inspiration to those of us who know him. Since he first became a member of the board of the Housewares Charity Foundation, he has worked tirelessly to help them make a difference. Through these difficult times, HCF has consistently raised more than $2 million each year—a testament to Keith's dedication and the entire organization's commitment to helping others.

I wish both honorees only the best and look forward to following their charitable work in the future.

IN HONOR OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TAZEWELL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Agriculture is a thriving industry and a way of life for many in Central Illinois, and the Tazewell County Farm Bureau continues to cultivate the traditional values of hard work and community involvement cherished by farmers for the past 100 years.

Much has changed since 1913 when the Tazewell County Farm Bureau was founded as the first organization in Illinois to use ''farm bureau'' in its name. Woodrow Wilson had just been elected president, and American agriculture was in the midst of a Golden Age with demand for farm commodities and land values both at high levels. While steam tractors were used by some more affluent farmers, horse- and oxen-drawn plows were still common on most farms, and would remain the dominant tools of the trade until the 1950s. The Future Farmers of America would not be founded for another 15 years.

Fast forward to today, 100 years later, and agriculture in Tazewell County is still thriving, led by the Tazewell County Farm Bureau. Tazewell County farmers have more than 166,000 acres of farmland in production, producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. The Farm Bureau provides support services to farmers, including starting the organization that today is the Pekin Insurance Company, which provides farmers' insurance for producers across the area. The Farm Bureau also works to carry on the traditions and values of farming to future generations, as well as to ensure that older members of the agriculture community continue to have a voice, through their Young Leaders and Prime-Timers programs. Both programs have been recognized as among the best in Illinois.

The celebration of the centennial for the Tazewell County Farm Bureau is a time to reflect on the triumphs and hardships that agriculture in Central Illinois has seen over the last 100 years, but it is also a time to look forward. American farmers continue to feed the world, and the Tazewell County Farm Bureau ensures that they have a local partner in that effort. For all of the technological advances made in agriculture, nothing can replace the resilient spirit and strong community fostered by the Farm Bureau. I wish them fair weather and sustained success over the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF GERALD VIRGIL MYERS

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend and an American hero, Gerald Virgil Myers.

Virgil passed away on Sunday, March 10, at 94 years old.

He served our country in the Army during WWII, having fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Three American G.I.s discovered the Buchenwald Concentration camp from entering the west gate; Virgil was one of them. At the time when he entered there were 26,000 inmates in the camp.

He earned many honors including the Silver Star medal, the Bronze Star medal with Valor, the Purple Heart medal, the Infantry Combat Badge medal, the Good Conduct medal, the Victory Medal WWII, received the Medal of Honor from Luxembourg Government, the Mairie Medal by French Government, was declared an Honorary Citizen of Luxembourg in 2004, and an Honorary Citizen of France in 2005.

When he returned home from the war in January 1946, he was discharged from the Army. He went back to work for Quaker Oats Co. in Kansas and attended night classes at Johnson Business College. Virgil and his wife, Emma ''Bobbie'' Tracy Myers, retired to Lakeland, Fla. Bobbie and Virgil had celebrated their 70th anniversary before Bobbie's passing.

He loved golfing and traveling and was very involved in the community, as a member of the Polk Co. Veterans Association and a President of Central Florida Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

We in central Florida and all across America owe a debt of gratitude to this great man and his service to our country and community.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF PROCTORVILLE, NC

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Town of Proctorville, North Carolina, as it celebrated its centennial on Friday March 8th. While Congress was not in session on its centennial, I want to take this opportunity to pay homage to this small town in rural North Carolina today.

Proctorville's history dates back to 1859. The fifty acres the town was founded on was originally owned by Calvin Graham. Mr. Graham gave the land the town was to be settled on to a slave by the name of Dennis Graham.

On July 20th, 1899, Augustus Mellier purchased a portion of the original fifty acres for the construction of the Carolina and Northern railroad. Mellier developed the land surrounding the tracks into four blocks for development. This was the beginning of the new town of Proctorville, named after Edward Knox Proctor Jr., a Lumberton lawyer and promoter of the Carolina and Northern Railroad.

Mr. Proctor purchased the town from Mellier and planned to develop it into an ideal town, but his plans were cut short due to illness. He contracted typhoid fever and died prematurely in December of 1907.

This setback was overcome and the town charter was written by E.J. Britt of Lumberton, North Carolina and incorporated by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1913. At the time, George B. McLeod, brother-in-law of Edward K. Proctor, was serving in the Assembly and was a proponent of incorporation.

Proctorville always produced the major regional crops of North Carolina: tobacco, cotton, and corn. Expectation in production grew as the railroad expanded through the state and the town eventually became a major trading hub for farmers and even outlasted the railroad.

Proctorville has the honor of being the smallest town in the United States to have its own public library. It was established by W.R. Surles and continues to be used to this day.

The Town's most recognized citizen is State Senator Michael Walters who has represented Proctorville and the surrounding community since 2009.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Town of Proctorville as it celebrates its 100th anniversary.

HAPPY 100TH, PROCTORVILLE!

[From the Fayetteville Observer, Mar. 7, 2013]

(By Ali Rockett)

The tiny town in southeastern Robeson County is celebrating a big birthday today.

But Mayor Allen Fowler said the real party begins on Saturday with the town first-ever parade—or at least the first in modern memory, Fowler said.

The parade starts at 11 a.m. on Main Street from Spruce Street to the town's community center. Following the parade, the town will hold a ceremony in Proctorville Baptist Church with keynote speaker and Proctorville native N.C. Rep. Michael Walters.

The .3-mile parade route nearly stretches the width of the entire town, which encompasses about 260 acres.

Proctorville was established in the early 1900s as the crossroads of two major railroads—the Atlantic Coast Railroad running north and south, and the Raleigh-Charleston Railroad running east and west.

While the town's incorporation is only 100 years old, it started much earlier than that, according to Fowler.

In 1866, a plantation owner Calvin Graham deeded 200 acres to a slave, Dennis Graham, for $60. It had taken Dennis Graham nearly 20 years to make the $60.

Then in the early 1900s, a railroad worker Augustus Miller bought part of Graham's land as right-of-way for the railroad. Miller named the area after Lumberton lawyer Edward Knox Proctor Jr, who worked to get the railroad laid through the county.

Proctor later bought the land from Miller, but died before he could build up the town.

Proctorville was relatively dormant through 1940 when the railroad tracks were taken up.

The town's claim to fame is its library.

In 2009, the W.R. Surles Memorial Library—rumored to have once been named the world's smallest in the ''Guinness Book of World Records''—was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

With about 2,800 books, the library's circulation is nearly 23 times that of the population it serves.

About 117 people call Proctorville home.