming duties for the Majority, as a Member of the Minority, as a staffer, we received one three-way light bulb a month and two rolls of toilet paper. That was during the days when Tip O'Neill really ran things. We had discipline. And in Kika-land, we also had a great staff. My job was to make sure that Bill O'Connor's agriculture program policy encyclopedia was kept in order, so I simply wiped his brow. John Hogan was our brilliant barrister. And there is a story to that.

John had an appealing kind of explanation to everything legal, but he would clear his voice about every minute and a half. And so we had a pool in the Minority, every time Ed Madigan would have, basically, John give a report and on how many times John would clear his throat. But you had to nail it. You had to nail it exactly on the number. Joe Skeen picked 18, Bill Emerson had 17, I had about 22. We all got through and it was right on 18 and that was it, and Joe Skeen smiled broadly, knowing he had won about a $50 pool, because nobody had ever nailed it. When I got up and said John, would you explain that one item to me one more time? Emerson and Skeen jumped right up and said that is not fair.

Chuck Hilty of Madigan fame had me press his orange and yellow and green and mauve shirt, all the same shirt. Diane and Wonder Woman kept us in line. I will never forget the days, after the revolution in 1994, when the Majority staff actually discovered the basement rat

hole where our staff worked. And I remember the staff director, I don't know who it was, Vernie or maybe it was Bert and it might have been Mario. He said you mean people actually inhabited this place? Yes, we did.

But I digress. That is a Senator's privilege. Kika de la Garza, my friend, my colleague, respected Chairman Emeritus of the always then powerful House Agriculture Committee. Kika's attributes and many accomplishments are listed in his biographical sketch. Amazingly, for an esteemed Member of Congress, they are all true. And in a day and age where bipartisan is better now described as bipolar, I do long for the good old days in the House Agriculture Committee, where, when I became a Member, we passed Stenholm-Roberts amendments, too many to mention. Then after the 1994 revolution, many Roberts-Stenholm amendments. And then a little later, just Roberts amendments. And then I quit and I went to assisted living.

The days as Chairman, when I would be listening to my colleagues across the aisle and began to fearlessly jot down notes of rebuttal, that is when Dale Wayne Moore, now of department fame, would whisper in my ear, ''Sir, you are the Chairman now. You have the votes. You don't have to say anything.'' So I just let Tom Harkin go ahead and say whatever he wanted to say. Actually, Tom was in the Senate then. That wasn't true. The reason we were successful in some things during those rather raucous times was due to the experience, the wisdom, and the commitment of our Chairman Emeritus, who always put agriculture first.

Now, I am going to tell the infamous submarine story and how we, as upstart Republicans, gave Kika a miniature, but genuine submarine from which his story evolved. But the last time I mentioned the submarine story, and this is a true story, Lucille was standing up here and she gave me a sharp elbow to the ribs and said, ''Oh, now you have got him started. We will never get out of here.'' That is a true story. So Kika, no submarine story, but another one, and a little bit shorter. It was 1994, ladies and gentlemen, and I was sitting in front of the television in the Dodge City headquarters. It was slowly dawning on me that for the first time in 40 years there would be a new House Agriculture Committee Chairman. More to the point, it would be me.

I thought of my dad. I thought of my mother. I thought of my family, and all of the farmers and ranchers in Kansas. All of the great colleagues and staff I had worked for. I thought of my family, and the awesome responsibility. I was damn near in tears, when someone tapped me on the shoulder and said I had a long distance telephone call from someone whose name he did not understand. So I answered hello and Kika said, ''I think I have to learn to call you Mr. Chairman.'' I stammered back, ''Oh, no. No, no, no, Mr. Chairman. You will always be the Chairman of the Committee. You will be Chairman Emer-

itus. You will not be a Ranking Member. But I thank you for the call and the congratulations.'' There was a pause and then Kika said, ''I didn't call you to congratulate you. I just want to know what I am going to do with all of my stuff.''

After that was all done, he agreed to sit down with me and to give me some advice and counsel. And I suppose that this may end up on YouTube or something, but we settled on the wellness center and so there we sat, in the bubble up tubs. There were two. And at any rate, we were exchanging ideas on pending legislation, on agriculture program policy, on Members of the Committee. That was a hoot. And I told him I was concerned over parliamentary procedure. After all, no Republican had to worry about that or an OMB score for 40 years. He said don't worry. I will be your parliamentarian and he was. Every time somebody would offer an amendment over there, he would put his hands over his mouth and say don't worry, that will not score. We tried that two years ago and asked about the GAO study. And I would say you know, didn't I recall there was a GAO study about that two years ago and the score didn't meet, and would the gentleman consider withdrawing his amendment. And we got through it.

