

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 11, 1997, I missed rollcall vote No. 178, as I was presenting an acknowledgment to students from the University of Illinois at Chicago who were participating in the Department of Energy's Future Car Challenge. I was unable to make it back to the Capitol in time to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 178.

A TRIBUTE TO W.D. FARR

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who helped shape the history of water development in eastern Colorado—William Daven "W.D." Farr. Mr. Farr is the epitome of a Colorado pioneer.

W.D. Farr was born in 1910 in Greeley, CO, and worked on his grandfather's homestead. The Farris' success at raising sheep led W.D. to enroll at the University of Wisconsin, which had the best sheep research department in the United States. In 1929, Mr. Farr returned to Greeley to join his father, Harry, in business when his studies were cut short by a severe illness. In 1948, Harry divided the business between his two sons. As the business grew over the years, W.D. acquired ranches and farms, plus land for feedlots.

Mr. Farr's vision in the area of local and regional water planning has been invaluable to the citizens of Greeley contributing to the economic prosperity of the community and the development of long range water project planning. Commitment and service to the Greeley community and the State of Colorado have been priorities in Farr's life. His many accomplishments include, but are not limited to the following:

Board of Director of the Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company from 1947 to 1955;

Board of Director of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District from 1955 to 1995;

Chairman of the Greeley Water and Sewer Board for 36 years from its inception in 1959 until January of 1996;

First president of the Municipal Subdistrict of the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District;

President of the National Cattlemen's Association from 1971 to 1972;

Member of the Water Pollution Control Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of the Interior appointed by President Richard Nixon in 1973;

Chairman of the Region 208 Area Wide Planning Commission of the Larimer-Weld Council of Governments in 1974;

Member of the Colorado Water Congress in 1975; and in 1985 named the Wayne Aspinall Water Leader of the Year by the Colorado Water Congress;

Inaugural inductee into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame when it was established in 1991; and

Inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1995.

On Tuesday, June 17, 1997, the Greeley City Council will honor W.D. Farr by passing a city ordinance recognizing his illustrious service to his community, State, and Nation and naming him chairman emeritus of the Greeley Water and Sewer Board. I am pleased to join with the Greeley community in commending W.D. Farr on his numerous and outstanding contributions.

H.R. 1876, A BILL TO CLARIFY THAT COMPONENTS OF CERTAIN SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS SHALL BE PROVIDED THE SAME STATUS AS THE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUSES

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, today we are introducing a bill to clarify the interpretation of language contained in the Florence Agreement, a multilateral international agreement regarding the importation of educational, scientific, and cultural materials. Signed by the United States it allows for the duty-free importation of scientific apparatus into the United States, if used by U.S. approved institutions for educational, scientific, and cultural purposes.

As nations tighten their research budgets, international scientific collaborations involving many nations are becoming more common. Therefore, it is crucial the United States promulgate the same tariff treatment for the importation of component parts of large scientific instruments, as for the scientific instruments themselves. The need for this legislation was demonstrated last year by the difficulties experienced in the Gemini International Telescope project. The U.S. Customs Service narrowly defined the words "scientific instruments or apparatus" not to include "components" of these instruments.

The Gemini project involved two large telescopes under construction in Hawaii and Chile. The project was managed by the Association of Universities in Astronomy [AURA], and involved the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. The telescopes contained several components, including an 8-meter mirror manufactured in the United States. The mirrors were shipped to France for polishing before being returned to Hawaii and Chile for final assembly. The U.S. Customs Service initially contended that the mirror was a component, along with the other large components is not eligible for the same tariff free status as the instrument. Chile, however, was not charging duties on the components destined for there. The 104th Congress had to pass specific legislation to provide tariff relief for the Gemini project.

The prevent future problems, this bill addresses the difficulties encountered through the interpretation of the words "instruments or apparatus" by the U.S. Customs Service. It

states that separable components shall be included under the definition of instruments or apparatus, and that therefore they shall be eligible for the same tariff treatment under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. This bill will ensure that the United States fulfills the Florence Agreement's intent of furthering the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information through the interchange of scientific instruments and apparatus.

