

Food and Nutrition Education Program, breaking the cycle of poverty and reducing expenditures for federal and state assistance programs.

Whereas Cooperative Extension provides rapid response to disasters and emergencies through the Extension Disaster Education Network and other similar efforts by providing real-time alerts and resources so Extension educators can respond to urgent needs resulting from hurricanes, floods, oil spills, fire, drought, pest outbreaks and infectious diseases affecting humans, livestock and crops.

Whereas Cooperative Extension translates science-based research for practical application through local and online learning networks where educators are uniquely available to identify emerging research questions, connect with land-grant university faculty to find answers and encourage application of findings to improve economic and social conditions.

Whereas Cooperative Extension engages with rural and urban learners through practical, community-based and online approaches, resulting in the acquisition of knowledge, skills and motivation to strengthen the profitability of animal and plant production systems, protect natural resources, help people make healthful lifestyle choices, ensure a safe and abundant food supply, encourage community vitality and grow the next generation of leaders.

Whereas many states and land-grant institutions are celebrating and commemorating the centennial of the signing of the historic Act.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the United States House of Representatives:

Recognizes the significance of the Smith-Lever Act to the establishment of Cooperative Extension nationwide.

Encourages the people of the United States to observe and celebrate the centennial with a focus on launching an innovative and sustainable future for Cooperative Extension.

Honors the university faculty and local educators who dedicate careers to providing trusted education to help people, families, youth, businesses and communities solve problems, develop skills and build a better future.

Expresses its appreciation to Cooperative Extension volunteers who provide thousands of hours to promote excellence for 4-H, Master Gardeners, family and consumer sciences and other programs in their communities.

Encourages the continued collaboration and cooperation among federal, state and local governments to ensure Cooperative Extension's sustainability as the nation's premiere nonformal educational network.

Celebrates the millions of youth, adults, families, farmers, ranchers, community leaders and others who engage in Cooperative Extension learning opportunities designed to extend knowledge and change lives.

HONORING ROGERS BENJAMIN MORRIS, SR.

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable farmer and hero, Mr. Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., who is a resident of Mound Bayou, MS.

His father, Mr. Ajax Julius Morris, Sr., was a fortunate man. His parents afforded him the

opportunity to attend Alcorn State College, currently known today as Alcorn State University, during a time when most African Americans received very little or, in many instances, no educational opportunities at all. Also, his wife, Rowena Bell Morris, attended Natchez College. In 1974, after rearing and formally educating all five of their children, Mrs. Morris returned to college at Mississippi Valley State University and graduated with a degree in education at the "tender age of 68."

As staunch proponents of hard work and educational excellence, Mr. and Mrs. Morris worked unstintingly to ensure that their three sons and two daughters received the best education possible. Among those five children was Rogers Benjamin Morris, Sr., the youngest in the family. He was born on November 9, 1945, in the small, rural community of Winterville, MS, where he received his early education.

In 1964, he graduated as salutatorian from O'Bannon High School, in Greenville, MS. In 1968, he graduated from Jackson State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Minor in Chemistry. In 1972, Mr. Morris received a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Health from the University of Cincinnati and furthered his education toward a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

As a youngster growing up on a farm, he learned what it meant to work hard and persevere; these qualities helped direct his career back to the family farm more than 35 years ago. Realizing that farming involves a lot more than the growing of crops, he taught his own sons farm work during the early stages of their lives, thereby providing them with experiences that cultivated and shaped their character, as well as careers.

In the early 1900s his grandfather acquired over 100 acres of land in Washington County, MS—land that has remained in the family for over a century. Presently, as a third generation farmer, he farms this land, in addition to over 600 other acres of crops in the region. As the owner of Morris Farms, he produces corn, rice, soybeans and wheat. He manages some timber and raises sweet potatoes.

Mr. Morris is a member of the Mound Bayou First Baptist Church where he serves as a deacon and chairman of the Board of Trustees, and a member of the sanctuary choir. He is also a member of the Shelby-Bolivar County Credit Union and a past member of the Mound Bayou School District Board of Trustees. As a member of the Bolivar County Farm Bureau and Delta Council of Mississippi, he has an opportunity to communicate the needs of farmers to all political and apiculture leaders. He is the assistant secretary of the National Black Growers Council, an organization that defines its mission as, "We simply love farming".

