

have earned high praise from numerous attorneys who have entered his courtroom.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing the accomplishments of Judge William MacLaughlin. Truly, his even-handed administration of justice is an example to us all.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM KATZBERG

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Katzberg for being honored by the Middle East Network on the occasion of his 1,000th weekly, consecutive column for the Jewish Journal. For the past 20 years, William Katzberg has provided his readers fair and objective literary works on issues relating to Israel and the Jewish community. His journalistic contribution stems from his dedication to straightforward journalism and enduring love for the State of Israel.

In 1987, the Middle East Network in south Florida, formerly known as the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, was concerned about erroneous news reports the American public was receiving regarding the Arab Infatada. The media reporting from the Middle East had fabricated the news in an attempt to capture America's interest in the battle transpiring in the Middle East. The media's deception was widely considered as a war of information—a war as devastating as the war being fought between Israel and the Arabs because it was turning world opinion against Israel. The Middle East Network held an organizational meeting to put an end to the fictitious news reports and generate fair and impartial reporting regarding Israel. William Katzberg was an invited guest because of his journalistic integrity and support of Israel. He immediately recognized the grave impact of the deceptive reports and called on the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale to help promote accuracy in Middle East reporting.

Over the years, William Katzberg has written a great deal about Israel and the Jewish community. His column appears in the Jewish Journal, and, on occasion, in the Miami Herald and the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel. He has become quite popular among residents in south Florida as a media journalist, a speaker, and a leader. In addition to his column, William Katzberg has helped organize mass meetings for the Middle East Network, has acted as a meeting moderator, and has produced a series of documentary films on Israel including: "Israel Under Siege," "the Hope, the Struggle, and the Miracle," "From Ellis Island to Jerusalem," and "Israel, Between Terror and Peace." These films have been shown to synagogues, churches, and colleges and universities in south Florida to help increase awareness of Israel and her people.

William Katzberg remains actively involved in the Jewish community in south Florida. He is a member of the board of directors and on the executive advisory community of the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale. Through his involvement at the federation, he has helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the United Jewish Appeal. He also participates in leading group trips to Israel for

the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale and for the Temple Beth Torah, where he is also a member of the board of directors. His activity in both Jewish affairs and journalism has earned him a seat on the Jewish Telegraph Agency Board of Directors as well.

I wish William Katzberg the best on receiving this prestigious honor from the Middle East Network. I know he will continue to be an effective voice and journalist for the Jewish community in south Florida and in Israel.

THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support legislation regarding one of this Nation's most important and effective conservation programs, the Conservation Reserve Program.

Under the Conservation Reserve Program Flexibility Act, H.R. 861, producers whose contracts expire and whose bids to re-enroll are not accepted under new USDA rules for the CRP, will be allowed to extend, for up to 1 year, their existing contracts at the county-wide rental rate as established under the new enrollment criteria.

In Kansas, the Conservation Reserve Program protects 2.9 million acres of environmentally sensitive land by encouraging farmers to dedicate this land to conservation use. Contracts covering almost 2 million acres of Kansas CRP land will expire by September 31, 1997. Unfortunately, the timing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's rulemaking process does not always coincide with needs of farmers. For producers of fall crops, like winter wheat, the enrollment decision date is simply too late.

This legislation would allow producers to explore the full range of grazing and cropping options as they bring their CRP land back into production. Due to extensions over the last 2 years, contracts representing nearly 22 million acres of this program are now expiring at once. At this point, we do not know exactly what land will be accepted, but it is estimated that 20 to 25 percent of the currently enrolled acres will not even be eligible. This represents around 4 million acres that we know will not be in CRP and will be back into production.

Mr. Speaker, adding 4 million acres into production with a limited range of planting options could be disastrous. This sort of market disruption can be avoided if we allow producers across the country to explore all of their options on how to bring this land back into production.

There are several important realities that this bill acknowledges. Under this legislation, the enrollment cap is not changed. As sign-up progresses, 36.4 million acres will still be the statutory limit on acres in the program. Even with the continuous enrollment for filter strips, riparian areas, and other high-priority areas, the current enrollment is only 32 million acres. Allowing a 1 year extension would not limit sign-up of new acres going into the program.

Another important factor is the payment rate. Under this 1 year extension, the payment will be either the new enrollment rate or the

current rate, whichever is lower. This bill is not designed to give farmers the incentive to extend for 1 year at a substantially higher rate, it is designed to keep CRP benefits enrolled in a cost-effective manner and allow for an orderly return of this land back into production.

Mr. Speaker, massive changes have occurred in this Nation's agricultural programs within the last year. With any program changes, a smooth transition is both necessary and desired. This legislation will allow producers to make sound, market-based decisions as they bring their land back into production. Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this much needed legislation.

DELAURO HONORS SAGE SERVICES OF NEW HAVEN

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 1997

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 25, 1996, Sage Services will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The organization serves people over the age of 55 with a number of different programs. I am delighted to rise today to honor Sage Services and to recognize the important work they are doing.

The mission of Sage Services is twofold. The organization aims to enable older people to maintain their independence, to continue to develop their skills and abilities, and to help them feel that they are valued members of the community. In addition, Sage Services educates the community to value older people, to benefit from their contributions, and to understand and address the concerns and issues older people face.

Sage Services provides a number of valuable job training and job placement programs. The organization is committed to keeping the skills older people possess up to date. For example, several computer training classes are offered which teach word processing, keyboarding and data base, and spread sheet skills. I can imagine that it gives participants a great deal of self-confidence and self-esteem to be able to keep up with the information age and the proliferation of computers.

Sage Services also offers all sorts of job placement programs. Older people are hired by local businesses for everything from office work to repairs and maintenance work. I am so pleased to see local businesses working with the organization because older people have so much to offer. If we do not reach out to them we are losing a great resource. Their talents, abilities and experiences remain relevant to the job market and it is to our advantage to tap this resource.

In addition to these great programs, Sage Services links older people with all sorts of services and assistance. I am impressed with the Sage Home Share Program which helps people remain in their homes by putting them in touch with someone who is in need of housing. Older people receive companionship and assistance and those sharing housing are able to find reasonably priced housing. I think this program goes to the heart of what Sage Services is all about; people helping each other. Sage Services keeps the idea that we are all family and we are all responsible for each other at the heart of everything it does.