Ladies and gentlemen, all of us come here to make a difference. We are fortunate here tonight to honor a man who has made a positive difference in the lives of every American and many people in foreign lands. A good man, a humble man and the Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, always. Kika and Lucille, we love you. It has been a privilege to serve with you and an honor to be able to call you a friend. I salute you, sir. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, Charlie, I know that is a hard act to follow, but we now are pleased to have another great leader of the House Agriculture Committee for many, many years, somebody I learned a lot from. I will say, for both Kika and Charlie, for those of you out here that aren't happy sometimes with what I do, I learned a lot from these guys, so if you are looking for somebody to blame. Anyway, we are privileged to have Charlie Stenholm with us, former Ranking Member and a long-time Member of the Committee and also a Member from Texas.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE CHARLIE STENHOLM

Mr. STENHOLM. Kika and Lucille, this has been a mission of a lot of pleasure that you have brought to Cindy and I. And my wife, Cindy, is back out here. The family sacrifices and the family contributions to all of us who have had the privilege of serving in the United States Congress are well known to everyone, but, quite often, are understated. And I have to say that I am one of those that benefited greatly from the inspiration and leadership that you gave, not only on the Agriculture Committee, but how you led your life and sharing your family from time to time. That is special.

First time I met Kika de la Garza was in Crosbyton, Texas. He came out, was kind enough to come out and campaign for Charlie ''Who'' that wanted to become the next Congressman of the 17th District of Texas to replace Omar Burleson. Kika comes out to Crosbyton and we have a full house, 300, 400 people there and he gets carried away, tells the submarine story and a few other things and promised the people in that audience that if they elected Charlie Stenholm, he will guarantee I will be on the House Agriculture Committee. Fast forward a couple of months or about a year, I get elected, we are in, the Steering and Policy Committee is meeting. There is one slot left on the House Agriculture Committee and I am still not on it.

Kika goes to Speaker Tip O'Neill and by the way, Pat, he gave you one too many rolls. Kika goes to Speaker O'Neill and said, ''Mr. Speaker, you got to help me. I was out in Crosbyton, Texas. There were 4,000 men and women from west Texas in that audience and I promised them that if they elect Charlie Stenholm I will see that he gets on the Agriculture Committee.'' I forgot the part of the story, he crawled into the office and begged because this was—well, the Speaker honored Kika's request and I got on the House Agriculture Committee.

And then we had a lot of experiences past Crosbyton. You know, we were in Prague, Czechoslovakia before the fall of the Iron Curtain, doing a Memorandum of Understanding with Charles University and Texas A&M University in dealing with their beginning to communicate with each other. And no matter whether we were in Prague, Czechoslovakia or we are dealing with Secretary Niconav, the Secretary of the Soviet Union, or whether we were in Italy at the World's Wine Fair, Kika always managed to communicate in their language. Five languages, always perfectly communicating with a slight Spanish accent to each of the languages. But he was able to communicate.

I remember once we were appearing before the Rules Committee. Claude Pepper was the Chairman of the Rules Committee at the time and Claude looks down at Kika and he says, ''Mr. Chairman, you have an ag bill you would like to bring before the House?'' ''Yes, sir.'' ''Do you have your ducks in a row on this bill?'' And Kika says, ''Mr. Chairman, I am trying to put my ducks in the wagon, but they keep jumping out. But we will do the best that we can.'' How well I remember that.

There is a special quality in all of us, and I look out and see so many colleagues, friends from Texas, Madam Speaker, glad to see you here today. I know Kika is, also. But as we look out, it is the friendships that we make and the associations that we have and those things that nothing will ever take away from us. And just as I began, I say Kika and Lucille, you have made a great contribution to the Stenholm family and I know I speak for everyone here that has come to know you and

appreciate you. Those that served with you and those who worked with you and those who have followed you ever since, we appreciate you.

And now in closing, I want to share a little bit of news that probably no one is aware of. You have already heard reference to the submarine story and I am not going to go into that. And Lucille, I am far enough away from that elbow. But you know, if today you were to go down this street to the 17th Street entrance to the World War II memorial, you would enter on the south side, which is appropriate for one of the most prominent Members from the South, Mr. Chairman. There is a series of commemoration plaques that show the action on the Pacific front during World War II. Along that wall is one sculpture that commemorates the contribution of agriculture to our national effort in World War II.

