

IN APPRECIATION OF DOUG SIMS
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my good friends, Mr. Doug Sims, a great leader in agriculture and the cooperative movement in America. Doug will retire from his post as Chief Executive Officer of CoBank this June after serving farmers, ranchers, farm cooperatives and rural communities for nearly 37 years. This will mark the end of a very successful career, and a very successful period in CoBank's history.

I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Doug Sims for many years. As a farmer and a farm cooperative member, I know CoBank has always been there for the cooperatives that serve farmers and the rural communities in which they live. I have worked with Doug on a variety of important issues during my time in Federal office, both in the Executive branch, and now in Congress. Like others who have had the pleasure to work with Doug, I always found these efforts to be collaborative, professional efforts at building consensus to benefit cooperatives, rural communities, and the farm families that depend on them for their livelihoods and quality of life.

Doug has steered CoBank through a long list of challenges since joining CoBank in 1988 as president and chief operating officer. Doug's success came from a long history of experience in the Farm Credit System, beginning as a credit analyst for the St. Louis Bank for Cooperatives in 1969. From this humble post, Doug rose to be president and chief operating officer of the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis.

While serving at the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis, Doug acted as a key advocate for farmers, cooperatives, and the Farm Credit System, working with Congress and the Administration on critical legislation to protect the system from the agricultural economic and credit crises of the late 1980s. That far-reaching legislation paved the way for the modernization of the Farm Credit System, which has allowed the System to prosper and grow into the nation's largest single lender to agriculture and rural America, with over \$135 billion in assets.

Doug guided CoBank to new heights during his tenure with the company. Under his watch, CoBank nearly tripled its assets to \$34 billion and enhanced its services to agricultural cooperatives, rural electric cooperatives, rural telecommunications companies, and agricultural exporters. When the financial services' competitive landscape became increasingly challenging, Doug successfully oversaw mergers, opened overseas offices, and nurtured CoBank into a highly respected financial services company domestically and internationally.

Doug's service extends beyond CoBank's interests. He has served as Chairman of many other important organizations, including the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the Federal Farm Credit Banks Funding Corporation, the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership at the University of Missouri, and Lutheran Family Services of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, these are all impressive achievements for an individual who began his education studying agriculture at the University

of Illinois. But beyond all of these important accomplishments, what I admire most about Doug is his humble and inclusive leadership style. He is truly a leader who encourages teamwork, seeks to build consensus, bestows credit on those around him, and is not afraid to take responsibility when a leader is needed. I believe it is Doug's integrity that has made him a sought after participant and speaker for organizations ranging from the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland to the FarmHouse Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri.

While I am confident CoBank and the Farm Credit System will miss Doug's daily contributions, his leadership has established a strong foundation that will help these institutions continue to successfully support agriculture and rural America.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to know and work with Doug Sims for many years. I know that many of my colleagues will join me in wishing Doug and his wife Nancy many years of happiness, new challenges, and contributions in the years ahead.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S WORKING
GROUP BUDGET

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, violence against women is on the rise in this country. Sadly, young women have increasingly become victims of violence and domestic abuse in episodes on college campuses and in communities across America.

One-third of teens report some form of abuse in their romantic relationships.

Forty percent of teenage girls report knowing a peer who has been hit by a boyfriend.

These are our daughters, our sisters, our friends and our neighbors.

The idea that our society is still struggling to cope with such violence is simply unacceptable. We must do more.

Yet the Republican majority's budget resolution mirrors the President's budget suggestion to cut funding for Violence Against Women Programs by \$19.5 million dollars—cutting the very programs that prevent domestic violence and aid survivors.

These programs are our first line of defense for battered women across the country—and too often, sadly—our last line of defense.

It is time to get our fiscal house and priorities in order. We must carefully consider the message we send to domestic violence survivors by cutting funding intended as a lifeline in their most vulnerable hour.

HONORING LULA TAYLOR, TONY
TERESI AND JANE FAGERSTROM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lula Taylor, Tony Teresi and Jane Fagerstrom for their nearly 50 years of combined service in the Chautauqua County Legislature.

