

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE AGRICULTURE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1998

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Agriculture Export Enhancement Act of 1998. Farm exports have soared over the past several years and foreign exports present great opportunities for American farmers and ranchers. However, too many trade barriers prevent billions of people from buying our products. Our trade negotiators need to focus their attention on eliminating tariffs, subsidies, and other foreign regulations that limit what we sell overseas. This legislation would establish these negotiating objectives.

This legislation identifies current foreign laws and regulations that limit U.S. farm exports and requires the Executive Branch to make their elimination a priority in upcoming trade negotiations. It calls for a date-certain for the elimination of tariffs on farm exports and of subsidies that distort the international prices of agricultural commodities and requires countries to reform the activities of state trading enterprises (STEs) that hamper agricultural exports.

With 40% of American agriculture commodities and products being exported. The American farmer is more reliant on international markets than any other sector of the U.S. economy. That is why it is so important that the U.S. layout specific agricultural trade negotiation objectives.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, Marquette Township in my northern Michigan district is celebrating its Sesquicentennial this year. Although my House colleagues and most other Americans may not recognize Marquette Township by name, this community on the shore of Lake Michigan has played an important role in the development of the U.S. steel industry and in the improvement of highway traffic safety.

A theme of Marquette Township on the occasion of its 150th anniversary might be its blending of old and new, and this theme is reflected in the topography of the township itself. The iron-rich hills that rise to become small mountains on the southern Lake Michigan shore are made up of some of the oldest rock formations on Earth, but they have been scoured and shaped by the great glaciers that covered North America only yesterday, geologically speaking.

Two important resources, iron ore and timber, drew settlers to this region. The old days of the boom in both mining and lumbering, however, are now merely part of the region's lore. Lumbering on a massive scale ended when virgin forest were cut, and the economies of steel production and shipping brought an end to the early ambitious steel mills and mines. In these new days, lumbering is a managed and planned enterprise, conducted with an eye toward reforestation and preservation of the environment, and new mining techniques, which allow iron ore to be shipped as pellets, has allowed mining to find new life in the region.

Marquette Township and the surrounding communities enjoyed for years the economic benefits of K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, one of the airfields which served as a staging area for U.S. strategic bombers. The area was devastated by the closing of this base, but the enterprising nature of the people of this region has permitted this base to find new life as a center for economic development.

It's clear, Mr. Speaker, that the people of Marquette Township can celebrate their sesquicentennial with confidence that those elements of their social and economic lives which have had value will be preserved and renewed.

K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base was named for a former Marquette County Road Commission Superintendent, Mr. Kenneth Ingalls Sawyer, who in 1917 performed a singular act in Marquette Township that has led to his being recognized in the Michigan Highways Hall of Honor. Mr. Sawyer went out to a dangers curve in the township, called "Dead Man's Curve," on part of what later became U.S. 41 and painted a strip in the center to help drivers stay in their own lanes. Successful in Marquette Township, the practice was adopted for all Marquette County's roads in 1918, and eventually across the entire nation.

Marquette Township has a complicated history as a political entity, because as the region has developed the township has grown and shrunk, seen its township lines shifted, and has watched as the city of Marquette was carved from its holdings. Much of its history, therefore, now lies outside the current township lines.

But, Mr. Speaker, there is located in Marquette Township an old gold mine. I probably shouldn't reveal its exact location, and it is currently not in use, but the mine is probably an excellent symbol of this rural community as it reflects on its 150-year history. The real treasury of the area is not the gold or the iron ore or the timber that people have found there. The treasures are the people, the families, the quality of life, and the rich heritage and tradition that is revealed when residents begin the process of researching their roots.

That is the real importance and value of Marquette Township's Sesquicentennial. I ask my colleagues to join me in praising the local organizers of this event for their efforts, and in wishing the Marquette Township a future as rich and interesting as its past.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL RONALD H. MARKARIAN FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Major General Ronald Markarian for his distinguished service and dedication to the California Veterans Board. The California Veterans Board advises the Governor, Legislature and Department of Veterans Affairs on veterans issues.

Major General Ronald H. Markarian was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson to the California Veterans Board in 1994. General Markarian has served as state director of the selective service system since 1987. Governor Wilson appointed Ron Markarian as Commanding General of the California State Military Reserve and promoted him to the rank of Major General in July 1990. He retired as a Colonel in the United States Air Force in 1980, after serving 30 years.

Major General Markarian flew 116 combat reconnaissance missions in the Vietnam War. Several commendations were awarded, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious Service Medal. His assignments have included: air crew duties in B-47 and B-52 strategic bombers; strategic nuclear planning with the Joint Strategic Planning Staff in Nebraska; Strategic Reconnaissance Operations at Headquarters, Pacific Command in Hawaii; Chief of Air Reconnaissance Operations at HQ USMACV in Southeast Asia; six years at the Pentagon where he served as Chief of Air Reconnaissance Systems and Director of the Intelligence Reserve Forces.

Major General Markarian is a graduate of the Air Command Staff College, Air War College, National Defense University, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Defense Intelligence School, United Kingdom School of Service Intelligence, the Federal Emergency Management Institute and the Foreign Service Institute. He also holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a B.A. from California State University, Fresno.

Major General Ronald H. Markarian has been an active member in the Republican Party and several military associations including the Air Force Association, California State Military Reserve Officers Association, Civil Air Patrol and the National Guard Association of California. He has served as the regional president and is a member of the National Council of Trustees for the Association of the U.S. Army and a past national president of the National Sojourners. His local community involvement have included membership in the American National Red Cross, the California Emergency Services Association and the Fresno County Chambers of Commerce.

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