Mr. Morris states that "We smile knowing the food and fiber we produce feed and clothe the world. We farm on lands handed down from generation to generation. We constantly integrate technology . . . . The organization confers with industry leaders to strengthen their mission of improving the efficiency, productivity, and sustainability of Black row crop farmers."

One of Mr. Morris' greatest concerns is the lack of job opportunities for young people in the community. Sweet potato farming allows him to employ a limited number of persons in planting and harvesting.

In June of 2007 a reporter, Carol Guzy, shadowed Mr. Morris for a day on the farm and he was featured in an article in the Washington Post newspaper which detailed the plight of small Black farmers. On July 12–14, 2012, he was selected to present on the African American Farmers' Panel at the Urban-Ag Academy conference in Des Moines, IA.

Mr. Morris has been married to Mrs. DeVoyce Morris for 44 years and they are the proud parents of four adult sons, Rogers Benjamin Morris, Jr., Jeremy Kyle, Justin and Bertrand. They are gracious grandparents of three granddaughters, Jordan, Sydnee and Nia Marie and one grandson, Kyle Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing farmer, Mr. Roger Morris for his dedication in agriculture.

TO RECOGNIZE SHUJI MARUYAMA SENSEI

**HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the House is pleased to recognize Shuji Maruyama Sensei, the founder of Kokikai Aikido, on the 45th anniversary of the introduction of Aikido to the greater Philadelphia region. Mr. Maruyama, who is acknowledged as one of the world's greatest living martial artists, brought Aikido to the United States 45 years ago. Now, at the age when most men are considering retirement, Shuji continues to educate his students and lead Kokikai Aikido on a successful path in the U.S. It is understood that this self-defense training system provides personal realization and ethical self-defense. The students of Aikido learn that as they become stronger, a peaceful resolution of conflict becomes more, not less, possible. So on this special anniversary, I am pleased to acknowledge Mr. Maruyama's personal achievements and the beneficial role Kokikai Aikido has played in enriching the lives of men and women in Bucks County, Pennsylvania and the United States.

HONORING JERRY L. SMITH

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Jerry L. Smith, who is a remarkable Small Black Farmer, Businessman and public servant.

Mr. Jerry L. Smith was born in Leflore County, Mississippi on August 29, 1961 to Emma Lee and Elone Smith, Sr. He is the 7th child of twelve.

Mr. Smith attended Amanda Elzy High School. He was reared on a farm with his family. He and his brothers helped his father to farm part-time until their father decided to stop. He and his brothers took over the farming business and started the Smith's Brother Farm in the early 1980's. Later one of Mr. Smith's brothers was killed and one became disabled. He then continued the farming business under the present name Smith's Farm.

Well known for his early start of hard work, Mr. Smith started working as a city landscaper in Sidon, MS when he was still in high school under the leadership of Mr. Alford. His next job was with Leflore County Road Department in 1979 where he is presently employed now as County Road Manager.

Mr. Smith has served in many capacities contributing to this society. He served 10 years on the Leflore County United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Board. He currently serves on the Deacon and Trustee Board at Bell Chapel M.B. Church, on the Leflore County Sheriff Department, a Sidon Board Alderman, Yazoo Levy Board, Sidon Volunteer Fire Chief, and self-employed small farmer. As a farmer he has produced cotton, soybeans, and wheat.

Mr. Smith is married to the former Joyce Marie Thomas and they are the proud parents of Jeremy Smith and Jayla Smith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a Small Business Farmer Extraordinaire, Mr. Jerry L. Smith, for his dedication to serving others and giving back to his communities by producing crops through his farming business.

THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE S.  
BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Wayne S. Brown, the Director of Music and Opera at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), who is stepping down from his position this week. Mr. Brown is a well-loved and integral part of the NEA, and both he and his record of accomplishments will be greatly missed.

The NEA recognizes and supports a wide range of music, from classical to contemporary, including America's native art form: jazz. It works with performing ensembles and music presenting institutions to enrich the cultural lives of Americans. As Director of the NEA's efforts in this area, he has provided critical guidance for countless chamber music ensembles; choruses; early music programs; jazz ensembles; music festivals; symphony orchestras and opera companies.

