

TOBACCO QUOTAS AND BUYOUTS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, recently, after years of debate over the government run tobacco program, this body ended a system that limited per-acre tobacco sales to protect prices for growers and others holding quotas. As a compromise, we agreed to a buyout that provides tobacco quota holders \$7 per pound on their allotment paid out in equal installments over 10 years. These installments are paid out of a Tobacco Trust Fund to quota holders and eligible producers; however, the Tobacco Trust Fund is also designated to pay for program losses incurred by USDA.

We must not let bureaucratic red tape short-change the promise we have made to these quota holders and eligible producers. We have an obligation to ensure that they receive what they have bargained for. There are many questions that need to be resolved. We need to clarify and ensure that USDA will follow the intent of Congress. The agriculture committees in the House and Senate should hold hearings to resolve the following issues before we move forward. Issues that should be addressed include: Whether the buyouts are assignable to other parties; are there restrictions on quota holders selling their shares in the private market if they need their payments now and cannot wait 10 years; and what safeguards are in place to assure that these allotments are paid out over the next 10 years?

The projected estimates for this program are \$10.1 billion over 10 years, with the program fully offset by funds from the Tobacco Trust Fund. We have made a promise to these holders and producers, and we must not let misguided direction reduce that promise.

RECOGNIZING BRONSON ARROYO
OF BROOKSVILLE, FL**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. GINNY-BROWN WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and praise Bronson Arroyo: the fine athlete, hometown hero, and member of the major league baseball world champion Boston Red Sox. I am proud that the hometown he represents is Brooksville, FL, in my 5th congressional district.

Bronson Anthony Arroyo was born in Key West, FL on February 24, 1977. Bronson is a 1995 graduate of Hernando High School in Brooksville, FL, where he excelled in baseball and basketball. He and his wife Aimee still enjoy the comfort of Central West Florida by making it their off-season home.

In 2003, Mr. Arroyo entered the Boston Red Sox organization. In their farm system he pitched a minor league perfect game, won the Red Sox Minor League Player of the Year Award. In 2004, as part of the Red Sox regular pitching rotation, Bronson won a World Series ring.

Mr. Arroyo is often recognized for his athletic accomplishments, and I would also like to

recognize him as a role model for our community. Mr. Arroyo runs a pitching clinic for the United Way, serves food for the Red Sox Foundation, and speaks with school children as part of his community outreach.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent Bronson Arroyo, and I am proud to praise him on the floor of this house.

HONORING DOWNINGTOWN WEST
GIRLS SOCCER**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown West High School Girls Soccer team for their 2-0 win over the Moon Township team for the 2004 Girls Soccer PIAA Class AAA Championship.

Downingtown Girls Soccer last won the PIAA Class AAA Championship back in November of 2001 after a 7-0 victory and the team was determined to repeat that victory this year.

The Downingtown West Whippets were led by the senior co-captains, Adrienne Weisser and Jill Conaboy. The two co-captains worked against adversity with the challenge of re-vamping their team after the Downingtown High School split into two separate schools: Downingtown East and West in 2003. In the post-season of 2003, the Whippets were determined to work on their game and improve after a late season slump that year and they continued to improve with each game they played.

The Whippets traveled to Hershey, Pennsylvania to play in the finals against Moon Township. In the final game, the Whippets proved to be a strong team with superior skills and easily won their next PIAA Class AAA Championship by shutting out Moon Township 2-0.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the players, coaches, and support staff of Downingtown West High School Whippets for their drive, determination, and commitment to excellence that led them to an outstanding season and the Class AAA championship. The team is comprised of: Kelsea Fortino, Amanda Marino, Jess Dean, Megan Miller, Captain Jill Conaboy, Lauren Sutcliffe, Katie Shannon, Jessica Stevens, Becky Edwards, Sarah Phillips, Katelyn Capps, Captain Adrienne Weisser, Colleen Flanagan, Ali McNeil, Bethany Warren, Christine McLaughlin, Caitlyn Coleman, Christine Thurwanger, Anne Collinson, Ashley Harrington, Kelly Peterson, Emily Fenimore, Sarah Halprin, Amber Reardon, Amber Werner, Coach Rob Smith, Varsity Assistants Mary Schanne and Kelly Cross, JV Head Coach Mike Huffman, Athletic Trainer Joe Iezzi and Assistant Athletic Trainer Jessica Korn.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF THE
NASA B-52B LAUNCH AIRCRAFT**HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of the B-52B launch air-

craft, tail number 008, the oldest NASA aircraft and B-52 on flying status. This aircraft is flown by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Dryden Flight Research Center at Edwards Air Force Base, California, which is in my district. I am especially proud of those who have worked over the years with the B-52B, making history and providing vital research data for our nation's aerospace programs.

The B-52B is an important piece of our nation's aerospace history, and I am pleased to note that it will remain on display on Edwards Air Force Base for future generations to visit. Visitors will be able to trace the aircraft's history through mission markings along the side of the aircraft that document every research flight it made.

Beginning on June 11, 1955, this aircraft worked on some of the most significant projects in our nation's aerospace history, including the X-15 hypersonic plane, which contributed to the developments of the Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and space shuttle programs. Between 1959 and 1968, the B-52B was the launch aircraft for many of the missions of the X-15, or wingless lifting body aircraft, that contributed to the space shuttle's development. Additionally, through this program, these missions explored areas of high aerodynamic heating rates, stability and control, human physiological phenomena, and other problems commonly experienced with hypersonic flights.

Several remotely piloted aircraft used the B-52B for launching in the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, NASA studied spin-stall, high angle of attack, and maneuvering characteristics. In addition, this was the launch aircraft to develop and test the parachute recovery system for the space shuttle's solid rocket boosters. The aircraft was also used in several tests for the shuttle's drag chute deployment system, which was later installed on the shuttle orbiters.

Most recently, the B-52B was the launch aircraft for the X-43A hypersonic research program. In March of this year, the X-43A flew freely at a speed of Mach 7, carried by the same pylon that carried the X-15. The final flight of the X-43A on November 16 flew a record-breaking speed of approximately Mach 10, almost 10 times the speed of sound, at an altitude of approximately 110,000 feet. The X-43A missions provided research in the area of ultra high-speed flights, such as increasing the affordability, safety and flexibility of such flights.

I commend the many men and women who have worked on the B-52B 008 and its research missions, and I thank them for pushing the envelope in aerospace research.

A TRIBUTE TO HILMA SHANNON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Hilma Shannon, who through hard work and determination has realized her dream to teach in the United States, serving a vital role in the education of our diverse community.

Hilma was born in the Republic of Panama in the City of Colon to Enos Williams and Lillian Francis. Her education in Panama consisted of training in elementary education in