And immediately after the sculpture commemorating agriculture is, you guessed it, a submarine. So agriculture comes before submarines one more time. Did Kika strike again? Or should we be thinking of naming a submarine for Kika de la Garza? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. PEÑA. Ladies and gentlemen, the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, has just arrived. I will recognize the Speaker now, so she may deliver her remarks this evening.

REMARKS OF SPECIAL GUEST THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI SPEAKER, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Speaker PELOSI. How exciting it is to gather in this room to honor Kika de la Garza, Mr. Chairman. This is the second portrait unveiling in this room that I have attended, Kika. The first I attended was for Speaker Foley in honor of his being Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. How wonderful that he brought that important value and that important issue to the speakership. I don't have that credential as Speaker, because I told them at the time that we did have one farm in San Francisco. It was a mushroom farm and it was indoors. But nonetheless, I have a full appreciation of your leadership and the contribution that agriculture has made to the war effort at that time and to the strength of our country and our balance of power.

And if I didn't know that, Chairman Peterson would be reminding me every minute, so it is an honor to join him, Chairman Peterson, Charlie Stenholm, my Ranking Member of whom we are very proud and former Chairman, but now Senator Roberts, to honor this great man. I was in McAllen, Texas last week and I saw firsthand the affection and respect that the people of the region have for Kika and for Lucille. At every stop they were cheered, kissed, hugged and revered. And I could see, visiting McAllen and Edinburg and other parts there, why Kika and Lucille wanted to go home. What a beautiful area, an agriculture area and a patriotic area, Mr. Stenholm. Very patriotic area contributing greatly in every way to the strength of our country.

And so here we are, honoring Kika for 32 years of service in the Congress of the United States, 1965 to what is it, 1997? My goodness. I had the privilege of serving under him for part of that time and I saw firsthand a remarkable list of achievements that would be the envy of any Member. A founding Member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. He put the issues of that great community on the national agenda and for that, we are all in your debt, Kika. He amplified the voice of Hispanic Members and Hispanic people throughout our country.

As the first Hispanic to lead a standing House Committee, imagine that, imagine the history of that. Chairman de la Garza left a very enormous mark on farm policy. One of his most impressive achievements was stiff competition, mind you, for that designation, his successful shepherding of three farm bills as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee. Three farm bills, Collin.

The CHAIRMAN. I don't think I——

Speaker PELOSI. We didn't even realize what an accomplishment that was until a couple of months ago. Tom Buis, stop laughing so loudly here. As Chairman Peterson and many up here will tell you, completing a farm bill is a heavy lift. Enacting three is nothing short of remarkable. Chairman de la Garza presided over the presentation of those three farm bills and that is a reflection of his love and understanding of farm country and rural America. As Chairman, Kika de la Garza streamlined farm loan programs, protected family farmers with emergency assistance in the very difficult times of the late 1980s, strengthened rural America and our nation's nutrition programs and he has many, many more accomplishments.

It is wonderful to have Chairman de la Garza back in Washington. I see Angela and other members of the family and certainly, his dear and beloved and beautiful Lucille. I congratulate you on receiving this tremendous honor and think it is a real tribute. We have Senator Harkin, we have Senator Cornyn from Texas, we have many, many Members of the House and that speaks eloquently to the very distinguished leadership of Kika de la Garza. Although he has been gone 10 years now, he is always part of the legacy of this Congress. Thank you, Kika de la Garza, for your patriotism and for your leadership to our country. Thank you, Kika.

Mr. PEÑA. Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Chairman Peterson, Senator Roberts and Charlie Stenholm. I would like to recognize three key Members of the Texas delegation, beginning with Senator Cornyn, who has graciously come over from the Senate to speak tonight. Senator Cornyn.

REMARKS OF SENATOR JOHN CORNYN

Mr. CORNYN. For a Member of the United States Senate, I will be uncharacteristically brief, since Senator Roberts has said just about everything that could be said. And I always look to him for guidance on a variety of issues, but particularly, when it comes to agricultural issues. I am a humble barrister by profession and while I have consumed vast quantities of agricultural products during my lifetime, I don't consider myself an expert.