Lula Taylor is the first woman of color to be elected to a county leadership position. She was the district eleven representative for 13 years. Within the legislature and in the community Lula could always be found sitting on or serving as the chair of many committees. As a result of her positive attitude and desire to better her community, Lula had broken down so many barriers. It is truly remarkable what one woman can accomplish a positive outlook and a hardworking spirit. I commend Lula for her numerous years of hard work, dedication, service, leadership, and for her love of the people of Chautauqua County.

Tony Teresi has been a staple in the County Legislature for 16 years as a representative of district thirteen. Mr. Teresi has served as the chair and an active member of many committees within the legislature. Tony brought something to the legislature that is hard to replace. That being his level head, ability to reason, honor, strong work ethic and never ending dedication. He truly knows the meaning of leadership and cooperation. Throughout his tenure in the legislature he worked hard to accomplish the plan to share services with other municipalities. His legacy no doubt will remain in the legislature for many years to come.

Jane Fagerstrom was the first and only female chair of the Chautauqua County Legislature. That alone speaks volumes for her strong work ethic and desire to better her community. Jane has been involved with county government since 1972 but served in the Legislature for 12 years. She served on and was the chair of many committees within the legislature. I commend Jane for her lifetime devoted to public service. She has truly demonstrated a love and devotion to her community.

Lula, Tony and Jane have all shown great dedication and excellence in their work and to their community, that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor them today.

ON WORLD HEALTH DAY:
WORKING TOGETHER FOR HEALTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of World Health Day: Working Together for Health.

The main focus for this year's celebration is to address the crisis in the health workforce. Health workers are the very heart of the health system, providing care to those in need. While we are facing a nationwide shortage of health workers, we are not alone. There isn't a country in the world that is immune to the problem. Emphasis needs to be placed on solving the crisis.

With more than 100 years of experience, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has been working hard to improve health and living standards in the Western Hemisphere. Recognized by the United Nations, PAHO's office in El Paso serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. PAHO works hard to improve health to vulnerable groups that include mothers and children, workers, the poor, the elderly, and refugees and displaced persons.

Established in 1943, the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association (USMBHA) has helped promote a better understanding of health needs

and problems. I applaud the efforts of the USMBHA for their leadership in the area of public health in the border region and their work fostering communication between both countries as we work together on common health issues.

This week, back in my home district of El Paso, Texas, the Pan American Health Organization and the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Association will be sponsoring a health forum celebrating the work of promotoras and promotores from the El Paso del Norte region, which includes Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua. The event will celebrate the dignity and value of those who work hard everyday for health, and I am here today to help them in this important celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting World Health Day 2006: Working Together for Health, and I thank PAHO and the USMBHA for all their tireless efforts in support of better healthcare for the people of my community, the U.S.-Mexico border region, and the Americas.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS
FOR MRS. JOHNNIE VOGT

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnnie Vogt on the occasion of her 85th birthday. Johnnie Vogt was born Johnnie Campbell on April 21, 1921 in White Deer, Texas. She lived there until 1931 when her family moved to Canyon so that she along with her brothers and sisters could eventually go to college.

Mrs. Vogt attended school at West Texas State Teachers College, now known as West Texas A&M University. Upon graduation, she moved to El Paso, Texas where she taught school before enlisting in the Army in 1943. Mrs. Vogt served in the Army from 1943 to 1945, receiving her basic training in Georgia. She was also stationed in Iowa and Illinois. While in Illinois, she was one of a group of eight trained to become physical therapy aides for the Army. She served in that capacity until her discharge from the Army.

In 1946, Mrs. Vogt moved to Denver, Colorado and taught a basic course in finance at Lowry Air Force Base. When those courses were no longer being offered, she moved to San Bernardino, California in 1947 and taught school.

Mrs. Vogt subsequently returned to Texas and settled in Amarillo where she ran a nursery from her home. Her love of children, coupled with her teaching experience, led to the directorship of the nursery and nursery school at Northwest Texas Hospital. Upon completion in 1956 of courses in special education, Mrs. Vogt brought her new specialty to the Amarillo Public School System. She then moved to Dalhart, Texas for a brief period of time where she taught English at the junior high school.

