

those who buy their products or use their services—rather than by outside investors. This business structure provides valuable benefits to the co-op's member/owners.

North Dakota alone has over 250 farmer cooperatives and over 300 cooperatives total (including utilities and credit union cooperatives). These cooperatives contribute over \$1.6 billion to the state's economy, and personal income attributed to cooperatives is over 15 percent of North Dakota's total.

North Dakota's cooperatives directly employ over 9,000 people full-time and an additional 3,000 people part-time. Add in secondary jobs associated with these cooperative businesses, and over 50,000 jobs in North Dakota result from cooperatives.

The effects of cooperatives are not just felt in North Dakota, of course. Nationwide, cooperatives operating in every state in the nation pump more than \$200 billion into the economy and serve an estimated 130 million Americans. These cooperatives operate in virtually every industry, including agriculture, energy, financial services, food retailing and distribution, housing, healthcare, and telecommunications. They range in size from small storefronts to large Fortune 500 companies, employing more than 500,000 Americans with an aggregate payroll in excess of \$15 billion.

Cooperatives dedicate substantial resources to serving their communities beyond their core business functions. This includes charitable giving that assists the underserved and community development activities that generate jobs and income.

The theme for Cooperative Month 2006 is "Cooperatives, Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities." I urge my colleagues to join with cooperatives in their districts next month in celebrating the role of cooperatives in our economy and their value to their communities.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN DEHNKE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of socioeconomic background, receive an education that gives them the skills to achieve. Head Start, as developed in 1965, aims to address the educational, emotional, psychological, health, social, and nutritional needs of preschool-aged children from lower income families. Knowing how critical and beneficial this program is for so many families and their kids in western Wisconsin, I have consistently supported it.

Our local Head Start centers and leaders in western Wisconsin have served these students extremely well. One of the key components of the Head Start program is the quality of teaching it offers to its students. Without these teachers, the program could not succeed. Helen Dehnke of Mondovi, Wisconsin, embodies the devotion of many Head Start teachers. Helen has devoted 36 years of her life to Western Dairyland Head Start children and families.

Helen began her career as a Head Start parent volunteer in 1969 when her twins were

in the program. The following year, her hard work earned her the position of teaching assistant in collaboration with Mondovi Day Care, Western Dairyland Head Start, and the Mondovi School District. Understanding how important teacher quality is, Helen participated in professional development sessions and she earned her Child Development Credential in order to serve her students to the best of her abilities.

Helen's hard work has not gone without recognition. Both her students and their families are extremely grateful for her 36 years of dedication, as am I. Helen is a loving and nurturing teacher, who has learned to know her student's exact needs. She has dedicated her life to ensure that young children are able to learn in a healthy, supportive environment.

I congratulate Helen on her retirement and thank her for her life's dedication to Wisconsin children and families. It is because of her work, and the work of her colleagues, that 13,000 Wisconsin preschool-aged children are enrolled in Head Start. As a result, these children will gain an excellent education and acquire the skills necessary to succeed in life. I wish Helen all the luck and well-being in the future, and it is my hope that her work will inspire others to continue to advance teacher qualifications and skills and strengthen the cognitive development and literacy of Head Start students.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HERBERT H. RICHARDSON

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Dr. Herbert H. Richardson for his service to The Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Richardson joined The Texas A&M University System in October 1984 as Vice Chancellor for Engineering in the System, Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Engineering at Texas A&M University and brought together the University and the System's three engineering research and service agencies—the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Texas Engineering Extension Service and the Texas Transportation Institute—to form an integrated Engineering Program.

Dr. Richardson encouraged interdisciplinary research programs and played a key role in the awarding of Texas A&M University's first National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center, the Offshore Technology Research Center.

From 1991 to 1993, Dr. Richardson served as Chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, leading the development of a comprehensive long-range vision for the System, as well as implementing a major administrative restructuring.

During his 22 years with The Texas A&M University System, Dr. Richardson has shown innovative leadership in building strong academic and research programs and in so doing helped the College of Engineering and the Texas Transportation Institute earn and maintain their outstanding national and international reputations for excellence.

I offer congratulations on his retirement and wish him and his family many years of future happiness

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND TAIWAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 236, a resolution expressing Congressional support for a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan. As a cosponsor of this resolution, I join with over 65 of my colleagues in urging the Administration to begin these negotiations.