But I do want to say just a couple of words of appreciation to Kika de la Garza and his wonderful family and say, coming from Texas, he is a Texas legend and somebody who has done so much for our state and to advance not only the cause of agriculture, which employs, roughly, one out of every five Texans, but obviously has made a tremendous impact here in Washington and across our nation and literally, around the world. So Kika, thank you for allowing me to come by and share just a few words of appreciation. Thank you for your great service, the tremendous impact you have made on this great Nation and this is a fitting tribute for those many years of wonderful service. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. We are going to officially accept this portrait on behalf of the House of Representatives and we have the Speaker here and she is the appropriate one to do that, so at this time, I think we will have Lucille come up and we will unveil the portrait and then the Speaker will officially accept it and then we will hear some words from Kika. So if the rest of the delegation wants to come up from Texas, Hispanic Caucus, the more the merrier.

[Portrait unveiled]

Speaker PELOSI. So on behalf of the Congress of the United States, it is a great honor to accept this magnificent portrait of Chairman Kika de la Garza. For a long time to come, anyone who visits the Congress, visits the Agriculture Committee, will see the energy, the dedication, the patriotism in this great portrait of Kika. Congratulations, Kika. You are looking good.

The CHAIRMAN. Rubén. Before we have Kika speak, I am going to have the current Member from Kika's district say a couple of words, Rubén Hinojosa, my good friend.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE RUBÉN HINOJOSA

Mr. HINOJOSA. Thank you, Collin. I appreciate very much the opportunity to say a few words. I was very pleased to hear Father Dan and Bert Peña open the program and delighted to hear Chairman Collin Peterson and former Chairman Pat Roberts, now Senator Roberts, from Kansas; Charlie Stenholm. But I also want to acknowledge many of the current Members of Congress and former Members of Congress who are here today. I especially want to recognize all of the Members

of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus who are here to pay their respects to the founder, together with Congressman Roybal from California. These two men and a few others were the ones who started the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which today celebrates its 30th anniversary, and we thank each and every one of you who are here today.

I am pleased to be here with my wife, Marty, and my family, all of us to honor a great American and a great Texan, the Honorable E Kika de la Garza. I am very proud to represent the Congressional District, number 15 from Texas, that Congressman de la Garza represented, honorably, for over 32 years. When Kika became Chairman of the this House Agriculture Committee, he was the first Hispanic, since 1917, to chair a House standing Committee in the House of Representatives. To hear the words of our speaker, Nancy Pelosi, in recognizing him for his outstanding and extraordinary work as Chairman, it gave me great pleasure because I can look up to Congressman de la Garza, whom I replaced after his retirement, and look forward to someday trying to do some of the great work that he did.

During that 15-year tenure as Chairman, Kika successfully led the way for the House to pass the three omnibus farm bills that were mentioned earlier. Although we are here tonight to honor his work on the Agriculture Committee, through the unveiling of his official portrait, Kika did not just confine his work in Congress to agriculture issues. In 1976, he became one of the founding Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, which he chaired from 1989 to 1991. A strong supporter of civil rights, safeguard for minorities, Kika fought for improved access to healthcare for the elderly and for veterans, bettered living conditions for lower income individuals and the impoverished, and increased access to educational opportunities for all Americans.

In closing, Marty and I want to recognize his wife, Lucille, who has been his strongest supporter and who, I am sure, is very proud to be here tonight to see her husband, Kika, get this well-deserved honor. Kika and Lucille, my sincere congratulations and thank you for all your public service to our great country and the great people of south Texas. God bless you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Rubén, and we have been joined by the Ranking Member, the current Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, former Chairman, whose picture we just hung here, we hung him two or three weeks ago and we are going to hang Kika tonight. But Bob, we are glad to have you with us. So ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, my Chairman, always my Chairman, the Chairman Emeritus of the House Agriculture Committee, Kika de la Garza.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Thank you very much. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend you on the great work that you are doing as Chairman of the Agriculture Committee that I had the privilege of presiding over for a few years. To all of my colleagues that are here, those that have left us and gone to the Senate, Pat Roberts, and my other colleagues that are here, my family is here with me. We are very proud of our son, Jorge; Jorge and his wife and his daughter, Laura, and Tina and Jorge. Where are you, Jorge? There you go. Would you come up here in front? Laura and Jorge. Jorge is, I can't say it, cardiothoracic surgeon. Our son, retired Commander of the U.S. Navy, Mike de la Garza. Mike, Amelia, and our official photographer, Angela.