In 1960, Mrs. Vogt returned to Amarillo, resuming her Special Ed teaching, first at Bowie Junior High School until 1970, then at Caprock High School until retiring in 1981. Her commitment to children and dedication as an educator were evident by the extent to which she worked with students and the community,

teaching life skills, preparation for entering the workforce, and building relationships within the community to ensure job placement upon graduation.

Mrs. Vogt has been active in her church, First Christian Church of Amarillo, teaching Sunday school to both adult singles and couples for over 20 years. She also sings with the Seniors Happy Timers and has been part of the bell choir.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Vogt is blessed with a wonderful, loving family. Mrs. Vogt's husband, Leo, and her daughters, Trudi, Patti, Sandy, and Linda and their families are justifiably proud of her. Her daughter Trudi is one of the outstanding public servants who serve the House and the Nation in the Office of the Clerk. And I suspect she learned the importance of service from her mother. Whether it be in the military, in teaching, in her church and community service, or in looking after her family, Mrs. Vogt has served others. It is in stories like hers that America's greatness and goodness can be seen.

I join her family in wishing her a very happy 85th birthday.

DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this important legislation, the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

The people of this troubled region have experienced almost unimaginable suffering. As many as 400,000 people have already lost their lives and two million more have been forced from their homes. The House of Representatives, along with the Senate and the Administration, have long acknowledged that the crimes being committed in Darfur amount to genocide.

Last month the House voted to provide \$271 million for peacekeeping in Darfur and another \$228 million in humanitarian aid as part of the Supplemental Appropriations bill. This funding is a welcome and necessary step in the right direction. Today we take another step with the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.

This legislation directs the President to take a number of steps to stop the genocide in Darfur. This includes providing assistance to an expanded African Union force in Darfur, advocating a NATO role in stopping the violence, pushing for an additional United Nations Security Council Resolution regarding Darfur, and freezing the assets of those responsible for acts of genocide.

I am pleased that this legislation emphasizes a multilateral approach. The entire international community has a responsibility to work together to stop these crimes against humanity, and the bill before us makes clear that we expect the President to work with our allies to stop the killing in Darfur.

The United States and the international community must do far more to break the cycle of violence and hunger that grips Darfur. In a word, we must put real resources and diplomacy into solving the problem. This legisla-

tion advances these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, our consideration today of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act is long overdue, but it is more timely and urgent than ever.

It has been nearly two years since this House recognized the atrocities in Darfur as genocide. In that time we have offered aid to refugees and support for peacekeeping activities. However, this is the first real legislative effort to enhance the U.S. response to this crisis. While I am pleased that we are acting, we should and could have done more sooner.

H.R. 3127, authorizes tough sanctions against individuals responsible for the war crimes committed in Darfur. It imposes an embargo on Sudanese cargo ships and oil tankers, and strengthens the military arms embargo against the Sudanese government.

The legislation will substantially improve our ability to provide protection for the more than 2 million vulnerable civilians displaced by the conflict. Specifically, it calls on NATO to expand and reinforce the African Union Mission in Sudan. It also advocates an initiative now underway at the Security Council to transition the African Union force into a UN sponsored peacekeeping operation.

Sadly, as a recent Security Council assessment shows, the dire situation in Darfur is only deteriorating further. Relief organizations are being denied entry, supplies are being cut off and humanitarian missions are being attacked. Civilian populations and refugee camps remain unprotected and the murderous rampages of Jangaweed militias continue unchecked. There is little progress in peace negotiations.

The transition to a UN led peacekeeping mission with greater resources and an expanded mandate is the only hope for improving the situation on the ground. Passage today of H.R. 3127 will add momentum to this effort.

An end to the conflict in Darfur cannot be achieved without strong US leadership. We have a moral responsibility to intervene.

I want to give credit to the activists across the country who have been the leading voices commanding our attention to this crisis. In classrooms, campuses, synagogues, churches, and communities across America there are so many who are deeply committed to making sure that those suffering in Darfur are not forgotten. At the end of the month, thousands will rally in Washington to call greater attention to the cause.

I am especially proud that the University of California recently joined more than a dozen colleges around the country in divesting from companies that do business in Sudan. Similar efforts are being considered by a number of state legislatures and private pension plans. Congress and the Department of Treasury should lend their support to these efforts.

Let us pledge that today is a new beginning in our fight for justice for the people of Darfur.