

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

workforce ensures that citizen services are uninterrupted by a change in administration.

As you may acknowledge, Madam Speaker, it was of the highest civilian honor for me to serve as a member of then President-elect Barack Obama's transition team, and to engage with the apolitical workforce. While the country faced economic peril, I formally joined the Administration just a few weeks after the President was sworn into office, as a White House appointee serving in the United States Department of the Treasury, alongside Presidential appointees of the former Administration of George W. Bush. I witnessed first-hand how a peaceful and collegial transition of power is achieved. In the process, I garnered tremendous respect for the dedicated career civil servants who continue to serve no matter the political outcome. Today, that same workforce is looking at two possibilities come November: preparing for a new administration or continuing to govern as part of the current administration.

If, following the results of the November 3rd election, a presidential transition falls upon our federal government, a large task is at hand for the new administration. While this is not assumed, it is a scenario worthy of planning and consideration. Just as, if the current president is reaffirmed and continues to a second term, the duties of his administration will continue. Peace and trust in either scenario is paramount. In any such outcome, I ask of my fellow countrymen and women and with specific request of my colleagues within this coequal branch of government to pledge to achieve a more perfect union and recognize that in November, millions will see their votes cast for the winner of the Presidential election, just as millions will see their vote cast for the runner-up of the election. We may suspect or assume the continued and sustained activities of our federal government, and recommitting to this assurance is a healthy and productive exercising of our authorities. In particular, as collective bodies within the Congress and federal agencies, it is our cooperative responsibility to ensure strife and upheaval does not impede the critical duties of our civilian workforce. We, as an elected body of federal representatives oversee, fund, and authorize the efforts of our federal agencies and maintain a responsibility and dedication to their success, particularly in the aftermath of presidential elections.

Today I officially submit as record to this chamber a request to my colleagues. We, as federated leaders and representatives, may express dismay and disagreement with one another and with election outcomes, but we also set the tone to continue the peaceful process following from the votes cast by millions and preparation for ongoing governance and legislative affairs. And we certainly maintain an authority to hold reckless actions of federal officials accountable.

Many in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle have dedicated their life's work to achieving equality, and all took an oath upon being a sworn member of the United States House of Representatives to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. Our duties are not just reflections; they are actions and commitments that form a more perfect union and promote the general welfare as this nation continues to thrive as a free and safe democracy. As we exercise the full abilities vested in us as men and women within this form of public trust, we commit to contin-

ued renewal and restoring of our government with each election.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
MR. JERRY YUCHIEH WANG

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of Jerry Yuchieh Wang. Mr. Wang is an outgoing Senior Officer in the Congressional Liaison Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), which is the de facto embassy of Taiwan. Mr. Wang is returning to Taiwan for his next assignment in the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan). During his service as the TECRO contact for my office, as well as the House Armed Services Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee and Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Wang has been an invaluable resource for my staff and me.

In 2015, Mr. Wang was hand-picked to serve as a congressional liaison for TECRO. During his five and a half years of service in this position, Mr. Wang's insights assisted Members in gaining a deeper understanding of the importance of the United States' relationship with Taiwan and facilitated visits between U.S. and Taiwanese officials at all levels.

Since arriving in Washington, Mr. Wang has played an important role in supporting the strengthening of US-Taiwan security cooperation, personnel exchanges, and the provision of critical defense articles as required by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979. He was also an integral member of the TECRO team supporting Taiwan's participation in international Organizations and US-Taiwan trade relations. Additionally, Mr. Wang has organized and overseen many Congressional Member and Staff Delegation visits to Taiwan, including my own.

Mr. Wang has served in Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2010. Early in his diplomatic career, he worked in the Department of International Organizations on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) related issues. Mr. Wang received a Master's degree in Political Science from the National Taiwan University.

Mr. Wang has been a tireless advocate for the universal values of liberty, democracy, and the respect for the integrity of individual rights—values that are shared by the people of the United States and Taiwan. Our world is a better place because of the work of leaders like Mr. Wang. While Mr. Wang secured many legislative victories for Taiwan during his tenure in Washington, D.C., he made even more long-lasting friendships. My colleagues and our staff are proud to call him a friend, and we hope to see him back in Washington, D.C. one day.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER
PAMELA MARIE BUGANSKI

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 9, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the transformational life of Sister Pamela Marie Buganski. Hailing from Toledo, Ohio's Old Orchard neighborhood, Sister Pamela began her service to the Toledo community in 1975. For forty-five long years, she dedicated her life in service to her religious community, embracing the poor and needy in communities across Northern Ohio, Guatemala, Papua New Guinea, Mexico, and Texas.

I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to her parents, Dr. Raymond and Ruth Buganski; her four sisters Cynthia, Lynn, Laura, and Joan; her five brothers Mark, Joseph, Robert, David, and Michael; and her numerous nieces and nephews.

Most recently I had the honor of meeting Sister Pamela again during my visit to the U.S. Southern Border with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in January 2020. I was so impressed by her dedication to help those struggling to survive in the face of dire circumstances. She stood at the edge of freedom and hope for them. Many of those detained had traveled thousands of miles to the U.S. border to seek refuge only to find the passage blocked by the Trump Administration's immoral "Remain in Mexico" policy. What we saw were families fleeing violence forced to live in squalor in the outskirts of our country by a broken immigration system that has little regard for the human condition. She bore witness to the anguish, misery, illness, and desperation. Sister Pamela recognized that we are all truly God's children. She treated everyone who crossed her path with the love and respect endowed to them by our Creator.

Sister Pamela was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1956 and her family eventually moved to Toledo, OH. There she attended St. Pius and Notre Dame Academy and eventually entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1975, professing her vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in 1978.

She pursued graduate studies at the University of Dayton and the University of Notre Dame. Recognizing the importance of investing in our nation's youth, she dedicated twelve years of her life teaching at junior high schools across Northwestern Ohio and then another ten years teaching math and computer science at St. Mary High School and Notre Dame Academy.

Sister Pamela's deep devotion to her faith and service took her on three mission trips, one to Papua New Guinea and two to Guatemala. After studying Spanish, Sister Pamela's drive to support social justice initiatives and marginalized communities brought her to Texas.

Here, she helped devastated communities after Hurricane Harvey and was accredited by CLINIC to advocate for those seeking refuge at the U.S.'s Southern border. Her sister Cynthia described her best as someone who "was a genuine caregiver from the beginning . . . she could bring calm to chaos".

On behalf of so many grateful communities in Northern Ohio and across our hemisphere,