

are important to American farmers, especially those in the South. The major legislation on which we have worked includes the peanut program; the Food and Agriculture Act of 1981; the Food Security Act of 1985; and the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990. The peanut, cotton, soybean, dairy, cattle, hog, poultry, and catfish programs have his fingerprints all over them. In each case, Dick's counsel, insight, ingenuity, and strong leadership have contributed not only to their passage and enactment into law, but to their overall success during their implementation phase.

He has indeed been my mentor and teacher. Practically all of my knowledge about American agriculture has come from him. There is no one more knowledgeable. Doctoral degrees are usually given to those in academic circles because of their knowledge about a particular subject. I gave Dick the name "Dr. Fifield" because I felt he was superior to most PhD's. Not only will I miss him as a mentor and teacher, but also as a dear friend.

As ALFA's Washington director, he also works extensively with the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the U.S. Trade Representative; the Department of the Interior; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Army Corps of Engineers; the Statistical Reporting Service; the Farmers Home Administration; the Soil Conservation Service; as well as other agencies which handle agricultural programs and projects. It is no surprise that his friendly face is known far and wide within the various corners of the Federal Government.

He has been an effective representative of farm interests due not only to his God-given talents, but also because of his extensive experience as a college professor, a geologist, a science editor, and a horticulturist. Examples of his influence on Alabama agriculture are numerous and varied. For instance, the State's modern farmers market, located in Montgomery, was made possible by his submission of the original design and his work on legislation and grants to raise the \$5 million needed to build the facility. He started annual farmers market days in Montgomery, Huntsville, and Birmingham, establishing a producer-farmer market inside Birmingham's Eastwood Mall.

Dick initiated the ALFA's monthly Food Price Survey and he remains the project's director. The food basket report is regarded by the business community and the media as one of the State's best economic indicators.

He represented the peanut industry in efforts to protect Section 22 of the GATT negotiations. He is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Peanut Growers Group; Assistant Director of the Farm Crisis and Transition Committee for Alabama; and has served on the Governor's Agriculture Policy Advisory Committee and the Energy Advisory Committee. Along with the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Environmental Task

Force, he helped form a State-wide endangered species task force for Alabama.

Dick received his bachelor of science degree in biology and geology from Beloit College in 1951. He continued his education at the University of Hawaii, the Wisconsin Institute of Technology, and the University of Wisconsin, receiving his master's degree in 1972 from the University of Illinois.

Over the course of his career, he served as an instructor of geology at the Wisconsin Institute of Technology; as an exploration geologist with the New Jersey Zinc Co.; and as a representative of the college textbook division in sales and as a field editor in science with the Houghton Mifflin Company. Also, he served in the U.S. Army in the counter-intelligence corps as an investigative special agent. Before accepting his position with ALFA, he was assistant horticulturist with the University of Illinois.

Dick Fifield's retirement will leave a void for American agriculture. He is as knowledgeable as anyone I know of as to the complexity of the integral parts of food and fiber production in this country and their effects on every phase of the American economy. His goal has been to improve the quality of life for rural America while at the same time providing consumers with a stable, safe, and cost-effective farm programs. I hope he doesn't stray too far, for we will continue to rely on his counsel even after he retires.

I commend Dick for all his outstanding and unwavering service to the agricultural community, and wish him and his wonderful wife, Shirley, all the best as they retire and enter a new phase of their lives. I know he will enjoy having more quality time with his family and many, many friends. Both ALFA and the Alabama Congressional delegation will sorely miss his strong and principled advocacy for agriculture in our State.

#### ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION REACHES MILESTONE

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution were ratified on December 15, 1791, forming what we refer to as the Bill of Rights. The first amendment covers what we have come to consider the most primary and essential element of our freedom as Americans: "Congress shall make no law \* \* \* abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

Thomas Jefferson once wrote that if it were left up to him to decide between a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, he would not hesitate to choose the latter. This year, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Alabama Press Association [APA]. Founded in 1871, the APA is the oldest statewide trade association in Alabama and one of the oldest State newspaper associations in the Nation.

According to APA information, William Wallace Screws, the editor of the

Montgomery Advertiser in 1871, took the initiative and invited newspaper executives from around the State to help build new communication links among themselves. On March 17 of that year, eight editors and publishers met in Screws' office and made plans to organize the press of Alabama. Newspapers represented in that first meeting were the Montgomery Advertiser, the Montgomery Mail, the Evergreen Observer, the Troy Messenger, the Union Springs Times and Herald, the Montgomery State Journal, the Talladega Sun, and the Opelika Locomotive.

In 1872, at the first convention, 30 editors and publishers from every corner of the State came together to form a new association of newspapermen called the Editors and Publishers Association of the State of Alabama. Since those early days, this association has played an important role in developing the daily and weekly newspapers of Alabama and in helping to lead the State's economic and cultural development. The APA has also worked on behalf of the citizenry of Alabama by advocating stronger citizen access to government records and meetings.

On February 24 and 25 of this year, editors and publishers from Alabama's daily and weekly newspapers will gather for the 125th successive year. The site of this anniversary celebration is in Montgomery, the same city in which the organization was founded. During this convention, they will hear historians discuss the role of newspapers in Alabama's history while also considering the future role of newspapers in the Nation's rapidly changing communications industry.

The 1996 APA is led by its president, R. Douglas Pearson, editor and publisher of the Daily Mountain Eagle in Jasper. The first vice president is Michael R. Kelley, editor and publisher of the Clanton Advertiser, and the second vice president is John W. Stevenson, editor and publisher of the Randolph Leader. APA's executive director is William B. Keller.

For 125 years, the APA has thrived under its first amendment rights. Taken as a whole, freedom of the press in the United States rests upon relatively firm constitutional footing. The media's general right to publish material, regardless of potential impacts on government operations or other features of national life, has been accepted. Winston Churchill eloquently stated the importance of a free press in his own country during the midst of World War II when he said, "A free press is the unsleeping guardian of every other right that free men prize; it is the most dangerous foe of tyranny." I salute the APA on reaching this distinguished milestone.

#### DEE SCHELLING MEMORIAL

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to recognize a New Mexican who made a notable contribution to my State—to its