

Today, America is a brighter beacon of freedom than she ever has been. We remain a nation inspired by the sacrifices of those before us and committed to the ideals they fought so dearly to protect. Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the loved ones and the heroes lost on that day.

HONORING JOHN TOS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John Tos of Kings County, California, as he is recognized by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce as the 2012 Agriculturalist of the Year. A third generation farmer, John has been farming since 1961. John has consistently maintained a deep commitment to his family, faith, and community—which serves as a clear testament to his superior moral character. He is well deserving of this honor.

A passionate and proud son of the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, John has earned the respect and admiration of his friends and neighbors. Tos Farms was started in 1912, north of Hanford in an area called Queen Wilhelmina Colony by Joe Tos, John's grandfather. John's father and his Uncle Larry were the second generation to take over the family farming operation. Since then, John and his son Jeff, along with Bill's son, Mark, have become partners in the farming operation—making Tos Farms, Inc. a four generation, one-hundred year old farming operation. Clearly, the Tos Family is a living example of the American Dream—an illustration of success that shows overcoming adversity and achieving success is possible through hard work and perseverance.

Today, Tos Farms employs an average of 250 to 300 people, many of whom have been with the company for as long as 30 to 40 years.

John is not only being honored by the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce for his exemplary work ethic, he is also being recognized for his meaningful contributions to our community. He and his wife of 50 years, Victoria Tos, have been members of the Christian Reformed Church, where John has served on the Church Council and as Deacon. In addition, John has dedicated his time to the Hanford Christian and Central Valley Christian School Boards. He was also a member of the California Tree Fruit Agreement (CTFA) for 30 years. Currently, John serves on the Marana and Sierra Village Retirement Homes Board of Directors. John also acts as Director of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, the Kingsburg Federal Land Bank Association, and the Burris Park Foundation. John's steadfast devotion to his community is evident from his loyalty and extensive contributions to our Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. John Tos for his numerous contributions to California agriculture, the San Joaquin Valley, and our Nation. His selfless nature and strong work ethic, truly exemplifies the best of what our Nation has to offer.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP ACT
OF 2012

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Instructional Leadership Act of 2012, which will strengthen schools by helping principals become high-performing instructional leaders.

The passage of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) charged school principals with additional responsibilities. They not only serve as organizational leaders, ensuring that school culture and resources support teaching and learning, but they are also accountable for student achievement and the broader goals of NCLB. Unfortunately, principals often lack the appropriate training and resources needed to accomplish these goals. It is time to bring attention to the importance of developing programs that train principals on the best practices to guide instruction in schools, so that they can more effectively support teachers in improving student academic achievement.

The Instructional Leadership Act of 2012 provides grants to State and local educational agencies to drive gains in academic achievement for all children by: 1) Creating innovative programs and sites to train principals in instructional leadership skills including developing a school vision, staff development, and effective instructional practices; 2) Developing pilot programs to evaluate the incorporation of standards of instructional leadership into State principal certifications; and 3) Establishing state-of-the-art principal induction programs that provide mentoring and on-the-job training for new principals.

This legislation is strongly supported by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), two of the leading organizations working to develop and promote excellence in school leaders. The Instructional Leadership Act of 2012 represents a necessary first step towards developing the next generation of school leaders who are committed to, and effective in, increasing student achievement. I will continue working to include this bill in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act during the next Congress, and I urge you to join me in championing our Nation's principals by supporting this important piece of legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, September 10, 2012 I had obligations that necessitated my attention in Champaign, Illinois and missed suspension votes on H.R. 6186, which directs FEMA to assess options, methods, and strategies for making voluntary community-based flood insurance policies available through the National Flood Insurance Program. H.R. 2139, which directs the Secretary of the Treasury to mint and

issue as legal tender \$1 coins in commemoration of the centennial of the founding of the Lions Clubs International. And lastly, H.R. 6122, which directs the Librarian of Congress to accept in the interest of the Library of Congress, its collections, or its service personal property valued at \$25,000 or less, nonpersonal services, or voluntary and uncompensated personal services.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the above stated bills.

HONORING NEIL ARMSTRONG

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a true American hero, the first human being to walk on the moon, Neil Alden Armstrong.

I had the privilege of meeting Neil Armstrong, and even introduced my son Eli to him at an event commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the *Apollo 11* landing. It has been said that "we're all dreamers," but Neil Armstrong inspired generations of Americans to dream big and reach for the stars, both literally and figuratively. He believed that the yearning to explore is part of what makes us human and his singular achievement on July 20, 1969 still inspires.

A reluctant hero, Mr. Armstrong never used his *Apollo 11* achievement for personal gain. On more than one occasion he questioned his own notoriety, protesting that his walk on the moon was the result of the dedication of more than four hundred thousand people from engineers who designed the Lunar Module to ground controllers who monitored every aspect of the mission, to seamstresses, who stitched by hand the suit that kept him alive on the moon.

The late 1960's was a time of tumult in America, when our nation was riven by Vietnam, the struggle for civil rights and the emerging women's movement. In the midst of this, Armstrong's climb down the lunar module's ladder and his "giant leap for mankind" united not just Americans, but people of all nations as they watched. That night . . . July 20th, 1969, countless children—including a nine-year old boy in Framingham, Massachusetts—looked up at the moon and dared to dream.

Neil Armstrong is no longer with us, but it is a remarkable testament that even now—more than four decades after *Eagle* landed on the Moon—the mission of *Apollo 11* still inspires us and challenges us to press forward in the exploration of space.

HONORING THE IZAAK WALTON
LEAGUE OF AMERICA'S 90TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Izaak Walton League as it celebrates 90 years of defending Minnesota's great outdoors.