

minority, being in the Congress is fascinating, and as long as my health and facilities hold out. . . . I mean, I'm not much interested in shuffleboard or model airplanes.

IN TRIBUTE TO BILL SEREGI

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad responsibility to advise our colleagues of the recent passing of an outstanding American, a remarkable individual, and a tremendous philanthropist.

Bill Seregi was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1903. Although as a youth he aspired to a career in engineering, he found this avenue closed to him by the blatant anti-Semitism which permeated that part of Europe at that time. Instead, Bill went into the jewelry trade at a young age, and soon was considered a master of that trade in his home nation.

In 1928, he married the lovely Lily and thus began a marriage which lasted seventy years. The union between Bill and Lily is an inspiration to all of us.

By 1939, Bill and Lily were considered leading citizens of Budapest. That year, World War II struck Europe like a dreaded thunderstorm, and no life was left untouched. As devout Jews, Bill and Lily found themselves targeted by the oncoming Nazi hordes. Bill was sentenced to a concentration camp. Torn from his family, Bill was forced to toil at slave labor in the Nazi labor camps. It was only his hope of reuniting with his family which kept Bill alive during the horrible years of the Holocaust.

After the defeat of Nazi Germany, Bill was reunited with Lily and they brought together the survivors of their family. Bill and Lily spent the post-war years trying to rebuild their shattered lives. But the respite was short-lived. Hungary was soon taken over by Soviet dictators and, in many ways, life was no better than under Nazi domination. In 1951, Bill and Lily emigrated to the United States to start a new life, for themselves and their family.

Once he had emigrated to the U.S., Bill found the peace and freedom which he so vainly sought all of his life. No freedom did he cherish more than his right to worship according to his own beliefs and the beliefs of his faith. Bill learned very soon after arriving in America about B'nai Zion, the brotherhood organization of people desiring a homeland for Jews in Palestine. Bill soon threw most of his energies into the many philanthropic works of B'nai Zion. He became President of one of the local chapters of B'nai Zion, the Theodore Herzl Lodge.

Bill Seregi devoted a great part of his life to the B'nai Zion Foundation, as well as to various fund raising efforts for the State of Israel. Bill earned a name for himself throughout the greater New York region, and became highly respected as a superb spokesperson. He was active in the America Israel Friendship League, which cemented a good relationship between our nations. Bill also established a "Gift of Giving Scholarship" award presented to students of New York City high schools.

In presenting the scholarship to the worthy students, Bill Seregi summed up his philosophy of life to them:

- "a. Help those in need
- b. Fight against intolerance
- c. Study more than you want to
- d. Be grateful to those who teach you; and
- e. Knowledge is your fortune."

A few years ago, Bill Seregi was the recipient of the Dr. Harris J. Levine Award, the highest honor possible from the B'nai Zion organization. At that time, Norman G. Levine, the son of the philanthropist for whom the award was named, stated: "There could not possibly be any better candidate or anyone more dedicated to the same principles as my father than Bill."

Bill left us on Dec. 16th, 1998, at his golden age of 95. He leaves behind his widow Lily, to whom he had been married for more than 70 years. He also leaves his children, Ann and Larry, his grandchildren Ellie and Lewis, and many loving nieces and nephews and their families.

By fleeing the tyranny of Communism in 1951, Bill Seregi demonstrated that it is never too late for any individual to seek freedom, liberty and justice for themselves and their families. By continuing his career as a master of the art of jewelry as well as his advocacy of Zionist and philanthropic causes, Bill underscores the old adage that if you want something done, ask a busy person. No one will ever fully know the suffering Bill and Lily experienced under both Nazism and Communism, and no one will ever know how many lives they touched and how many people were positively impacted by their decision to help others rather than curse their own misfortune.

Mr. Speaker, our condolences are extended to the many loved ones Bill leaves behind, and the countless individuals who were inspired by this outstanding human being.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. JAMES CALVIN PIGG

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, It is my distinct privilege to rise today to honor one of Texas' finest agricultural journalists, Mr. James Calvin Pigg, editor of the Southwest Farm Press magazine in Dallas, Texas. Calvin has served as editor since the magazine's founding in 1974, faithfully reporting agricultural news for Southwest Farm Press for 25 years. A native Texan, Calvin has practiced his craft on radio, television, and print coverage of agriculture in the Southwest since 1955. After more than 40 years on the Texas and Oklahoma agricultural scene, his hands-on reporting style keeps stories fresh and interesting. Reporting the dynamic and ever-changing events within the agriculture industry is an important duty since farmers and ranchers across the Southwest depend on this information.

In addition to his Farm Press duties, he has served as a member of the Dean's Advisory Committee for Texas Tech University's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources and has received the college's prestigious Gerald W. Thomas Outstanding Agriculturists Award in 1985. His unsurpassed dedication and genuine concern for the South Plains agricultural industry is legendary. He

also was honored for his distinguished service to Texas agriculture by the Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas in 1980. Calvin was the president of the Dallas Agricultural Club in 1989, and his active involvement in various professional and honor societies proves he truly is a friend of agriculturists.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. James Calvin Pigg on his commitment to the agricultural industry and his tireless dedication and service to Southwest Farm Press.

LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT THE AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY NATIONWIDE

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 1999

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced several pieces of legislation that I believe should be considered during the 106th Congress. These bills represent a broad array of policy initiatives that will benefit the agriculture community nationwide.

AGRICULTURAL WATER CONSERVATION ACT

Over the past few years I have read countless articles on the need to conserve water and the role federal government has with this mission. While discussing water conservation methods with farmers in my district, I found cost was their overriding concern. The outlays required to implement water conservation systems, (i.e., drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, ditch lining) are a tremendous burden on the agriculture industry. While I firmly believe most agriculture interests are genuinely concerned about conserving water, cost has crippled the ability to implement conservation methods on farms.

The Agricultural Water Conservation Act is not a mandate for expensive water conservation systems, it is a tool and an option for farmers. Specifically, it will allow farmers to receive up to a 30% tax credit for the cost of developing and implementing water conservation plans on their farm land with a cap of \$500 per acre. The tax credit could be used primarily for the cost of materials and equipment. This legislation would not require them to change their irrigation practices. However, it would allow those farmers who want to move toward a more conservation approach of irrigation but cannot afford to do it during these tough economic times.

CANNED PEACH RESOLUTION

For almost two decades, the European Union (EU) has been heavily subsidizing its canned fruit industry to the detriment of California cling peach producers and processors. Despite a Section 301 investigation, a favorable GATT ruling against the EU, and a subsequent US/EU agreement intended to contain the problem, the EU canned fruit regime has in fact grown considerably more disruptive over time. In recent years, EU canned fruit subsidies have greatly increased (now totaling between \$160-\$213 million annually), as has injury to the California industry in every one of its markets.

The resolution I introduced today details the problem, identifies it to be of priority concern, and calls for corrective action. I hope by introducing this resolution we can highlight this dispute as a trade priority, underscore that relief