

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FARMS, FOOD BANKS, AND FAMILIES ACT

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the American Farms, Food Banks, and Families Act, which authorizes a new position within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) tasked with ensuring the nation's food supply chain remains a national priority.

This legislation authorizes the establishment of an "Agriculture Supply Chain Administrator," either designated or appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture within the USDA. The Administrator is charged with developing efficiencies and addressing key challenges within the domestic agriculture food supply chain.

Key points to address by the Administrator include: identifying barriers, either regulatory or statutory, which prevent or inhibit domestic growers from offering their product to the domestic market through food distribution entities; promoting the domestic supply chain; and connecting growers with surplus products with appropriate food distribution organizations.

The Administrator is also tasked with convening a Federal Advisory Committee with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), other appropriate federal agencies, and industry stakeholders to collaborate and advise the Administrator on addressing inefficiencies.

Finally, the American Farms, Food Banks, and Families Act will establish—in coordination with AMS and industry stakeholders—a national database to record and report excess agricultural products and food distribution organizations in need of the available products.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CHARLEIGH FORD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of veteran Charleigh Ford, who passed away on Monday, June 27, due to COVID-19 and dementia complications.

Charleigh's life began on October 20, 1941, in Columbus, Mississippi. Charleigh was a man who loved to share stories, stories that dated back to his time as a paperboy, and riding bikes on dirt hills with the other boys in the area. He would eventually outgrow the role of paperboy and would take on the role of a team member—in football, track, and the United States Air Force.

After graduating from Lee High, Charleigh stuck to his Mississippi roots and attended Mississippi State University, where he met his wife, Lillian Hixon "Lillajo" Ford. Little did Charleigh know that his impact on the world was just beginning after he graduated from Mississippi State University. After college, a wedding, and the birth of his first son, Charleigh was deployed to Vietnam for a year, writing letters to Lillian every day.

Charleigh didn't stop pursuing his passions even after the war. He later found his place in

the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development business, making his most significant impact on Lowndes County. He was incredibly instrumental in forming the "Golden Triangle Link" to recruit industries to Columbus and surrounding areas.

Of all of Charleigh's accomplishments, his family was his pride and joy. Once he had grandchildren, his life was complete. He was such a devoted grandfather, the ladies at daycare had to tell him to stop looking through the window at his granddaughter because she would get upset every time he left. When they were old enough to spend the night, he would have all of them over so they could get McDonald's pancakes in the morning. He would always treat the kids to whatever they wanted.

Charleigh's life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community and will be greatly missed by all whom he encountered.

Left to cherish his memory is his daughter, Michelle Turberville; his two grandsons, Josh and Drew Turberville; his brother, Jimmy Young; as well as many other friends and extended family members.

IN RECOGNITION OF MEALS FOR HEROES MIAMI

HON. DONNA E. SHALALA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, founded on April 1, 2020, Meals for Heroes Miami has become foundational to South Florida's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. This organization was founded by Miami natives Will Osborne and Karen Bechtel, and Will's son Mac, a New York-based restaurateur.

This non-profit, donation-based organization emerged to address two issues stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic: feeding the stressed and exhausted frontline workers risking their lives daily and protecting jobs at Miami restaurants. Meals for Heroes Miami, powered by community donations, serves both these needs by purchasing and delivering meals from local restaurants to frontline workers.

By mid-May, Meals for Heroes Miami had purchased and delivered 10,000 meals to workers; fed teams at 24 hospitals, testing centers, first responder departments, prisons, and other locations; and preserved approximately 50 jobs at 22 partner restaurants. The organization has only continued to grow in the time since.

This kind of innovation is precisely what we need in communities across the country to conquer this pandemic and help families support themselves. I commend Will, Karen, Mac, and all those who have donated to this fantastic cause for their service to our shared community.

HONORING JAMES DONALD KERR

HON. DAN BISHOP

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of

James Donald Kerr, who we lost last month at the age of 86. Don was an enterprising cotton farmer, and every aspect of cotton production was a joy to him.

Don was born in his grandparents' farmhouse in Marvin, North Carolina. After high school, he attended North Carolina State University to pursue a degree in agribusiness. He left his junior year to join the U.S. Army, where he served with distinction before farming with his parents. As a member of the Southern Cotton Growers Board, the National Cotton Council, and the National Cotton Board for over three decades, Don made immense contributions to the cotton industry, with his passion leading him to researching and developing the crop for international markets.

Don lived his life doing what he loved, while also making the world a better place. I was privileged to know him and call him a friend. Today, it is my honor to memorialize his legacy.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINED RENEWAL AND CONTINUITY OF OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING EVERY ELECTION

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today with respect and upon reflection of the core tenets of our democracy: our federal elections and their aftermath.

As you know, Madam Speaker, our nation boasts a steady history, no matter the circumstance, of maintaining a peaceful and efficient process upon the conclusion of our presidential elections. Whether a President continues in office for another term, experiences defeat, or concludes holding office due to the Constitutional term limit, our democracy has flourished to the benefit of the American people for centuries. Our streak of peaceful transitions of power remains unbroken, intentionally and without accident. This reflects the genius of our founders and the will of the American people to continually commit to forming a more perfect union.

In America, our government and its successful function does not depend on one person or political party. Rather, our federal government and its institutions represent the glory and the privilege bestowed by the system of a federated republic. And while to some, the peaceful transition in the aftermath of our presidential election may seem perfunctory, our society and the success of our economy depend on the reliable transition of presidents-elect or presidents continuing to a second term.

It is without question essential that the talented and dedicated public servants in our federal government are able to serve the American people following the aftermath of any election. Such duties include ensuring no veteran is denied benefits and no Social Security recipient misses a check. Professional civil servants—nonpartisan and the best in their fields—provide continuity and ensure that government stays focused on serving the American people. From air traffic controllers to food safety inspectors to servicemembers defending our nation at home and abroad, the federal