Thank you so very much. Philip. Where is Philip? There you go. They said so many nice things about me, I had thought I had died and gone to heaven. Is this how it is going to be? But I appreciate all of you being here and the artist that did the painting, the portrait, is here, also. Thank you so very much. I didn't want to say I am—I don't know why, by protocol, and I didn't want to be in a coat and tie with a flag in the background hanging in the Agriculture Committee, so this young lady pictured it well and did a good job. Cousin Joe Miller, a nephew. Did I miss anyone?

Thank you all very much. We appreciate it. I hope you enjoy—someone asked me are you going to have hors d'oeuvres? I said of course. She asked if they would be light or heavy? She didn't come? She is in here someplace. She didn't know if she wanted light or heavy hors d'oeuvres. But everything they said about me was part of a team effort. Those that work for the Agriculture Committee, those that worked for the Agriculture Committee through my tenure before and we were there together, we did it together in a really unusual way. We were receiving criticism for all the spending that went to the rich farmers of America and this chart has been to every State in the Union.

That little line at the bottom, that is all we spent for agriculture. That is it. I would show this chart in Chicago, and New York, says, ''What, all the rich farmers are getting richer?'' No, we are not. We are giving you all the good food that you eat and the now famous submarine story. I was invited—they come, freshmen, young members, they come from the military to greet you and to welcome you. When the Navy fellow came, he said I see you are an old Navy fellow. I said, ''Yes, I was in the Navy. Can you help me get onboard a ship?'' He said, ''Sure, when do you want to go?'' Because I was in the Navy and never had been on a ship. He says, ''When do you want to go? Let me know.''

So couple of weeks later, he came by, a Commander, and said, ''We got you. You are going on a Navy ship.'' It was the *USS Macon*, CA132.

It was someone from Georgia here. The *Macon* was a ship that I went on. When we were out there, I asked the Commander how about submarines? He said, ''Well, we will see about you going on a submarine.'' So a couple of weeks later they invited me to come on a submarine and there we were, out in the Gulf of Mexico, into the Atlantic. You may have heard about some whales jumping on land and getting out of the water? That was me in my submarine. But we did it.

Finally, I asked the commander, how, knowing that this was the height of the confrontation with the Soviet Union and they knew where our ships were, in port or at sea, they knew where our planes were, on the ground or flying. They knew where everything was, except one thing. They didn't know where that submarine was. And that is what saved us from the Soviet Union going after us because they didn't know where that submarine was. And this is what saved us, this is what kept us safe.

But the most important part, and I tell it to you here, I asked the commander, how long can you keep this thing underwater? He says, ''Oh, take a guess.'' I said, ''I don't know, one year, two years, three years?'' He said, ''No. You are in the Congress?'' ''Yes, of course.'' ''You are on the Agriculture Committee?'' ''Yes.'' He said we can keep this submarine underwater as long as we have food for our crew. That was the secret. So who saved us from all that happened with the Soviet Union? It was the farmers and ranchers of America.

They did it for us and I was proud to be a very small part of that endeavor, but had it not been for the farmers and ranchers of America, we would have been just another nation without enough food to sustain ourselves, so thank you, farmers and ranchers of America. I say it right here, in the Agriculture Committee, that I had the privilege and honor of presiding and thank you for this beautiful—I am not leaning on the fence because I am tired. I am leaning because I am proud of what is behind me: Santa Gertrudis cattle and the grass and the fence.

I might tell you a little personal—the name of the Santa Gertrudis originally came from the now famous King Ranch. But it was named Santa Gertrudis because it belonged to the de la Garza family. The mother of the de la Garzas was named Cruz, so they named the ranch Santa Cruz de la Garza because it belonged to a de la Garza family and the mother of the de la Garzas was named Gertrudis, so they named the ranch Santa Gertrudis de la Garza, which I don't know how far down the line I came, but I am proud of it. I am proud of it.

So this has been a team effort. To those of you that worked on the Committee with us and helped three omnibus farm bills and a multitude of other bills for the U.S., for the world, for America and for you, who partake of the bounty of our great agricultural system. So thank you very much. God bless America and God bless agriculture.

Mr. PEÑA. Ladies and gentleman, I would like to recognize the Dean of the Hispanic Caucus and a senior Member of Congress from Texas, the Honorable Solomon Ortiz.

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you. Even before I came to Congress, Kika was already a star and he was my mentor, after I took half of the district that Kika represented, Brownsville and all the way to Kleberg County. I know it has been a long time coming, but we come here to honor a great American. I will never forget when they opened a Bingo site, we had a big ceremony and all of the community was there and all the leaders were there. Even winter Texans were there. When we saw Kika, when the winter Texans came over and they saw those tall aviators, tall, and Kika, this lady came to Kika and she said, ''Kika, how come you are so short?'' And he said let me tell you why. He says I served in a submarine and the bunks were so small that they did not give me a chance to grow.

