

committeeman in 1935 and serving as Chairman of Alabama's State committee from 1938 to 1948.

During the same period, Mr. Crawley founded, in 1937, the Georgia, Florida, Alabama Peanut Association (GFA) to represent the collective interests of all peanut growers in the region. He served as president of the association from 1937 to 1951 during which time GFA became a political juggernaut with over 93,000 members across six States and wielded significant influence in national agriculture policy.

As president of GFA, Mr. Crawley was called to Washington, D.C., by the Secretary of Agriculture, in December, 1940, to consult on legislation regarding peanut farming. In March, 1941, again in Washington, Mr. Crawley testified before the Senate Agriculture Committee, and one month later the landmark "Pace Peanut Bill" became law. Among other things, the 1941 Peanut Bill set up marketing quotas that guaranteed peanut farmers a fair price on peanuts grown on their allotted acres. Ultimately, GFA initiatives raised the price of peanuts from \$30 per ton in 1937 to \$240 per ton in 1948, while at the same time increasing per-acre yields and introducing important soil conservation measures.

Of course, during his years of public service Mr. Crawley continued to manage a large productive farm in Banks as well as help Willie T. rear a large active family: their sons, Thomas Marion, born in 1914, William Douglas, born in 1915, William Brantley, born in 1919; and James Beard (Corky), born in 1928; and their daughters, Annie Lester, born in 1921, and Jane Carolyn, born in 1924. The concept of service-above-self ran strong in the next generation of Crawleys, and during World War II Mr. Crawley had to call on German prisoners of war interned in nearby camps to work his farm while his own sons and many of his tenants were at war. The husband of one of his daughters was, in fact, himself, a prisoner of war of the Germans.

In 1948, Mr. Crawley was once again called to service in Washington, D.C., this time by President Truman and Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, for a full-time leadership position in the Production and Marketing Administration (PMA).

Mr. Crawley was reluctant to move to Washington, as the GFA News reported, because, "frankly . . . leaving his home, his family, his friends, his farm, and last but not least, his fish pond, is a very unhappy task." However, as the paper went on to report about Mr. Crawley, "But fifteen years spent in working with and for farmers in every county in his state . . . have so channeled his thoughts and formulated his actions . . . he has answered the call to Washington with the same understanding for the needs of American agriculture and the same deep sense of loyalty . . . which characterized his long years of public service."

In Washington, Mr. Crawley served as assistant administrator of PMA and was responsible for all agricultural conservation programs nationwide. In 1949, Mr. Crawley was confirmed by the Senate for the additional responsibility of serving as one of six members on the Board of Directors of the influential Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). His service on the national stage brought to the Nation the same positive benefits he had earlier delivered for Alabama: higher crop prices, improved per-acre yields, and major improvements in soil conservation methods.

In 1953, Mr. Crawley returned to his farm in Banks and, on July 23, 1955, died at the age of 61. During his life he had never viewed farmers in shades of black and white, but rather fought relentlessly to improve the plight of all farmers. As a testament to his lifetime of inclusion his funeral was officiated by ministers both black and white.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to the outstanding service and the lasting legacy of Mr. William Bartley Crawley, and I ask my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the work and achievements of this native son of Alabama.

CELEBRATING THE GERSTEN'S
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, 1953, Howard Gersten and Joy Slomonsen met for the first time. This Sunday, July 24, 2005, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. In the time between, they have lived out their dreams together and created a family out of their own love, which continues to grow today.

Howard Gersten grew up in Forest Hills, NY while his future wife, Joy, was raised in Newark, NJ. In summer of 1953, they were both working in the same building when they met and arranged their first date: a day game at Yankee Stadium, which meant Joy would have to skip work. This was only appropriate, as she would make many sacrifices over the years to come in the name of sports.

Shortly after they met, Howard was drafted into the service and was deployed overseas to Germany. Before he left, they became engaged and agreed to marry upon his return. During his long journey abroad, they kept in contact by writing many letters that they still keep with them. Once his tour of duty was over, and Howard returned to the U.S., they immediately planned to wed. On July 24, 1955, Howard and Joy Gersten were married in a rabbi's study with a handful of guests present, and returned home to their apartment on Northfield Ave. in West Orange, NJ, to start their life together.

In 1957, their first son, Andrew, was born. He would be followed by Judith and Laurie. The children grew up with their parents in northern New Jersey. Howard had built a career as a marketing executive in New York City. Despite the benefit of lavish trips abroad, tickets to Knicks games at Madsion Square Garden (when they weren't given away to "schmucks") and generous expense accounts, the two always dreamed of a taking a different path in life.

One day, while reading the New York Times (presumably after finishing the crossword puzzle), Howard happened to notice an advertisement in the classified ads. A bookstore was for sale in the college town of Amherst, MA. This was an opportunity they had always talked about and so, even though the chances of going through with the purchase were slim, they packed their bags and went to take a look. While visiting Amherst, and considering the consequences of making such a life-altering change, mother nature weighed in by

sending them a rainbow as a sign of things to come in Amherst. Never being ones to ignore good advice, they decided it was meant to be.

Soon after, they bought a house in the woods at 139 High Point Drive and moved to Amherst to become the proprietors of the Jeffrey Amherst Bookshop. Their work at the bookstore continues to this day, as they are always striving to improve business and provide better service to the community of which they are now such a vital part. With the opening of their second store, the Jeffrey Amherst College Store, they expanded their enterprises to take advantage of the rapidly growing market of textbook sales.

In 1980, their first grandchild, Evan Goitein was born. This was the start of something big as eight other grandchildren would follow: Daniel Goitein, Hannah Goitein, Leah Goitein, Ben Gersten, Sarah Gersten, Jonah Goitein, Emma Garrison and James Garrison. Their "nuclear family," as they like to refer to, now includes 20 people. This makes for a lot of birthdays, little league games, school plays and—most importantly—matzah balls. Somehow they manage to always stay on top of what is going on in the lives of everyone in the family, which has earned them awards such as "World's Best Grandpa" and "World's Greatest Grandma."

These days, Joy and Bill enjoy a life that is easy to envy. They still work at the bookstore at least four days a week and are continually improving the business they have built. They regularly hold book signings for local authors, where Grandma's lemon squares steal the spotlight. They go to their local health club and take hikes for exercise. They are regulars at the weekly UMASS sports luncheon. They enjoy the area's fine restaurants frequently, often dining with their children and grandchildren.

At home, they stay very aware of current events, tuning in to C-SPAN to follow the events unfolding in our country and abroad. The day is not complete unless the New York Time crossword puzzle is done, or it is 7:30 at night—whichever comes first. For fun, they travel to visit their families in Hookset, Concord, Westfield and Washington, DC, as well as vacationing in Maine and Rhode Island. They visit museums, see plays and attend concerts, including an annual trip to Tanglewood.

Of all the many things that the Gerstens are—parents, grandparents, local business owners, community supporters, sports fans, friends, and so much more—the role that is most admired by those that know them is that of the foundation for a family who has followed their example and grown, with love, to improve their own lives and the lives of those around them. Their love for each other has become a benchmark that every person who knows them strives to reach, with the hope that one day we can all be as happy and deserving as they are in their lives, today and for many years to come.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING MR.
AND MRS. FREGIATO

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:
Whereas, Frank and Mary Fregiato were