

only myself, but also many business and community leaders in the Miami Valley. When General Lyles retires, we will be sorry to lose the man I consider to be the best leader in the distinguished history of the command.

As the Congressman who represents Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in the U.S. House of Representatives, I offer my sincere congratulations to Gen. Lyles on his well-deserved retirement and on behalf of the 7th Congressional District and thank him for all he has done to preserve our freedoms.

HONORING WILLIAM STRAUS

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Straus, rancher, environmentalist, and father of the family whose Straus Family Creamery has set a new standard for organic dairy products. Mr. Straus, who lived in Marshall, CA, died on July 6, 2003, at the age of 88.

Born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1914, Bill, whose father was the first German Jew to earn a doctorate in agriculture, also studied agriculture before fleeing to British-controlled Palestine in 1936. Although he planned to settle there, relatives lured him to California where they were expecting to find oil near San Luis Obispo.

No oil was found, but Bill fell in love with the land. He earned a degree in agriculture from UC Berkeley and purchased a ranch in Marshall. In 1949, fearing he would not find a Jewish girl to marry in West Marin, he traveled to New York twice to meet Amsterdam-born Ellen Prins. The couple married soon after, and Ellen moved to the ranch where she too fell in love with the rolling hills and beautiful landscape.

The Strauses soon became leaders in efforts to protect the land and to develop environmentally sound farming practices. The couple understood that ranchers and conservationists needed to work together to preserve open spaces. Bill was the first rancher to join the Marin Conservation League, and in 1980 Ellen co-founded Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT). In 1994, son Albert Straus established the first organic dairy west of the Mississippi.

Bill and Ellen created a warm, hospitable household based on their Jewish roots and were welcoming to friends, family, and a parade of visitors. Ellen Straus died last November. Bill is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Straus left a legacy based on stewardship of the land, close personal relationships, commitment to agriculture and love of the landscape. His spirit lives on in the beautiful hills of West Marin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my absence on Friday,

July 18, 2003 and Tuesday, July 22, 2003. I attended the funerals of Sgt. Roger Rowe, a Tennessee National Guardsman killed in Iraq, and Rose Barker, a longtime friend. I wanted to pay my respects to Sgt. Rowe and thank his family for his dedicated service to our country. I also wanted to say farewell to a very good friend in Rose.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my good friend from Montana, Mr. REBERG, to introduce the National Drought Preparedness Act. The companion to our bill is also being introduced today in the other body by Senators PETE DOMENICI and MAX BAUCUS.

In 1998, Congress passed legislation creating the National Drought Policy Commission. The Commission was tasked with the responsibility to examine current U.S. policy on drought. To summarize the Commission's fifty-page report in a few short words, "The U.S. does not have a policy on drought."

I wish I had just made a joke. The fact that we don't have a drought policy, however, is a joke—and not a good one at that.

Drought is not just an agriculture issue, nor is it only a water management issue. When droughts occur, forest fires erupt, small businesses close, crop yields decrease, and in many instances, people die.

Here in Washington, it's been raining all month, so people aren't talking about drought. However, just because we aren't talking about it, doesn't mean that we shouldn't be doing something about it.

In my home State of Florida, we are always taking steps to mitigate the effects of hurricanes and floods—regardless of what season it is. In the Midwest, similar efforts are made to plan for tornadoes, and in the West, the same could be said for wildfire prevention and earthquakes.

It is time for America to move away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more proactive approach that focuses on preparation and planning. Coordination between Federal, State, and local governments, in addition to watershed groups, farmers and ranchers, and resource dependent businesses, is the only way we will successfully curb the effects of drought before we find ourselves in one. The bill we are introducing today provides a new focus on an otherwise often ignored natural disaster.

Our bill accomplishes four major goals:

First, the bill begins to move the country away from the costly, ad-hoc, and response-oriented approach to drought, and toward a more proactive approach focused on preparation and planning. The new national policy will provide the tools and focus for Federal, State, tribal and local governments to address the diverse impacts and costs caused by drought.

