

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 27, 2005*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, the agreement we have before us is critical to America's economic future. You see, America's economic stability is directly linked to our ability to maintain a robust trading relationship with the rest of the world.

Right now, the CAFTA region is the second largest U.S. export market in Latin America. Eighty percent of goods from that region already enter the U.S. duty-free.

But currently, U.S. products don't enjoy the same benefits. American exporters of everything from cars, vegetables, fruits, grain and wood products all face average tariffs of 10 to 30 percent.

In my home state of Illinois, some farmers are paying tariffs on farm goods that are as high as 16 percent. These high tariffs prevent farmers from competing in the growing markets of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Last year, export shipments from Illinois to the CAFTA region totaled \$211 million dollars. That's the 16th largest in the U.S.

Passing CAFTA will allow exporters in Illinois and the rest of the country to enjoy the same benefits that our Central American partners already have. And that means more U.S. products can enter and be sold in Central America.

This agreement is a win-win situation for American farmers, businesses and consumers. No matter how you look at it, business activity will increase. And we all know, when businesses do well, jobs are created. In fact, it is estimated that one out of every five factory jobs in the U.S. depends on trade.

There is another component to CAFTA that is also important to address.

This agreement will help solidify democracy and economic reform in Central America. Here is what we know. Trade creates jobs and lifts people out of poverty. And when that happens, societies stabilize and grow. And there is nothing like a stable society to fight terrorism and strengthen democracy, freedom and rule of law.

Finally, Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States. For the millions of Hispanic Americans with families still living in Central America, this agreement creates a mutually beneficial economic relationship that strengthens our ties and our friendship.

Put simply, this trade agreement is about fairness. Fairness for American workers and fairness for American exporters. Our businesses and workers deserve a competitive trading environment on a level playing field.

This is important legislation. It will expand economic opportunity in the United States,

and it will promote freedom and democracy in Central America. I urge the House to do the right thing and pass this legislation.

### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING ANDREW W. KIRKLAND

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Andrew W. Kirkland must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award.

Therefore, I join with the residents of Cadiz, the entire 18th Congressional District, Andrew's family and friends in congratulating Andrew W. Kirkland as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

### TRIBUTE TO REDSTONE-HUNTSVILLE CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE U.S. ARMY

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army for being named for the second year in a row the "Best Overall" AUSA Chapter in the country.

AUSA is dedicated to supporting the United States Army and maintaining a strong national defense. AUSA achieves its goals by supporting the needs and interests of soldiers, retirees, and family members.

As the home of Redstone Arsenal, the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, and numerous defense partners, north Alabama has earned an excellent reputation for its role protecting the warfighter and defending our national security.

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA, which was founded in 1959, has been a strong advocate and voice for north Alabama's warfighters. All of us in north Alabama are very proud of the hard work and commitment AUSA has always exhibited.

Mr. Speaker, this award is wonderful news for our community and I rise on behalf of everyone in north Alabama to express our sincere congratulations to the members of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of AUSA.

### IN HONOR OF MR. GEORGE J. GOMES, AGRICULTURALIST OF THE YEAR

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George J. Gomes of Carmichael, CA. The California Farm Bureau has honored Mr. Gomes by naming him the 2005 "Agriculturalist of the Year."

George began his agricultural odyssey on his family's dairy in Gustine, CA, where he operated the family dairy and farmed forage crops. After selling the farm, Mr. Gomes attended California State University, San Luis Obispo where he attained his bachelor of science degree in Agribusiness Management and his masters degree in Agriculture Education. He began his professional career as an associate professor at Cal Poly where he taught Agricultural Management.

George Gomes' career took him in many directions. Upon leaving the university, George managed the Napa County Fair. He later joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1975 where he worked in the Division of Fairs and Expositions. Shortly thereafter, he became the assistant director before being appointed chief deputy director by Governor George Deukmejian. Mr. Gomes began a new journey in 1987 when he was named administrator of the California Farm Bureau Federation.

His extensive educational and professional experience has allowed George to become a widely recognized leader within California's agriculture industry. While in school he was an active member of the Dairy Club, National Dairy Judging Team and Agriculture Council. Beyond that, George has served as a member of the State Fair Advisory Committee, chair of the Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo Agriculture Advisory Committee, California Fair Services Board of Directors and Keep California Beautiful Board of Directors.

Through his public service commitments in education, government and community organizations George Gomes has been steadfast in promoting California agriculture. This award from the California Farm Bureau Federation could not have gone to anyone more deserving. I wish George and his family all the best.

### COMMENDING ARMY SPECIALIST ADAM JAMES HARTING

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend Army Specialist Adam James Harting for his bravery in the field of battle and his

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