But Kika, we are here to honor you because of your leadership and your family. It takes the efforts of a great family, a wife and the children. I will never forget, when I came to the first Hispanic Caucus meeting, I was one of six Hispanics when I came to Congress and Kika stood up and he said somebody once said that behind a man is a great woman. Lucille stood up. He says not behind, besides a man. So Kika, we are just here to honor you today and to wish you the best. You have been a great role model for all of us, not only in south Texas, but throughout the country. Congratulations.

Mr. PEÑA. I am looking around for Members of Congress who would like to speak now. If not, of course, we want to thank the Friends of Agriculture Portrait Committee, including the American Peanut Shellers Association, U.S. Sugar Corporation, Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and so many others who contributed to making the portrait possible. Dalton Yancey is here. He started with us a long time ago to put this together. Vernie Hubert is here, Fred Clark and others, including Mario Castillo. I want to thank Debbie Smith. Debbie, thank you for your hard work and dedication to the Committee on Agriculture, and thank you for guiding us through the process. And I would like to recognize Jena Rawley-Whitaker, the artist who painted the beautiful painting, for a few words.

REMARKS OF JENA RAWLEY-WHITAKER

Ms. RAWLEY-WHITAKER. I just want to say that when I found out I was going to paint a Congressman and a Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, I was relieved to know he would be in jeans and a cowboy shirt. You know, there is just something about a man in boots. And so I really was thrilled to get to do that. I want to tell you that in recent times,

as an Executive Director of a homeless shelter in Amarillo, I have come to discover that I am in touch with legislation and programs that Kika de la Garza put into place, so that I can minister to the veterans, we have a lot of homeless veterans; the immigrants and the elderly that come to us. They are helpless, they are hopeless. They have nothing and they don't know what to do. And through Kika de la Garza and his work that he did in these areas, championing these minority groups and these little groups that have no hope of making it work for them. I just want to say, for example, in August, this August, we fed 14,000 people in our little homeless shelter in Amarillo, Texas and that was because of a food bank program that Chairman de la Garza put into place. So I just want to honor him for that today. Thank you.

Mr. PEÑA. I thank all of you for being here tonight. I would like to call on the chaplain of the U.S. House, Father Dan Coughlin, to give us the benediction.

BENEDICTION

Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin

Father COUGHLIN. Mr. de la Garza, I tell you, there is a scripture story. The story stays alive as long as there is a story teller. Obviously, tonight your story will live on and on. Let us pray.

We bless you and praise you, Lord God of creation, for your abundance and resources you have poured on this nation. May the American people always rejoice in a rich harvest of the fields and productive herds as they grow in compassion for the poor and the hungry at home and around the world. We bless you and we praise you, Lord, our redeemer, for the good work, past and present of the House Committee on Agriculture. May their endeavors on policies and laws increase both production and protection of America's food and lead to even more responsible trade with our neighbors.

And finally, tonight, Lord, this gathering of family and friends are truly your sign of Kika's blessings in life. We ask you and praise you, as a source of life and love, for the Honorable Kika de la Garza, his wife, their three children and seven grandchildren. May this celebration affirm the gratitude of colleagues, the people of Texas and of this nation for a job well done and express their prayerful hope for long life and happiness and health which you alone can give, Lord, for you reward the good and the just forever and ever. Amen.

[Whereupon, at 7:05 p.m., the ceremony was adjourned.]

Kerstin Forest-Heitmann
Farar Elliott, Office of the Clerk
J. C. ("Chips") Chester 21-yrs Retired
RIKA CLARK
Lisa Shelton, House Ag Cmte
Vincent L. Freeman, Jr. (Joint Staff)
Jack Danielson
Cherie Slayton, House Ag Cmte
Anne Page
[illegible]
[illegible]
GREG FRAZIER
Julie Paradis
Courtney Bop

Mike Garnett	P.O. Box 1 Spearman, Tx
Loyd Rutherford	Moulton, Al
Dan Henard	16320 Hwy 203 Wellington, TX 79095
Ron Sarasin	US Capitol Historical Society
[illegible]	30202 Gileswood Purcellville VA 20132
[illegible]	USDA
Carol Moodloe	USDA
[illegible]	USDA
Steve Pringle	Tx Farm Bureau
Lorelei C. [illegible]	[illegible]
G. Glen Jones	1256 HCR 2115 Whitney TX 76692
Bernard Brenner	(retired staff)
John Riley	
Bill O'Conner	House Ag Cmte
Ashy Baker	House Ag.