Second, the bill will improve the delivery of Federal drought programs. To ensure improved program delivery, integration and leadership, the National Drought Preparedness Act

establishes the National Drought Council under the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The Council will provide the coordinating and integrating function for the more than 80 Federal drought programs currently in existence.

Third, the bill establishes new tools for drought preparedness planning. Building on current water policy, the Drought Council will assist states, local governments, tribes, and other entities in the development and implementation of drought preparedness plans. The bill does not mandate state and local planning, but is intended to facilitate the development and implementation of drought plans through the establishment of a Drought Assistance Fund. Importantly, the bill also preserves State authority over water allocation.

Fourth, the bill improves our forecasting and monitoring abilities. Under our legislation, the Drought Council will facilitate the development of the National Integrated Drought System in order to improve the characterization of current drought conditions and the forecasting of future droughts, as well as provide a better basis to trigger Federal drought assistance.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive National Drought Council will provide efficient and time sensitive coordination between Federal agencies in preparing for and responding to droughts, as well as assisting Congress in identifying our immediate and long term needs in providing drought relief.

I am looking forward to working with my colleagues and moving this bill forward. Americans are hurting throughout this country today because of water shortages and prolonged droughts. Congress must act immediately, and time is of the essence.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill, and I urge the House leadership to bring this bill to the floor for its swift consideration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION REFORM ACT OF 2003

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Federal Bureau of Investigation Reform Act of 2003," legislation that strengthens the accountability, enhances the security and improves the management of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). I am joined by Representatives BERMAN, JACKSON-LEE, DELAHUNT, BLUMENAUER, WAXMAN, FARR, and CARSON of Indiana.

The report released today by the joint congressional committee investigating the September 11th attacks was quite disturbing. It provided ample evidence of key clues and signals that astute FBI agents should have picked up on. Line after line of the report reveals incidences of missed opportunities. Beginning with the FBI's neglect of the now infamous "phoenix" memo and ending with the mishandling of potentially valuable informants, the FBI engaged in a pattern and practice of activities that did very little, if anything, to protect this nation from the devastating attacks it experienced on 9-11.

To address some of the obvious miscues and intelligence failures highlighted in the report, we are introducing the FBI Reform Act of

2003. There are five key elements of our bill. First, it strengthens whistleblower protection for FBI employees and protects them from retaliation for reporting wrongdoing. Second, it addresses the issue of a double standard for discipline of senior executives by eliminating the disparity in authorized punishments between Senior Executive Service members and other Federal employees. Third, it establishes an FBI Counterintelligence Polygraph Program for screening personnel in exceptionally sensitive positions with specific safeguards. Fourth, it establishes an FBI Career Security Program, which would bring the FBI into line with other U.S. intelligence agencies that have strong career security professional cadres whose skills and leadership are dedicated to the protection of agency information, personnel, and facilities. Finally, it requires a set of reports that would enable Congress to engage the Executive branch in a constructive dialogue building a more effective FBI for the future.

The FBI Reform Act is designed to strengthen the FBI as an institution that has a unique role as both a law enforcement agency and a member of the intelligence community. As the Judiciary Committee continues its oversight work and more is learned about recent FBI performance, additional reforms may prove necessary. Especially important will be the lessons learned from the attacks of September 11th, the anthrax attacks, and implementation of the USA PATRIOT Act. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

HONORING JAMES WILSON JACKSON AND HARRY BELLE FULLMORE ON THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor the 50th wedding anniversary of James Wilson Jackson and Harry Belle Fullmore, better known as Honey.

James, a lieutenant in the United States Army was stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas where he met Honey. And, like her name, Honey was the belle of Texas and James was swept off his feet. After numerous Sunday dinners prepared by Jesse Cook, Honey's mother and James' future mother-in-law, James proposed to Honey and the two married on August 14, 1953.

They had four children: James Wilson Jackson, Jr., Suzan Elizabeth Jackson, Barbara Ann Jackson and Michelle Jackson.

Having chosen a military career, James and Honey traveled throughout the world including the Orient, Europe and from coast to coast in the United States. Everywhere they settled, they developed a host of friends.