A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report two good news stories related to the quality of life in my district in southern California. The first, relates to statistics compiled by the U.S. Department of Justice which concludes that Ventura County, CA is one of the safest areas to live in the United States. According to the FBI, the county recorded its lowest crime rate in 23 years with a 14.5 percent reduction in the number of crimes for each 1,000 people.

The county Sheriff's department and the Ventura police department report that the 1996 crime rate was the lowest since the early 1970's. The Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bob Brooks recently stated that, "not only has the rate decreased, but the number of crimes reported has also dropped—even as the population almost doubled in the past two decades."

Our second story involves my own hometown of Simi Valley. According to officials in the city of Simi Valley, its 1996 crime rate was low enough to again rank it as the safest city with a population of over 100,000 in California and possibly the safest city of that size in the United States. This success story involving Simi Valley, which has consistently had one of the lowest crime rates in the Nation, is due in large part to the hard work of the members of the city council and the commitment and dedication of Police Chief Randy Adams and the members of his department.

This welcome news was reported by the Nation's law enforcement agencies during the first 6 months of 1996 and released by the FBI in accordance with the Preliminary Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

These statistics demonstrate the commendable job the Ventura County and Simi Valley law enforcement officers are doing to protect our community and its citizens. Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault have no place in a civilized society and will not be tolerated, especially in Ventura County and its municipalities. The efforts of our uniformed men and women and concerned members of our community have once again shown that we can be safe and secure in our homes and neighborhoods.

While the statistics are promising, we must continue to work to prevent crime, punish habitual offenders, and ensure that victims receive adequate restitution. There is still much to do to maintain this trend of decreasing crime rates. However, this report demonstrates that capable police officers, tough sentencing, positive outreach programs, and people who care have made a tremendous difference and will continue to be effective in the future.

The Ventura County and Simi Valley experiences serve as nationwide models of competent law enforcement and a committed citizenry. I applaud those individuals who personally risk their lives to provide us with a safe community and congratulate them on a job well done.

A TRIBUTE TO DONALD V.
WEIDMAN

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, for more than 50 years, Donald V. Weidman has been an effective minister of the Christian gospel. Since 1987, he has served with distinction as executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, the statewide association of the more than 1,900 churches and 625,000 members affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Recently, he announced plans to retire effective August 31, 1997.

As early as the 1940's, Don was a member and leader of gospel music groups that traveled extensively in the Midwest. Later, he would enter full-time ministry and serve as the pastor of growing churches in DeSoto, St. Louis, Liberty, and Kansas City, MO. As a denomination spokesman, he served with distinction as second vice president of the 16-million member Southern Baptist Convention and as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention. He has been on the boards of trustees for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX; William Jewell College in Liberty, MO; and Baptist Memorial Health Care Systems in Kansas City.

Missouri Baptists have experienced exceptional growth during his years as executive director. A crowning achievement of those years is the current missions and ministry partnership Missouri Baptists have with Baptists in the Republic of Belarus, one of the former Soviet republics.

Don's work extends beyond Baptist circles, however. He has been active in civic clubs, Chambers of Commerce and United Way in every community where he has lived.

Don's wife, Marian, has been a faithful partner in his ministry. Three of their four children are in full-time vocational ministry. Another daughter is an active lay leader in her church.

Don Weidman's compassion, humor, and common sense have served Missouri Baptists well in challenging times. His faith and commitment to seek and follow God's will set a great example for denominational leaders across America.

KILDEE SALUTES THE HOUSE OF
SPENCER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. J. Merrill Spencer and his wife Edith Prunty Spencer, who are retiring after 42 years of distinguished service to the residents of Flint, MI as the proprietors of the House of Spencer Mortuary.

Dr. Spencer is a veteran of World War II, and served in the 92d Division known as the Buffalo soldiers. After completing his studies, Dr. Spencer served our community in a number of capacities including, teacher, principal, and postal clerk. The Spencer's founded the House of Spencer Mortuary on November 3, 1955. Dr. Spencer also became a partner in a stock brokerage firm and the Stonehearth Restaurant.