For more than 50 years, the U.S. and Taiwan have shared a close economic and security relationship resulting in more than 140 bilateral agreements. In 2005, trade between these countries totaled \$56.9 billion as Taiwan became the 8th leading trading partner of the U.S. while the U.S. was Taiwan's 3rd leading trading partner. The Bush Administration has shown its commitment to expanding free trade in the region by signing FTAs with Singapore and launching negotiations with Korea and Malaysia recently. Now it is time to start discussions with Taiwan on a FTA that will further strengthen this relationship.

A 2002 report issued by the U.S. International Trade Commission found various sectors of the U.S. economy would increase significantly if the U.S. entered in to a FTA with Taiwan. While both the U.S. and Taiwan would benefit greatly from the elimination of trade and investment barriers, New York State stands to gain as well. Some of the largest U.S. companies whose headquarters are based in New York have invested in Taiwan. And over 300 Taiwanese companies specializing in computers, finance, and jewelry have invested in New York. In 2005 New York State exported over \$1 billion worth of products to Taiwan. The reduction of these tariffs will certainly increase exports to Taiwan and create more jobs in New York. Finally, this FTA will allow New York companies to use Taiwan as a gateway for selling its products to China and the entire Asia-Pacific region.

A FTA between the U.S. and Taiwan has already been endorsed by 23 state legislatures. This important agreement will expand and greatly enhance the already close relationship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, given these facts, I believe now is the time to begin negotiations on a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE IRWIN

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

THOSE AREN'T CROCODILE TEARS

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Those aren't Crocodile Tears!

Those are real! As it's for their great fine friend, such heartache they now feel!
As the Crocodiles all in prayer, throughout the world so prepare . . . for their hero to so kneel . . .

As this day our Hearts Lie Down Under,
As The World and her Animal Kingdom have lost their great thunder, their fine son of wonder!

As The Lions they too so mourn, for this man of love so warm, their Savior . . . as they stop to ponder.

All the Animals are crying, as upon them their tears now lay lying

All because this their fine Hero, their True Champion . . . their True Friend lays dying

All of those sad elephant's ears are drooping, in the oceans . . . the whales, sad songs are crying!

But, Steve you will never be extinct,
Forever in our hearts, in our souls, in our minds, in our memories, you'll live on as of you we so think!

With you, life was all it's crooked up to be . . . with your heart of happiness ever to us such joy did bring.

FULL OUT, from life you never sipped, but drank . . . as how a life should be lived as no doubt,

With the heart of a child, as you lived To So Save The Wild . . . showing us all what living is all about!

Because you loved and so cared, as with the World your Aussie heart of a lion so shared throughout.

You Steve, You Great Big Koala Bear . . . Our Teddy Bear of Love . . . A Ray of Light . . .

A Thing of Joy, Reaching For The Stars . . . What is Right! A Shooting Star, So Very Bright!

You thought you were just a bloke, I think not! . . . God, put you on this earth to bring your light!

To Teach Us!
To So Deep Inside, In All Of Our Hearts To So Reach Us!

To show us all the true meaning of love and life, husband & wife, child or crocodile, you beseeched Us!

Oh Crockeeeee, Oh how you showed us how life should be lived,

As to this our world, and her entire animal kingdom . . . Oh Crockeeeee, the gifts to her you'd give!

You are gone, but not forgotten . . . as forever and a day upon this earth in our hearts you shall live!

For once, you were The King of The Jungle . . .

But, more so . . . A Prince of Love and Peace . . . of kindness, of what it is in our world she so surely needs.

For on this day, with your loss in so many ways, all God's Children and his Animals now for you so bleed.

Because, to our world you never took . . . You Gave!

In your life, and most magnificent family . . . the meaning of love . . . you so portrayed!

As The World & her most beloved Animals you so fought for to save, as was your fine life's crusade.

Steve, today . . . you're reached the Top!
As an Angel in The Army of our Lord, fighting for the destruction of the Animal Kingdom to so stop!

The first thing you will do, is return to earth to that stingray who killed you . . . and let his heart not sob.

But, the hardest pain of all . . .
Is what all of us so saw, how much you loved your family and they so too you!

Knowing, that little girl and boy, and fine wife and loved ones, will together miss such splendid joy . . . You!

But, really you're not gone!
As they will carry you in their hearts from dusk to dawn!

Until, the years pass by . . . and together with tears in eyes . . . in Heaven you'll rejoin and will live on!

Those aren't Crocodile Tears!

