

non-cooperative owned dairy exporters agree that supply management will have a negative impact on their ability to be reliable suppliers in the world market.

Dairy regulations are complex, outdated and inefficient. Proposed reforms in the Farm Bill should not reduce exports, cut jobs, and add more regulations. The Dairy Title should allow the dairy industry a chance to compete and grow without government regulating the amount of milk a farmer can produce. Our citizens and the world population deserve an abundant, affordable and sustainable food supply.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT and I have developed a viable, bipartisan alternative. Join us to support a revenue insurance program that will help dairy producers without including a government controlled supply management program.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE THOMAS

**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Anne Thomas for being named a 2013 Hero of the Heartland by the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa.

Each year, the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa recognizes Heroes of the Heartland by selecting everyday Iowans who have done extraordinary things to help their neighbors and communities. The Iowans honored with this prestigious award displayed selflessness in a variety of courageous, charitable and thoughtful acts. The Heroes of the Heartland program not only showcases the heroes among us, but also helps raise crucial funds to ensure that the American Red Cross is prepared and equipped to assist those that need food, shelter, and comfort during emergencies and difficult times.

To be named a Hero of the Heartland, Anne Thomas of Clive started the local organization "Let's Soar Together" in 2006 with a group of her friends. Let's Soar Together filled a need in her community to advocate for children with special needs and provide support and resources for their families. Ms. Thomas' organization has donated dozens of iPads and iPods to children with behavioral disorders and autism in the Waukee School District, built adaptive swings for Maple Grove Elementary School, and donated more than a thousand dollars to the Waukee YMCA to install a playground with adaptive play equipment. Anne's commitment to a cause greater than herself continues to change lives and benefit her community.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Thomas' actions that earned her the title a "Hero of the Heartland" are a testament to the humble, hardworking and helpful people who make up the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Anne on a job well done, thanking the American Red Cross serving Greater Iowa for their life changing efforts, and wishing all of those involved in the Heroes of the Heartland program continued success for years to come.

CONGRATULATING HOMEBOY INDUSTRIES ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Homeboy Industries, a non-profit organization which offers comprehensive reintegration services including job skills training and social services to former Los Angeles gang members, on their 25th anniversary.

In 1988, Jesuit priest Father Greg Boyle began Homeboy Industries to address the need for employment opportunities among local youth. Today, Homeboy Industries is much more than a jobs program. Homeboy Industries gives young people who have lost their childhood to gangs a chance to take back their lives as adults by providing former gang-involved youth with tattoo removal, case management and legal services, as well as mental health and substance abuse counseling.

Thanks to Father Boyle's leadership during the past 25 years, Homeboy Industries has grown from a small job development program in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles into the largest, most comprehensive and most successful gang prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation program in the country.

According to a recent study from the Vera Institute of Justice, the five most common reintegration priorities self-reported by individuals exiting Los Angeles County Jail are: employment, housing, substance abuse, relationships, and staying out of trouble. Through the jobs and support services Homeboy Industries provide, men and women in the LA region are finding these needs met. Homeboy Industries has a 70 percent rate of retaining clients in services, while similar programs across the country have 20-30 percent rates of retention. When weighed against the 70 percent recidivism rate nationally among ex-offenders, Homeboy Industries' ability to engage clients in the process of reintegration and personal transformation is particularly revealing. This organization shows the benefits of investing in impoverished communities that have been impacted by gang violence.

Between 240 and 280 people are hired every year in restaurants and stores owned and operated by Homeboy Industries throughout Los Angeles. When hiring, Homeboy Industries doesn't look for diplomas or job experience. They look for visible gang tattoos and juvenile arrest records. As a business, Homeboy Industries isn't concerned with profits or executive bonuses. Their concern is with their staff and ending the cycle of gang violence one person at a time.

Once again I congratulate Homeboy Industries and their inspirational founder and leader, Father Greg. I had the good fortune and honor of representing Father Greg and Homeboy Industries for nearly 25 years, first in the California State Assembly and then in the U.S. House of Representatives. In closing, I want to express my deepest admiration both for Father Greg's tireless and dedicated efforts and for all former gang members seeking to change their lives and end the culture of gang violence once and for all.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,794,349,827,897.30. We've added \$6,167,472,778,984.22 to our debt in 4 years. This is \$6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING STEVEN ORTIZ

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 25, 2013*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2013 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Hailing from Willington, Connecticut, Steven Ortiz is the first Costa Rican-American to receive this honor in award's 27-year history.

Steven is the founder and director of The Good Samaritan Project, which donates new and slightly worn clothing throughout Latin America and has provided educational scholarships in Costa Rica. His clear global vision, leadership and philanthropic spirit has ensured that his organization is run completely by volunteers and that 100 percent of donations are used for charitable purposes.

Steven serves in the Massachusetts Air National Guard as the Commander and conductor of the Air National Guard Band of the Northeast. Under his leadership, the band's various ensembles provide support for military units and civilian events, and perform for tens of thousands of people every year throughout the Nation.

He has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in both public and private schools in Connecticut and has led ensembles at the collegiate level. As an undergraduate student, Ortiz founded the Danbury Youth Band and has provided numerous instruments at no cost to children at home and abroad. He has facilitated thousands of hours of free and low-cost music instruction in an effort to keep children safe and engaged in productive activities, while ensuring they learn valuable life lessons.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is a prestigious award presented to an immigrant who dedicates his life to helping others, preserves and celebrates the history, traditions and values of his ancestry while proving himself as a valuable citizen of the United States. Recipients like Steven strive for tolerance and acceptance among ethnic, racial, and religious groups in our nation and abroad and above all, they share their personal or professional gifts for the benefit of humanity. I ask that my colleagues join with me in congratulating Steven Ortiz on his impressive achievement.