Despite managing several thriving businesses, Dr. Spencer found time to serve on several boards and commissions in Genesee County. He served on the Executive Committee of the Genesee County Democratic Party, the Genesee County Board of Supervisors, was an Alternate Delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention, and served for 12 years on the Flint Board of Education. As a lifetime member of the NAACP, Alpha Phi Fraternity, the Morehouse Alumni Association and the Optimist Club, Dr. Spencer has been dedicated to ensuring that every individual is given equal opportunity. As a mentor, he has encouraged many of our youth to succeed.

Although the accomplishments of Dr. Spencer are impressive, I think he would agree that his marriage to Edith Prunty Spencer is what he is most proud of. Mrs. Spencer has been an inspiration to me for her dedication to literacy. Her love of reading led her to work in a number of positions at the Flint Public Library. She retired as Chief of Public Service from the library in 1987 after 37 years of service.

An active member of the Urban League, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Mrs. Spencer has provided our community with a strong advocate for women. Mrs. Spencer has been recognized by her peers on many occasions for her selfless dedication to making our community a better place. She was the recipient of the Hands of Mercy Award, was recognized by Who's Who of American Women, and was named Alumnae of Year by Wayne State University. I know that Mrs. Spencer was deeply honored when the Flint Public Library named the periodicals department, the "Edith Prunty Spencer Room."

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. and Mrs. J. Merrill Spencer. Their lives should serve as an example to all of us. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to this dynamic couple on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 19, 1997. I ask you and my fellow members of the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the Spencer family all the best in their retirement. They deserve our accolades.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS FAHEY

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Elmhurst and Corona, Queens, to pay special tribute to a remarkable individual who has distinguished himself as an exceptional police officer and role model for our young. Thomas Fahey has brought hope to

the lives of many in Elmhurst and Queens by reaching out to the community and helping those in need.

As a decorated 14-year veteran of the New York Police Department, Officer Fahey has always been there for our community and our children—especially in these last 8 years, during which he has served as the youth officer at the 110th precinct in Corona and Elmhurst, Queens. He has helped kids that were in trouble and helped kids stay out of trouble. As a mentor and friend he has inspired countless young men and women to stay in school and strive for a better life.

Officer Fahey has led by example, and there can be no better example than his selfless service during rescue efforts after TWA Flight 800 exploded above Long Island. In fact, he received a decoration from New York City for putting his life at risk to help the families and victims of Flight 800. Thomas Fahey is truly a hero, and his work in the community is a shining example to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and all my colleagues join me in honoring Officer Thomas Fahey. He inspires those who work with him, and he has earned the devotion of his friends and the gratitude of his community.

IN HONOR OF IDA INEZ BERROCAL
TORRES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a respectful tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres, who is being honored this evening by the Queens Women's Political Caucus. Ms. Torres has been in the forefront of workers' rights, particularly the rights of women and Hispanic workers. The most accurate portrait of Ms. Torres comes from Ms. Torres herself, as she describes herself as a "worker for workers."

Ms. Torres' involvement in the labor movement covers all facets: she has been an organizer, teacher, leader, and elected union official. Her advocacy work in the labor movement began with her position as a telephone operator in the union. In 1965, after a strike at Bloomingdale's, the workers petitioned that Ida become their union organizer for local 3 of United Storeworkers. In 1977, she was elected vice president of local 3, RWDSU, and continues in that capacity today.

Ida's work also has influence on the national level. She currently represents RWDSU on the national executive board of the Coalition of Labor Union Women, serves on the executive board of the New York City Labor Council, and is president of the Hispanic Labor Committee and Advisory Committee to the New York City Central Labor Council.

Ida's role as a teacher has been equally important in the labor movement. She has served as an instructor in labor studies at Cornell University, New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations, and the Harry Van Arsdale Center for Labor Studies, State University of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to Ida Inez Berrocal Torres. I am honored to have such a great woman and leader in my district.