Dedicated To A Most Magnificent Man . . . who taught all of The World's Animal Kingdom

A Messenger to all of us from Our Lord, about Love, Life and Living!

Crockeeeee . . . God Bless You Steve, May your Family find peace!

IN CELEBRATION OF HISPANIC
HERITAGE MONTH RECOGNIZING
PAQUITO D'RIVERA FOR HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN
JAZZ AND THE SECOND ANNUAL
DUKE ELLINGTON JAZZ FESTIVAL

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Paquito D'Rivera who has been selected as Artistic Director for this year's Duke Ellington Jazz Festival. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we salute the festival's acknowledgement of the contributions made by Latino artists. Paquito D'Rivera is a world-renowned jazz instrumentalist who embodies the diverse soul of today's modern musician. His ability to fuse South American and Caribbean sounds with that of American jazz is creative, unique and inspirational to all of us.

Mr. D'Rivera's proclivity toward music was apparent at a young age. Raised in Cuba, his father was his music instructor. By the age of 10, he was performing with the National Theater Orchestra of Havana. He continued making his mark in Cuba, playing both the clarinet and saxophone with the Cuban National Symphony Orchestra and co-founding the Orquesta Cubana de Musica Moderna and the group Irakere, a Cuban jazz band known for its mixture of Latin sounds and musical improvisation. Irakere impressed jazz enthusiasts across the world with its ground-breaking style, going on to win a Grammy in 1979 for Best Latin Recording.

So that he could fully express his musical talent, Mr. D'Rivera defected to the United States in 1981. With the assistance of fellow jazz musicians such as Dizzy Gillespie, he began performing in New York City and released his first album Paquito Blowin in 1981 and Mariel in 1982. The success of these two albums launched him into the national spotlight. His career blossomed and in 1988, Mr. D'Rivera was invited to join the United Nations Orchestra to perform jazz fused with Latin rhythms and sounds.

Paquito D'Rivera is truly a diverse musician. With commissions as a classical composer, he continues to be involved in a wide range of projects and music. In 1989, he composed "New York Suite" for the Gerald Danovich Saxophone Quartet and "Aires Tropicales" for the Aspen Wind Quintet. In 1999, D'Rivera

participated in a series of programs in collaboration with Germany's Chamber Orchestra Werneck entitled "D'Rivera Meets Mozart". He continues to play with the Paquito D'Rivera Big Band and is an Artist in Residence at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. For over a decade, Mr. D'Rivera has been the Artistic Director of the Festival International de Jazz en el Tambo in Uruguay. In 2003, Mr. D'Rivera received a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Music from the Berklee College of Music and made history when he became the first artist to win a Latin Grammy in both Classical and Latin Jazz categories. He has amassed seven Grammy awards to date and has over 30 solo albums. Additionally, his many solo performances include performances with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and the St. Luke's Chamber Orchestra. Internationally, he has performed with the London Royal Symphony, the Costa Rican National Symphony, and the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra, among others.

Paquito D'Rivera is a gifted writer and the author of his autobiography, "My Sax Life, a Memoir." In his autobiography, Mr. D'Rivera gives us a glimpse of the world through the eyes of a gifted jazz artist. Introduced to literature by his father, he also penned the novel "Oh, La Habana." In 2005 he was awarded the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

In January of 2005, Mr. D'Rivera celebrated 50 years in the music industry and 24 years in the United States. He continues to inspire jazz musicians in the U.S. and throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, during this Hispanic Heritage month, as we celebrate the valuable contributions Latinos make to this nation, we thank Mr. D'Rivera today for his brilliant work and tireless efforts to ensure that the Second Annual Duke Ellington Jazz Festival continues to successfully bring jazz to the Nation's Capitol.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrifices of our young men and women who are serving in the U.S. military around the world. A dear lady from my district, Mrs. Linda Smith, has two sons serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq. During Sunday school at Vineville Baptist Church a few weeks ago, she made a presentation to the class that I think summarizes the courage and bravery of our soldiers around the world. I wish to insert her comments into the RECORD, so that people across the country can be aware of the great work, not only of our men and women, but also of their families back home.

When Mrs. Ann asked me to speak to the class today, I told her that I may cry. I hope I don't, but if I do, I hope you will understand.

I want people to understand why our country is at war and why not only my sons, but others are willing to go and fight.

When people hear that I have two Marine sons being deployed to the same place in