

built in this country. It is time that we stop fooling ourselves that a renaissance in U.S. shipbuilding is just around the corner.

Because of the Jones Act, U.S. agricultural producers today do not have access to domestic deep-sea transportation options available to their foreign competitors. There are no bulk carriers operating on either coast of the United States, in the Great Lakes, nor out to Guam, Alaska, Puerto Rico, or Hawaii. This puts American producers at a competitive disadvantage because foreign producers are able to ship their products to American markets at competitive international rates whereas U.S. producers are not.

American agricultural producers also need access to deep-sea transportation options because other modes of transportation are saturated. Last year's rail woes would have been averted if just 2% of domestic agricultural production could have traveled by ocean-going vessel. With an expected record harvest on the way, the bottlenecks and congestion of last year will in all likelihood be revisited. Burlington and Union Pacific have already notified agricultural shippers to expect delays. This raises rail rates to artificially high levels at a time when commodity prices are already depressed—directly impacting farm income.

The Shipping Relief for Agricultural Act will eliminate the U.S. build requirement for deep-water dry bulk vessels for the carriage of agricultural products, dry bulk cargo, and forest products. All vessels would still be required to obey all U.S. law, including environmental, safety, labor, and tax regulations. This bill brings more ships to the U.S. fleet, allows U.S. Agricultural shippers access to ships, and will also provide much needed jobs for the American Merchant Marine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, July 17, and Monday, July 20, 1998, I filed an official leave of absence and was not available to cast votes on either of those days. However, had I been present on Friday, July 17, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 295, and "nay" on rollcall vote 296.

Had I been present on Monday, July 20, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 303, 304, 305, and "nay" on rollcall votes 302, 306, 307, 308.

TRIBUTE TO SUSAN GAIL YOACHUM

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Susan Gail Yoachum, a magnificent human being and extraordinary journalist of the San Francisco Bay Area who passed away on June 22, 1998. She was the devoted wife of Mike Carlson, the daughter of Betty and the late Charles G. Yoachum, and the sis-

ter and relative of Charles Yoachum and his family of Dallas.

Susan Yoachum was a star from the moment she was born in Dallas, Texas on May 12, 1955. Her passion for writing emerged early in her life as she became the National Spelling Champion in 1969. She pursued her talent at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, from which she graduated in 1975 with Bachelor of Arts degrees in journalism and political science.

She was a reporter for the Dallas Morning News, the Independent Journal in Marin County, the San Jose Mercury News, and the San Francisco Chronicle, covering some of the largest political stories of her era. Her talent for seeking out and delivering breaking stories went unmatched in political journalism. This talent was recognized in 1990, when she was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news, and again in 1994, when she was honored as Journalist of the Year by the Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She earned a reputation amongst her peers and those about whom she wrote as a tenacious, witty, and sophisticated reporter, armed always with a penetrating question and a warm smile. Since 1990, she had covered national, state, and local politics for the San Francisco Chronicle, where she was promoted to Political Editor in 1994. As a popular political analyst, she was often a guest on TV and radio programs, from CNN's "Inside Politics" to a myriad of Bay Area radio shows.

In 1991, Susan Yoachum was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer. During her seven-year struggle with breast cancer, she not only continued to produce brilliant work, but she also became a breast cancer activist. In an effort to raise awareness about this horrible disease, she frequently spoke to women's organizations, political groups, and fellow victims. In 1997, she courageously wrote about her own battle with cancer, announcing that after being in remission since 1992, her cancer had returned. She strove to humanize the statistic that 180,000 women get breast cancer every year, personalizing the cold facts with her own face.

Mr. Speaker, Susan Yoachum was an inspiration to us all. She educated us with her sharp journalistic talent, she personalized and publicized what breast cancer is about, she fought for a cure, and she made lasting contributions to our community and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a woman who lived a remarkable yet all too brief life. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mike Carlson and the entire Yoachum family. Susan Yoachum's life was an example of the strength of the human spirit, and because of her, hope lives on.

A SALUTE TO COLONEL JOSEPH A. HAIG (U.S. ARMY, RET.)

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to recognize a patriot and honorable American from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. As family and friends gather today to honor Colonel Joseph A. Haig on the occasion

of his 100th birthday, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Colonel Haig's long-time service to our country.

Joseph A. Haig was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 24, 1898, and enjoyed a typical turn of the century boyhood. In the summer of 1918, however, with the "war to end all wars" still raging in Europe, Joseph crossed the threshold into manhood, and joined the United States Army, as part of the Officers Candidate School. As one of the "60 day wonders", he received his commission when he was only twenty years old.

After the war, Joseph returned to civilian life, but remained active as a reservist. In 1923, he became a charter member of the Reserve Officers Association. Today, he is the sole surviving charter member.

In the summer of 1940, before the United States officially entered World War II, Joseph was called to active duty as a major. He was made the assistant commanding officer of the Recruit Reception Center at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. During the next three years, he processed nearly a quarter of a million draftees. In 1945, then Major Joseph Haig was assigned to a camp in Pennsylvania as deputy post commander. In that position, he had the pleasant duty of facilitating the discharge of about 400,000 men, until he was discharged from active duty.

Once again, the end of active duty did not mean the end of his military career. Now Colonel Joseph Haig continued on as a reservist and remained involved and prepared to serve his country, when needed, until his mandatory retirement forty years ago.

Colonel Haig still attends the annual Reserve Officers Association meetings. Ten years ago, when he was a mere 90 years old, Colonel Haig was honored at the Association's annual meeting, as hundreds of generals and admirals greeted him with a tremendous standing ovation.

Another source of pride for Colonel Haig is his family, which includes his children Janet, Douglas, and Jerry, along with 20 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Colonel Haig's sons share in their father's sense of service to country and have served in the military. Douglas is a retired Air Force colonel. Jerry is a retired Naval Lieutenant Commander. The Haig family's combined years of military service is a staggering 176 years.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in extending my appreciation to Colonel Joseph A. Haig for his many years of service to the people of the United States and in offering a hearty congratulations on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

POLITICALLY DRIVEN MANAGED CARE REFORM DEBATE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 1998

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my grave concern that the debate today on managed care reform has deteriorated into a politically-driven exercise to serve the narrow and partisan goals of the majority party.

Neither the Republican leadership bill nor the Dingell/Ganske substitute were subjected