

increase for Food Stamps and nutrition programs by \$4 billion over the next five years. Among other things, the bill would reform the program by indexing asset limits and eliminate the current cap on childcare costs to help the working poor meet rising costs. This will benefit the estimated 210,000 individuals in Connecticut who receive food stamps every month.

The legislation before us today was a collective effort from members of the House Agriculture Committee who made new investments and important reforms in this Farm Bill. I would like to especially thank Agriculture Committee Chairman COLLIN PETERSON for his leadership in putting forward a comprehensive bill that meets the 21st century needs of the United States and enhances programs in Connecticut. I urge my colleagues to vote for a new direction in our Nation's agriculture policy.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 748, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 749, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 750, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 751, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 752, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 753, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 754, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 755, I would have voted "nay"; on rollcall No. 756, I would have voted "yea"; on rollcall No. 757, I would have voted "yea."

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FARM, NUTRITION, AND  
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, today we vote on one of the most critical bills that will come to the floor during the 110th Congress. While essential to farmers and ranchers across the Nation, the Farm Bill also impacts each one of us. Its provisions directly affect school children in this Nation and others, seniors and families struggling to live on fixed incomes, wildlife and wilderness, and international farmers struggling to become viable participants in a global marketplace.

I applaud Chairman PETERSON and the Agriculture Committee for their tireless efforts to produce a compromise bill that dissolves partisan boundaries, and improves upon the 2002 Farm Bill authorization. The bill takes modest steps towards improving commodity programs, by preventing the most wealthy from exploiting this safety net meant for assisting ranchers and farmers whose livelihoods precariously

teeter at the mercy of climate and market fluctuation.

The committee's bill extends and modestly increases funding for effective conservation and food security programs. Conservation programs help farmers to manage their lands in a sustainable manner that positively impacts wildlife, watersheds, and open spaces. Nutrition programs included in the bill bolster the fruits and vegetables industry, by increasing fresh food supplements for schools, children, families, and seniors.

The 2007 Farm Bill also takes initial steps towards redistributing commodity programs to those who need them most. The bill's authorization of new funding for organic farmers, specialty crops, and farmer's markets will assist small farmers in meeting organic standards and in getting their products into local markets.

I applaud the committee for initiating this redistribution of commodity programs and taking unprecedented steps towards expanding funding, outreach, and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged, beginning, and minority farmers. The committee's effort in this area brings the issue of the 2002 Farm Bill's exceptional lack of support for socially disadvantaged, beginning, and minority farmers to light. While an improvement, the bill could do more to affect real change in this area.

One quarter of all farmers participate in commodity programs. Of these, just 10 percent receive 75 percent of all commodity subsidies. Congress must readjust the reach of the farm bill. Too many minority farmers lack access to USDA programs, too many farmworkers transitioning into farm owners lack access to federal safety nets that would help them get on their feet, and too many socially disadvantaged farmers lack access to the tools that would help them maneuver through the maze of commodity programs.

With the reauthorization of the Farm Bill, Congress has the opportunity to make monumental changes to the distribution of agricultural and conservation programs. The Kind amendment would have brought such monumental changes to our Nation's agricultural sector and to the world economy. By gradually removing depression-era subsidies that have turned from a safety net into a security blanket, the Kind amendment would have lowered the federal deficit and redirected money into nutrition, food insecurity, and conservation programs at rates much greater than those outlined in the Farm Bill we are voting on today. The Kind amendment would have almost tripled funding for outreach and technical assistance for socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers, and would have put a moratorium on foreclosures on farms owned by socially-disadvantaged farmers and ranchers while creating a commission to investigate the causes of foreclosure.

I am proud to have supported the Kind amendment and hope that such comprehensive reform will be possible in the future. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the Agriculture Committee has at least taken initial steps in the direction of reform, and I will vote in support of their 2007 Farm Bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, on July 26, 2007, I was unable to be present for all rollcall votes due to an unexpected delay.

If present, I would have voted accordingly on the following rollcall votes:

Roll No. 734—"aye."  
Roll No. 735—"no."  
Roll No. 736—"no."  
Roll No. 737—"aye."  
Roll No. 738—"aye."  
Roll No. 739—"aye."  
Roll No. 740—"aye."  
Roll No. 741—"aye."  
Roll No. 742—"aye."

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TOM COLE**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 691, on agreeing to the Mica amendment to H.R. 3074. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,  
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS  
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION  
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of "H.R. 1 Implementing the 911 Commission Recommendations Conference Report." This report provides an opportunity to enhance the security and protection of our citizens and strengthens our homeland security policy. "Six years after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and three years after the bipartisan and independent 9/11 Commission delivered to the American people a roadmap for security that the Republican Congress had failed to pass into law, the Democratic Congress is about to deliver to the President a bill for his signature to make the American people safer. H.R. 1 will now provide a policy that will allow us to address the gaps that were created when the President decided to underfund many Homeland Security programs and initiatives.

This legislation, which was developed through bipartisan support, is a proactive step in making our country a safer place to live, work, and play. H.R. 1 makes the Nations security a top priority by significantly increasing the share of State homeland security grants provided on the basis of risk; requiring a significant increase in the number of maritime and air cargo containers scanned for weapons of mass destruction; significantly strengthening the Cooperative Threat reduction Program and creating a new National Bio-Surveillance Integration Center, which would support Federal

efforts to rapidly identify and track biological threats.