Nick Scott
Tabitha Layman
Graves Englund
Alex Browning
Wanda Stoneham
Rob Larsen
Bernice McGuire
[illegible]
Alice Grum — Dallas, TX
Matthew Borgerding — Perry Hall MD.
Melissa — Perry Hall, MD
Frank & Amy Borgerding — Perry Hall, MD
Joseph A. Miller — Kingston, NY
Lucile J. Miller — Olivebridge, NY

BUXTON REED BATTEY — 723 Camden, 21801
Parks Shake Hurd — 3001 N Monroe, 22207
Anita Raum — Arlington, Va 22213
Anton Prapich — 1320 N. Veitch St. Arlington, VA 22201
Diana Rodriguez — 947-B South Rolfe St. Arlington 22204
[illegible] — 1550 Forest Villa Ln, McLean VA
[illegible] — 1215 WATERMAN AVE ARL. HTS 60004
Julie Henrington — "
DAVID & Leida NEMIR — 2829 LORCOM Arlington VA
Nick Osmure — 400 N. Capitol St. NW #363 DC 20001
Charles [illegible] — Bethesda MD 20814
John A. Haugen — 319 5th St, SE DC 20003
Jennifer Crouse — Arlington, VA
[illegible] — San Diego, CA
Paul McGuire — Washington, DC

George BARBER Houston, TX
FRANK GUERRERO McAllen, TX
Eddie Aldrete San Antonio, TX
Cindy Aldrete-Frazer Charlottesville, VA
Bruce Frazer " "
Alberto P. Cervantes, Jr. - General Counsel - Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Jerry Hagstrom National Journal D.C.
Alejandra Maria Gonzalez-Arias Old Town Alexandria
David Preuckert WASH DC

Katie Caldwell West Monroe, LA
Cara Sopp Glenville MN
Anne Simmons The best Chairman of the Always Powerful House Ag Cmte
Sharon A. Rusnak
Steve Kufuneck
Andrew Kreig Mari Ann's friend from D.C.

Jorge + Ileda de la Garza + Tina, Jorge + Laura
Lydia Valentin Miami FL
Michael C. del Gaizo
Mari Ann Hollis We love you!
Karen Wilson Spivey 3400 Hickory Hills Dr. Dallas 22/22

John E. Morgan Washington DC
Peggy Foerce Washington DC
Paul H. Fomm Wash D.C. USDA
Dale W. Moore Wash D.C. USDA
Joe Pitts Member of Congress - PA-29
Ken Quier Washington DC
Todd Vanfosen Wash. DC
Bob Goodlatte Roanoke, VA VA-6
Isabel Peña Washington DC 10/2/07
H.R. Bert Peña
Tom Leo
Brian Foster
Dan Imgu CA 3
Charles + Cindy Sheridan
Chilhorn & Carol Crain

Stephen Dan Coughlin
Carmen Delgado Votaw 6217 Loring Ct Bethesda MD 20817
Ed Rhoades
Ed Schenk OK
Rob Fersh 9318 W. Porchill Dr. Bethesda, MD 20814
Armin Apple 5375 N 400W McCordsville IN 46055
Jimmy Eller 6301 W 93rd St Oklahoma, OK 74050
Tony Wilkie 312 M Cadeau DR Forrest City AR 72335
Jane Smithers 1900 Hillside Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043
Bruce Nelson Farmington WA 99128
Doug Felton Cannon Falls MN 55009
Victor Gonzalez McAllen TX
Mary Kay Thatcher Alexandria, VA
Jim Lyons Edgewater, MD
Laura Phelps Washington, DC

Caroline Rydell	Washington, D.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Munday	5117 Chowan Ave Alexandria VA
Tom Sell	Lubbock, Tx
[illegible]	Washington DC
Sally Donner	OFW
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Rosales	Rockville M.D.
Ellen Vollinger, UFRAC	9622 Parkwood Dr Bethesda MD 20814
Ruth Saunders, IDFA	Washington, D.C.
Ted Higginbotham	Seminole, Tx
[illegible]	Asheville, N.C. Pa.
Sarah Wilson	1702 Ivy Lane Edinburg, TX
E. Somerset	N.D.
D. [illegible]	W. DC
Tom Bliss	NFU, President