Mr. Brown has been with the NEA since 1997, having previously served as musical producer for the Cultural Olympiad in Atlanta, Georgia for the 1996 Olympic Games, and as executive director of the Louisville Orchestra where he has managed thousands of music and opera grants. He has also overseen national music initiatives, including the NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, the nation's highest award in jazz; the NEA Opera Honors, celebrating individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to opera in America; and Great American Voices, which brings vocal ensembles from opera companies to our men and women in uniform.

During his time he has not only been an administrator; he has been a leader in strengthening the NEA's largest discipline program

and its ties with the broader music and opera community. His colleagues offer effusive praise for his accomplishments, his knowledge, and his steady judgment.

While the NEA is sad to see Mr. Brown go, as a Detroit and lover of music and the arts I am very proud to say he will be bringing his record of achievement to our city, where he will be the President of the Michigan Opera Theater at the Detroit Opera House. As Detroiters face great challenges ahead, I'm reassured to know that Mr. Brown will be bringing decades of experience to a city with a long and rich tradition of cherishing the arts. We are happy to welcome him home to where he first began his career in music and opera as an assistant manager with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA ON THEIR 2014 FIESTA BOWL VICTORY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Central Florida (UCF) Knights for their victory in the 2014 Fiesta Bowl. UCF is the youngest school to compete in a Bowl Championship Series game. Despite being considered a 17-point underdog against their opponent, Baylor University, the UCF Knights won the Fiesta Bowl with an impressive 52-42 victory. Since its founding in 1963, UCF has become a prominent institution capable of competing on a national level in all aspects of university life. This most recent victory is a milestone for UCF, and a great way to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERALD BLACK

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of the late Gerald Black, former Pleasanton Express news editor and United States Navy veteran. Mr. Black served in the U.S. Navy for 27 years and contributed to the community through his distinguished career as a writer and as an editor for 19 years in Pleasanton, Texas.

Mr. Black was born on March 30, 1946 in San Antonio, Texas and passed away due to heart complications on November 23, 2013. His accomplished career as a news editor stemmed from his humble beginnings. His childhood was spent in Kingsville, Texas with his parents Raymond Elmer and Corrine Byrne. Mr. Black was described as a big hearted, gentle loving, hard worker. This reflected during his college years where he held several jobs for the local radio station, college

newspaper, as well as a staff photographer. Soon after, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he was stationed in New Orleans, Memphis, Atlanta and California. Throughout his time in the Navy, Mr. Black continued his work in journalism. Finally, in July 1993, Mr. Black came to the Pleasanton Express where he wrote feature articles and was a photographer covering county and law enforcement news. His work for Pleasanton Express would lead him to win several awards throughout his career.

His efforts were helpful to many, including the Atascosa Water Watchers, where he would often attend Evergreen Underground Water Conservation District meetings. As a result of his continued support of the Atascosa water preservation efforts in the local newspaper, he was nicknamed "Mr. Neptune". Finally in 2012, he retired after nearly two decades of work in journalism.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the late Gerald Wayne Black, former Pleasanton Express news editor, on his career and community involvement. He has contributed his time, knowledge and efforts to journalism, our country, and serving his community.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 7, 2014*

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Central Florida (UCF) on its 50th anniversary. Founded as Florida Technical University, UCF has grown to prominence over the past 50 years. UCF is now the second largest university in the nation, educating almost 60,000 undergraduates and graduates each year.

UCF continuously strives for academic excellence. U.S. News and World Report ranks UCF as a top "up-and-coming" university, while The Princeton Review rated UCF as one of the best values in the country. UCF is also home to world-renowned programs like the Institute for Simulation and Training and the College of Optics & Photonics, both of which are leading the way in their respective fields.

Under the direction of President John C. Hitt, UCF recently opened its College of Medicine in Lake Nona Medical City. The medical school, in partnership with other research institutions in the Medical City, promises to make Central Florida a destination for medical research. The College of Medicine joins the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, located near the region's most popular attractions, in providing specialized education to UCF students. UCF has become "America's Partnership University," working closely with governments, nonprofit organizations, and industry to prepare students for their chosen careers.