

members include farmers, ranchers, and dairy producers who put food on Americans' dinner table every night. As a voice for agriculture, the organization has a goal of preserving California's fresh, local, and diverse agrarian culture for generations to come. It also leads the industry in addressing issues that result in long-term viability for agriculture through political action, community outreach, and public education. The Farm Bureau achieves their goal of advocating for the Central Valley by promoting economic vitality of the region through the work of its members.

The Fresno County Farm Bureau has been known to encourage all citizens to be supportive and appreciative of the incredible contribution farmers, ranchers, and farm workers make daily to the Central Valley community and economy.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Fresno County Farm Bureau on 100 years of contributions to our country and our Valley's agriculture industry. We commemorate the service of all the members of this organization who have worked collectively to improve, protect, and promote agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley, which has now become one of the breadbaskets of our nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible contribution our farmers and ranchers make to the Central Valley community and our nation's economy.

HONORING NATIONAL PET DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Pet Day, which takes place every year on April 11th. While loving our pets is something we do every day, National Pet Day encourages us to give special care to pets who may not get that extra attention. This day was founded in 2006 by Pet and Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige, to help raise public awareness about the plight of many different kinds of animals. This is a common sentiment among animal rights activists, and I want to give recognition to all the organizations we have worked with personally in the mission to protect our beloved pets. The Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, and Social Compassion in Legislation have worked extensively to better the lives of our four-legged friends. Together, we introduced H.R. 1406, the Dog and Cat Meat Trade Prohibition Act of 2017, which prohibits the slaughter and trade of dogs and cats for human consumption in the United States.

On January 6, 2017, I reintroduced H. Res. 30—Condemning the Dog Meat Festival in Yulin, China, and urging China to end the dog meat trade. This horrific festival dates back to 2009 through 2010, when it was launched by dog meat traders as a commercial enterprise to boost flagging sales of dog meat. More than 10,000 dogs are reported to be captured, transported and slaughtered every year for this Dog Meat festival, with more than 10 million dogs killed annually in China for the dog meat trade. Animal welfare groups have found that a number of these dogs are stolen pets

taken from their homes, still wearing their collars when they reach the slaughterhouse. Many dogs die during transport to the slaughterhouses after days or weeks without food or water, and others suffer illness and injury during transport, such as broken bones. These dogs suffer mentally from watching other dogs being disemboweled and blow-torched in front of them.

Yulin's dog slaughter takes place in residential areas and public marketplaces, imposing scenes of extreme animal cruelty on local residents, including young children who may, as a result, suffer psychological trauma and desensitization. The capture, transport, and butchering of dogs and the consumption of dog meat poses a risk to human health by exposing people to a multitude of diseases, including rabies and cholera. This practice, in my opinion, is completely unacceptable, and can be stopped by the diligent efforts of members of the Chinese government. Although the Yulin city government withdrew as a sponsor of the Dog Meat Festival, it has taken no meaningful action to enforce China's existing laws and regulations on animal disease control, food safety, trans-provincial dog transport, or youth protection, all of which are breached by the dog meat trade.

Activists from across the globe have continued the fight against this barbaric practice. I have been honored to work with Humane Society International, the Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation, the Vanderpump Dog Foundation, Duo Duo, the Animal Welfare Institute, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Citizens Lobbyists for H. Res. 30, as well as countless other organizations to bring awareness and hopefully change to this inhumane practice and torture of dogs.

Next month, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the global dog meat trade, by urging all countries that allow this cruel and barbaric practice to end it once and for all. Furthermore, in the lead up to the Yulin Dog Meat Festival and after the introduction of my global dog meat trade resolution, I do plan on holding another Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill to provide an opportunity for animal rights activists to speak on behalf of the voiceless.

I also want to recognize and thank the animal welfare organizations in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, whose tireless efforts each and every single day are to be commended. In Palm Beach, the Animal Rescue Force South Florida; Peggy Adams; Palm Beach County Animal Care & Control; Justin Bartlett; Second Chance; Big Dog Ranch Rescue; Gaisha, Tundra & Spirit's Place Husky Rescue; Adopt a Cat Foundation; Tri-County Animal Rescue; South Florida Rabbit Rescue, and the Everglades Golden Retriever Rescue. In Broward County, the Florida Humane Society, Humane Society of Broward County; Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center, Animal Aid, Inc.; and Abandoned Pet Rescue.

The work that all of these organizations do for animals is truly heartwarming and the lengths that they go to ensure their welfare is inspiring. National Pet Day reminds us to do all that we can to make certain animals are taken care of everywhere. Whether it is taking supplies to animal shelters, volunteering, helping a friend with his or her pets who is recovering from an illness, or adopting a pet.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of National Pet Day, I once again want to reiterate my heartfelt gratitude to those who have dedicated their

lives to help, protect, and save animals not only here in the United States, but also across the globe.

MITCHELL MONTALVO INVITED TO JOIN NATIONAL SOCIETY OF COLLEGIATE SCHOLARS

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mitchell Montalvo of Katy, TX, for being invited to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS).

Mitchell is studying computer engineering at the University of Houston, where he accepted a full scholarship from the U.S. Air Force. Membership to NSCS is by invitation only and based on a student's class standing and grade-point average. NSCS is part of the Association of College Honor Societies and is the only interdisciplinary honors organization for first and second year college students in the country. After graduating, Mitchell plans to enter the Air Force as a second lieutenant, specializing in cyber warfare.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mitchell Montalvo for his invitation to join NSCS. We are very proud of him and look forward to his future service to our country.

HONORING WILLIE WHITE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 3, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Willie White, who is an Educator, a Leader and Public Servant.

Willie is a native of Canton, MS, where he and his older brother, Booker T. Jones, grew up and were raised by their grandparents. He is the second oldest child of Earl Jones and Lonnie B. White Bratton. In the late forties, both parents relocated to different Northern states, married and other siblings were born. The 68 year old, credits his stern grandparents for him becoming the man he is today.

After receiving his Elementary and High School education from the Madison County Public School District, he entered Alcorn State University in the fall of 1967 on a track scholarship. To avoid being drafted by the Army or the Marine Corp after receiving draft notices from both, he joined the Navy in 1970, where he served for twenty-one years on active duty and ten years reserved duty. During this time he served three tours in the Vietnam War. Because of his brave and heroic acts, he was inducted into the San Diego Aerospace Museum Hall of Champions in Balboa Park in San Diego, CA in 1989, along with receiving numerous other medals and awards.

Willie retired from the military in 1990 and began working as a Logistic Management Specialist for Naval Air Technical Data and Engineering Service Command (NATEC), which is a department of the defense supporting the war fighters. During this time, he graduated from Defense Acquisition University, San Diego, CA.