Kyzyty Harder
John Cornyn US Senate - Texas
Alice Garnett
Carol Thylen
Brent Blevins
Jack O Pettus
Frank J. Powell
Evans Plowden
ALFONSO LOPEZ
Kelli Kellum
BRENDA Connolly
Emily Dockery
Camille Dockery
[illegible]
Christina Muddiking

Claire Folbre	
[illegible]	
Todd Gurry	Brownsville / Corpus Christi, TX
[illegible]	
Roger Langley	
Rita Jaramillo	Wash DC
Sandi Cabral	" "
Craig Joyner	
Ned Hickerson	
[illegible]	
Laura Parker	Senate Sgt at Arms Ofc S-151 Capitol
Rebecca Dockery	Hereford, TX & Falls Church VA.
Tony Dockery	Alexandria, VA
John J Salazar	Alamosa, Co 81141
Pam Wilcox	Washington DC

CITY OF LAREDO

Laredo, Texas
1755

RAUL G. SALINAS
Mayor

October 2, 2007

Dear Congressman de la Garza:

Congratulations—on this momentous and historic event of your Portrait Unveiling at the House Agriculture Committee. You truly deserve this honor and many more!

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Laredo, I send their congratulation and our best wishes for the honor being bestowed to you in Washington. Congressman—thank-you very much for all you have done for the good people of Laredo, South Texas and throughout the United States.

Although, I am unable to travel to Washington due to a recent surgery—my children Michael, Jennifer and her husband Henry will be there to represent me. Thank you for being "the greatest boss ever" and all those wonderful memories!

Muchas Felicidades to you, your lovely wife Lucille, and your wonderful family! We love you all and send our best wishes.

God Bless y un fuerte abrazo,

Sincerely

Raul G. Salinas

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

103RD CONGRESS

E (KIKA) DE LA GARZA, TEXAS, *Chairman*

GEORGE E. BROWN, JR., CALIFORNIA, *Vice Chairman*
CHARLIE ROSE, NORTH CAROLINA
GLENN ENGLISH, OKLAHOMA
LEON E. PANETTA, CALIFORNIA
DAN GLICKMAN, KANSAS
CHARLES W. STENHOLM, TEXAS
HAROLD L. VOLKMER, MISSOURI
TIMOTHY J. PENNY, MINNESOTA
TIM JOHNSON, SOUTH DAKOTA
MIKE EPSY, MISSISSIPPI
BILL SARPALIUS, TEXAS
JILL L. LONG, INDIANA
GARY A. CONDIT, CALIFORNIA
COLLIN C. PETERSON, MINNESOTA
CALVIN M. DOOLEY, CALIFORNIA
EVA M. CLAYTON, NORTH CAROLINA
DAVID MINGE, MINNESOTA
EARL F. HILLIARD, ALABAMA
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
THOMAS J. BARLOW III, KENTUCKY
EARL POMEROY, NORTH DAKOTA
TIM HOLDEN, PENNSYLVANIA
CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY, GEORGIA
SCOTT BAESLER, KENTUCKY
KAREN L. THURMAN, FLORIDA
SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR., GEORGIA
BENNIE G. THOMPSON, MISSISSIPPI
SAM FARR, CALIFORNIA
PAT WILLIAMS, MONTANA
BLANCHIE M. LAMBERT, ARKANSAS

PAT ROBERTS, KANSAS, *Ranking Minority Member*
BILL EMERSON, MISSOURI
STEVE GUNDERSON, WISCONSIN
TOM LEWIS, FLORIDA
ROBERT F. (BOB) SMITH, OREGON
LARRY COMBEST, TEXAS
DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN
WAYNE ALLARD, COLORADO
BILL BARRETT, NEBRASKA
JIM NUSSLE, IOWA
JOHN A. BOEHNER, OHIO
THOMAS W. EWING, ILLINOIS
JOHN T. DOOLITTLE, CALIFORNIA
JACK KINGSTON, GEORGIA
BOB GOODLATTE, VIRGINIA
JAY DICKEY, ARKANSAS
RICHARD W. POMBO, CALIFORNIA
CHARLES T. CANADY, FLORIDA
NICK SMITH, MICHIGAN
TERRY EVERETT, ALABAMA
FRANK D. LUCAS, OKLAHOMA
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

DIANNE POWELL, *Staff Director*
VERNIE HUBERT, *Chief Counsel/Legislative Director*
GARY R. MITCHELL, *Minority Staff Director*
GLENDA L. TEMPLE, *Hearing Clerk*