The Bush Administration has repeatedly shown a lack of commitment to improving relations abroad. The report seeks to utilize diplomacy by enhancing the International Arab and Muslim Youth Opportunity Fund and establishing a Middle East Foundation that will promote economic opportunities, education reform, human rights, and democracy in the Middle East. We now have an opportunity to begin to rebuild relations and move in a proactive direction.

I am convinced that this bill ensures that we are better prepared to protect our families, our homes, and our Nation against any and all terrorist threats. So, I am honored to support this legislation.

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TRIBUTE TO COLONEL ROBERT SWENSON

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Robert Swenson, who is retiring from his post as Commander at the Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in August. Colonel Swenson has spent two years at Letterkenny, managing the multi-million dollar facility and overseeing the maintenance and base operation missions of the depot.

Prior to acting as Commander of Letterkenny Army Depot, Colonel Swenson served in the Army as a platoon leader in Germany, a COSCOM Ammunition Officer during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and commanded the 498th Corps Support Battalion in Seoul, South Korea. He was later assigned to be Army Secretary for Joint and Defense Affairs in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Army. He then worked as the Special Assistant to the Commanding General Army Materiel Command prior to taking the post of Commander at Letterkenny. Colonel Swenson has earned numerous awards throughout his career, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, just to name a few.

During his tenure at Letterkenny, Colonel Swenson demonstrated his leadership through the undertaking of numerous projects, by which he made important improvements to depot operations and efficiency. Colonel Swenson restructured the LEAN team and implemented his LEAN Manufacturing program, which was instrumental in Letterkenny's receipt of Army Environmental Award.

Colonel Swenson's accomplishments identify him as an Army officer of the highest caliber and reflect great credit upon himself, the Letterkenny Army Depot, and the U.S. Army. I, along with the employees at Letterkenny, would like to thank COL Robert Swenson for all of his leadership and dedication as Commander.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise with my colleagues in recognizing the founding of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's 50th anniversary. I commend Congressman RUSH in reserving this time to pay homage to this great American institution.

When this organization held its first annual convention in Montgomery, AL, five decades ago this August, I was just a young boy understanding the strategy of the nonviolent approach to hate, segregation, and inequality that was and still is prevalent today in America's society.

As a former prosecutor and County Executive, I have worked very hard to ensure the organization's commitment to nonviolent action to achieve social, economic, and political justice currently are focused on issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, hate crimes, and discrimination.

Today, the Southern Christian Leadership is a nationwide organization that is made up of chapters and affiliates with programs that affect the lives of all Americans.

Its sphere of influence and interests has become international in scope because the battle for human rights is one that transcends national boundaries.

Madam Speaker, I believe by recognizing organizations that have given so much to this country is sending a clear message to the American people that the legacy of its past and future presidents will never be forgotten.

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CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 27, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the 9/11 Conference Report, which will go a long way toward protecting this Nation from the ever-present threat of terrorism and safeguarding our families from future attacks.

The 9/11 Commission gave us a non-partisan blueprint for how to wage and win the global war on terrorism. This conference report helps us meet the unresolved challenges we have faced over the past 3 years since the commission issued its recommendations by expanding cargo screening at our ports, making air travel safer, and taking many other important steps to protect America from terrorism.

I am proud to represent many of the brave first responders who answered the call on September 11, 2001. I believe that this conference report honors the memory of the victims and rescue personnel who fell on that tragic day.

Mr. Speaker, I also firmly believe this legislation represents the single most important

measure we can take to prevent future terrorist attacks. I commend the leadership and all of my colleagues who helped negotiate this agreement. Our Nation will be safer from terrorism as will future generations of Americans.

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IN CELEBRATION OF THE OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM, NCAA COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

**HON. DAVID WU**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. WU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Oregon State University baseball team on winning their second-straight NCAA College World Series championship. OSU is the first team since 1997 to win back-to-back College World Series championships.

The Beavers capped off their 49–18 winning season with a “no-nonsense” approach to the championship games in Omaha, Nebraska. The Beavers solidly won the first two games in the final series against the University of North Carolina Tar Heels, wasting no time to claim their consecutive championship trophy.

Congratulations to Head Coach Pat Casey and the Oregon State Beavers on this historic achievement.

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HONORING JOANN DIGENNARO, PRESIDENT, CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOR HER PHILANTHROPIC WORK WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA AND THE STS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS FOUNDATION

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Joann DiGennaro, president of the Center for Excellence in Education, for her hard work and dedication.

As an honorary member of the Board of Trustees for the Center for Excellence in Education, I have witnessed firsthand the important work that Joann has undertaken in her role as President of the Center, and I could not be more impressed by her years of effort and accomplishment.

Recognizing a need to make an essential investment in our national and global future, Joann founded the Center for Excellence in Education 1983 along with the late ADM H.G. Rickover, the father of the nuclear navy and discoverer of many civilian uses of nuclear power. Since its establishment the Center has a successful history of contributing to the scientific leadership of this country. The Center's commendable mission is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence in science and technology through providing cost-free programs, such as the Research Science Institute (RSI) and the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO), to its student scholars.

Joann is one of the special few in our world who are willing to take dramatic steps to address the current and future needs of our Nation, and she has striven to provide countless