

Born on February 20, 1942, Senator MCCONNELL demonstrated his leadership and political skills at an early age. He was elected student body president of his high school, student body president of the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences, and president of the Student Bar Association at the University of Kentucky College of Law. After graduating from law school, Senator MCCONNELL quickly ascended Washington politics as an intern for U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper, chief legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Marlow Cook, and deputy assistant general under President Gerald R. Ford.

After serving in Washington, Senator MCCONNELL returned home to Kentucky to help build the Republican Party he loves so much. He was elected as County Judge-Executive in Jefferson County in 1978 and to the United States Senate in 1984. He is the only Republican in Kentucky history to be elected to three full terms in that esteemed body.

Since arriving in the Senate, Senator MCCONNELL has achieved recognition as being one of Washington's most influential people. He is the Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee, the Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, a senior member of the Senate Agricultural Committee, and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Senator MCCONNELL's committee assignments position him well to champion issues that matter to Kentuckians.

Perhaps one of the biggest honors of Senator MCCONNELL's political career came in January 2001. As the Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, he directed the planning and production of President George W. Bush's Inauguration as the 43rd President of the United States. Not only did he serve as emcee of the 2001 Inauguration Ceremony and escort President Bush throughout the day's historic events; he also helped coordinate the "Bluegrass" Inaugural Ball.

Along with the long list of accomplishments in his political and professional life, Senator MCCONNELL is a committed husband to his wife, Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and a loving father to his three daughters: Elly, Claire, and Porter.

On Senator MCCONNELL's 60th Birthday, I think it is important to thank him for the guiding light he provides to other folks in Kentucky. I speak personally and on behalf of a number of Republican candidates who have been inspired and helped by Senator MCCONNELL's leadership. He taught us that Republicans can win in Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker I would ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in wishing him a very happy birthday and continued service for Kentucky and America.

TRIBUTE TO WALLACE E. GOODE,
JR.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Mr. Wallace E. Goode, Jr., who will be awarded the

Franklin H. Williams Award by the U.S. Peace Corps this month.

Most Americans visualize the Peace Corps as groups of student volunteers working in the "developing world." A far away world dogged by poverty and disadvantage, a place we only visit through somber images of undernourished children and devastated villages on television.

However, the developing world is not necessarily that remote. In fact, it may reside within our own borders. Wallace Goode fully understands this, as Executive Director of the Chicago Empowerment Zone and an individual with a solid record of serving and helping in areas that need it most. Mr. Goode has a crucial role in the revitalization effort, as he manages the push for community self-sustainability for distressed neighborhoods in Chicago.

The Peace Corps mission pinpoints "to help; to learn; to teach" as core duties.

Mr. Goode learned as a student at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, IL, a grad student at the University of Vermont and as a doctoral candidate at Loyola University while studying Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

Early in his career of helping and giving, Mr. Goode served as Director of Rural Development in Central Africa, Community Development Field Officer in the Solomon Islands and Trainer for the U.S. Peace Corps.

Furthermore, he helped to teach others as a Dean at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA, Assistant Dean of Students at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL, and a Manager at International Orientation Resources (IOR) teaching fellow managers and executives how to approach business with other cultures and cross-cultural conflict resolution.

Today, he continues to advance the Peace Corps legacy of civic service by addressing Chicago's Empowerment Zone revitalization initiatives, of economic empowerment, affordable housing, public safety, cultural diversity, Health and Human Services, and Youth futures.

Each year, the Franklin H. Williams Award honors the outstanding leadership contributions that Peace Corps volunteers of color have made in the area of community service. And I can't think of a better, or more deserving recipient, and that is most likely how the Chicago Area Peace Corps Association felt when they nominated him.

Mr. Speaker, seldom do we get to sing the praises of individuals whose hard work and positive deeds improve the world. Thanks to the Peace Corps, Mr. Wallace Goode's inspiring example will not be unsung.

FARM BILL PAYMENT
LIMITATIONS A NECESSARY STEP

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the February 12, 2001, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial emphasizes the importance of reviewing the purpose of farm programs. It also expresses support for limiting farm payments, which would benefit family farmers and restore public confidence in farm programs.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, Feb. 12, 2001]

WHY A FARM BILL? TO EVALUATE SUBSIDY
CAP, WE NEED TO REVISIT FUNDAMENTAL
QUESTIONS

A U.S. Senate amendment aimed at lowering the cap on farm subsidies to \$275,000 a year for the biggest farms is a move in the right direction, although it may not be the revolutionary step its backers have portrayed.

The new limit is designed for a worthy purpose. It would prevent huge corporate farms from receiving multimillion-dollar payments, thereby removing a factor that has tarnished the subsidy program in the eyes of many Americans.

This isn't a major issue in the Midlands, where most farms are family-operated and where federal payments are much more modest.

But in the South, where large corporate operations exist, the amendment is bitterly opposed. Currently the farm program has a theoretical limit of \$460,000. Corporate farmers with platoons of lawyers and accountants have found many options, including the breaking up of one operation into separate units, at least on paper. In effect, there is no limit. One Arkansas operation harvested \$49 million in federal funds from 1996 to 2000.

Some observers say that Southern opposition to the cap will be enough to sidetrack the farm bill.

If debate must be extended, it would be useful if some members of both houses of Congress addressed the underlying philosophy. America has had a subsidy program for so long that its purpose is sometimes forgotten. It originated in the 1930s as a way to help small and medium-sized farms survive a period of surplus-depressed prices. But in recent years it has morphed into a safety net for an ever-widening array of food and fiber producers, whether or not they were family farmers. In effect, it subsidizes surpluses, perpetuating a cycle of low returns and pressure for more subsidies.

Congress might start by putting up the fundamental questions for review: Why do we have a farm program? To help the little guys or the big guys? To encourage surplus production or discourage it? To ensure raw materials for processors? To protect all elements of the agricultural industry from the perils of weather and market? Is the farm bill corporate welfare or community stabilization?

Once the philosophy is established, perhaps a rational debate can take place. With or without it, the lower cap backed by Nebraska's delegation and others seems sound.

Nothing in this amendment reduces the overall cost of the farm bill, which in its present form would add about \$74 billion in spending over the next 10 years. But it does aim at keeping the program from being increasingly a form of income-protection for mega-farmers. In that context, the amendment deserves respect and the sponsors are right to give it a try.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MONE-
TARY FREEDOM AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Monetary Freedom and Accountability Act. This simple bill takes a step toward restoring