

trade agreement with our Central American neighbors. After a number of years and some tense months, that vision has come a reality.

American farmers, manufacturers, businesses and consumers will now reap the benefits of duty-free access to the growing market of DR-CAFTA. For 20 years, these countries have benefitted from duty-free imports into the United States under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Today, thanks to the leadership of Representative BRADY, the United States will receive this same benefit.

Representative BRADY has become a fervent advocate of free trade as a member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. KEVIN has made strengthening trade between the United States and our global trading partners one of his top legislative priorities. As the world continues moving towards globalization, it is imperative that we support trade policy which protects American interests. I am proud to join my friend in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, a number of individuals played an important role in the passage of DR-CAFTA. However, my friend, Representative KEVIN BRADY went above and beyond to secure this historic agreement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO INCLUDE MACADAMIA NUTS IN THE MANDATORY COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING PROGRAM

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to include macadamia nuts in the mandatory country-of-origin labeling program established in the 2002 Farm Bill. The provisions for macadamia nuts would be similar to those for peanuts whereby roasted and flavored nuts in cans or other packaging would be labeled, but not nuts that are used for candy or as ingredients in other foods.

Hawaii produces the highest quality macadamia nuts in the world. The premium macadamia nut product—and the one where the quality, of the nut is most apparent—is the roasted and flavored nuts in cans or other packaging. Using lower quality nuts for these types of products when the packaging implies a Hawaii origin damages Hawaii macadamia growers in two ways: by decreasing demand for Hawaiian nuts (and therefore prices), and by damaging the reputation of Hawaiian macadamia nuts.

Country-of-origin labeling will give my Hawaii growers a well-deserved competitive advantage based on the quality of their product. Hawaii was the pioneer in developing a national and international market for macadamia nuts and many producers in other countries trade upon Hawaii's reputation to market their nuts.

The long-term viability of Hawaii's agriculture is tied to our ability to distinguish our high-quality products from those produced in other countries. And the cachet of Hawaii origin is also a market advantage. I have no doubt in the superiority of Hawaiian papayas, pineapples, mangoes, bananas, and macadamia nuts. Country-of-origin labeling will make it easier for consumers to distinguish among different origins and will result in a market advantage for Hawaii farmers.

For all of these reasons, my bill is fully supported by the Hawaiian macadamia nut industry.

Currently, the mandatory country-of-origin labeling law applies to farm-raised and wild fish and shellfish; ground and muscle cuts of beef, lamb, and pork; fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables; and peanuts. Country-of-origin labeling for fish and shellfish began on September 30, 2004; labeling for fresh produce, meats, and peanuts is currently mandated to begin on September 30, 2006.

I ask for my colleagues' support for adding macadamia nuts to the country-of-origin labeling law so that my macadamia nut farmers can enjoy the same marketing benefits as growers of American peanuts.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY M. BOGGS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the life of Mary M. Boggs of Seaford, Delaware. Born 82 years ago to loving parents Linden E. Boggs, Sr., and Addie Phillips Marvel, Mary would go on to have a tremendous influence on not only the Seaford community, but also all of Delaware.

Upon graduation from Beacom Business College, Mary would embark on a distinguished career as the administrative service officer for the Department of Justice. After retiring, Mary would continue her service to the community with the Board of Directors for the Seaford Historical Society and as a member of the Acorn Club and VFW Post #4961 Auxiliary.

While very active in the community, Mary's impact was felt most by the local, county, and State branches of the Republican Party. The consummate volunteer, Mary was always willing to help and expected nothing more than a "thank you" in return. Her involvement with the party began in 1944 and she would eventually serve as the president of the Seaford Republican Women's Club and the Delaware Federation of Republican Women. Additionally, Mary was a devoted member of the Senior Citizen's Task Force for the National Federation of Republican Women.

On a personal note, Mary was instrumental in helping me throughout my political career, including my campaigns for Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and the United States House of Representatives. Many of us counted on Mary, and I can truly say she never let us down.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, all who knew Mary were lucky to have been graced by her presence. While I know she will be greatly missed by her family and friends, Mary Boggs will always be remembered for the work she has done throughout the State of Delaware and for the Republican Party.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, July 27, 2005, I had to travel to my congressional district to attend the Boy Scout Jamboree at Ft. A.P. Hill and the memorial service for the four fallen Boy Scout leaders who died there on Monday, July 25, 2005. Unfortunately the program was cancelled because of severe weather which also hindered my return.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the previous question on H. Res. 385. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the adoption of the resolution H. Res. 385. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on the adoption of the resolution H. Res. 386. Had I been present I would have voted "no" on final passage of H.R. 3045. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on adoption of H. Res. 308.

REMARKS ON THE HEPATITIS AWARENESS WEEK CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and report on last week's "Aim for the B" Congressional Briefing held on July 21st. Chronic Hepatitis B is a serious health concern that is finally receiving much needed attention. Almost 350 million people worldwide have been infected with the hepatitis B virus, with 75 percent of those infected living in Asia. In the United States, approximately 1.25 million people are chronically infected with this life-threatening disease. Asian Pacific Americans have the highest rate of chronic hepatitis B infection of all ethnic groups.

Chronic hepatitis B is extremely dangerous because it can lead to cirrhosis of the liver, liver failure and liver cancer. The hepatitis B virus is transmitted through blood and body fluids, unprotected sex, childbirth and unsterilized needles. Unfortunately, many of those who become infected with the disease do not recognize symptoms until after they have developed significant liver damage.

The "Aim for the B" campaign was launched during the week of May 9th of this year through the passage of House and Senate resolutions. I want to applaud my colleagues who supported this resolution for their understanding of the need to focus additional attention and increase awareness of this disease nationwide. Last week's Congressional briefing delved further into the issues of hepatitis B, including the efforts of the Federal Government to combat the spread of hepatitis B and treat those already affected with this disease.

The briefing featured many well-known researchers and advocates in the field. I was pleased to have the opportunity to sit on the panel with Dr. John Ward, the Division of Viral Hepatitis Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Dr. Jay