Upon retiring from the military, James and Honey chose Cleveland, Ohio as their new home. Since moving to Cleveland in 1970, they have dedicated themselves to contributing to their community and society at large. James chose the civic route, volunteering to serve on various Boards and Commissions. Honey chose to make her contributions more

economic in nature, supporting upscale and specialty boutiques from coast to coast.

During the 50 years of their marriage, James and Honey have been faced with many obstacles and hurdles, but working together, they have persevered. We are honored to commend James and Honey Jackson on their Golden Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF WILLIARD McDONALD ON THE OCCASION OF WILLARD McDONALD DAY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Willard McDonald on the occasion of the 6th Annual Willard McDonald Day in Ashland, Alabama.

Willard McDonald has a deep faith in God and a deep love for gospel music. He was the founder and editor of "Deep South Gospel Magazine," and the host of "Gospel Music Review" and the "Country Boy Eddie Show" in Birmingham, Alabama. He used his love of gospel music to organize gospel sings for twenty-five churches and for charity events.

Since his retirement, Willard McDonald has devoted his time to helping others, and six years ago, his friends, his family and the citizens of Ashland organized a Willard McDonald Day to show their appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to Willard McDonald as a great Alabamian and American, and I appreciate the House's acknowledgment of his legacy.

CELEBRATING THE 14TH EDITION OF PAN-AMERICAN GAMES IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 14th edition of the Pan-American Games, this year to be held in Santo Domingo Dominican Republic, from August 1st to August 17th.

Since 1951, the games have carried the Olympic spirit of trying to build and strengthen international cooperation through friendly, but no less intense, competition between the countries of the Western Hemisphere. In a time when we are engaged in a global struggle against terrorism, poverty and disease, the sight of some of the region's best athletes coming and sharing the same stage peacefully gives the world hope that our current struggles are just a prologue to better days.

This year's games are also a source of pride to Dominicans all over the world, especially those who live in my district's neighborhood of Washington Heights. While putting on an event of such magnitude is a challenge for any nation, there is no doubt in my mind that the world will be treated to a world-class celebration full of the best of Dominican culture. It is also a chance to sow the seeds of future

economic development by showing the world that any stage can shine brightly from Santo Domingo.

So it is with great enthusiasm that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all the participants and organizers in advance for all their achievements and hard work. Let us hope that the Pan-American Games' motto, loosely translated as "The American spirit of friendship through sports," not only lasts beyond these two weeks in August, but also extends beyond sports and the island of Hispaniola into the hearts of all of the world's citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF SENSE OF CONGRESS BILL ON LIBERIA

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that while we encourage a regional West African effort to resolve the Liberia crisis, the United States military has no role—either alone or as part of a multinational force—in that country.

We all recognize the tragedy in Liberia. A civil war has raged there for the past 14 years, leaving thousands dead and a million without homes. Horrific stories of atrocities abound. We wish for peace and a resolution to the conflict. But we must recognize that this resolution should come through regional West African efforts. These are the countries involved and affected; these are the countries with the most incentive to resolve the problem. Simply stated, there is no U.S. national security interest at stake in the conflict—no matter how widely "national interest" is defined.

But the administration is currently pondering repeated calls by some in the U.S. and especially the United Nations to commit thousands of troops to a full-fledged American operation in Liberia. According to press reports, the Pentagon has just ordered about 4,500 sailors and marines from the Horn of Africa into the Mediterranean Sea, so as to be closer to Liberia—just in case.

Before we commit our troops to yet another foreign intervention, Congress must at the very least consider the implications of further committing our already seriously overextended military. According to recent press reporting, of the 33 brigades that make up the entirety of the U.S. Army's active duty combat forces, all but just three brigades are either currently engaged in Iraq, Afghanistan, South Korea, are committed to other missions, or are reconstituting. This suggests that the U.S. military is in serious danger of becoming over-extended.

Mr. Speaker, there is no U.S. interest in the conflict and U.S. military involvement could well lead to resentment and more violence against U.S. troops, as we saw in Somalia. We must ponder this possibility before yet again putting our men and women in uniform in harm's way.

I hope very much that my colleagues will join me in this effort and that we may see a quick Floor vote on this very important measure.