

service organizations, the Architect's office estimates that there is enough room available in Ford for the Architect's employees and the House Child Care Center.

Mr. Speaker, the sale of 501 1st Street would prove to the American people that the new majority in Congress is committed to shrinking the size of the Federal Government by downsizing itself and using that space that it owns more efficiently. I urge my colleagues to support the task force's plan to sell 501 1st Street, SE, and keep our promise to the American people.

THIRD ANNUAL CALIFORNIA AVOCADO DAY

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of California Avocado Day and wish to share the significance of this special event with my colleagues. As some of you may know, November 7 marks the most important day of the year for avocado growers—California Avocado Day.

For the third consecutive year, California Grower magazine has organized a full day of events devoted to the California avocado industry. The events will feature important panels and presentations, the California Avocado Commission's annual meeting, as well as the industry's largest trade show. "The Road Ahead" is this year's theme for California Avocado Day. In light of the recent events in the avocado industry, I believe the theme to be quite fitting. It is obvious that the avocado industry is at a crossroads, and the future for avocado growers is uncertain.

I am honored that today's ceremonies are taking place within my district at the Escondido Center for the Arts. Two months ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] Animal Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] held hearings at the same site to discuss the proposed rule to modify the 81-year-old quarantine on the importation of fresh Mexican Hass avocados. I joined with the thousands of members of the avocado industry to voice my concerns to any change in the United States policy with regard to Mexican Hass avocados that is not based on sound science.

It is apparent that certain species of fruit flies and seed weevils are known to attack and destroy avocados. For years, Mexican avocado growers have been unable to eradicate pests from their crops despite the use of chemical methods unavailable in the United States. With the 1994 avocado harvest in excess of 550 million pounds, I believe the proposal to allow Mexican Hass avocados into the United States would put the crop at risk. In fact, these insects could very well devastate U.S. avocado production, altogether.

Mexico is currently requesting access to United States markets for fresh Hass avocados based on conclusions from a research study and pest survey data. However, I believe that the scientific data submitted by Mexico to support its request is weak, lacking integrity, and does not justify any change to the current quarantine policy. I am also concerned with the conclusions of the risk analysis performed by APHIS. The USDA must rely on a

sufficient amount of credible, hard data before a change is to be made. Never before has the USDA been responsible in designing a system of this type or scale. Therefore, before such an undertaking is to occur, I believe that the science must be sound; the model used to estimate insect outbreak must be as accurate as possible; control mechanisms must be in place; and adequate resources must be available to allow for proper monitoring of the complex system.

The USDA's proposed changes would allow for the importation of avocados into the 19 designated States in Northeastern United States. As one might guess, transshipment of the avocados is inevitable. However, I am not confident that APHIS has established a reliable control system to prevent the transport of avocados into States vulnerable to pest infestation, such as Florida and California. It is quite likely that the United States and Mexico avocados will come into contact with one another. If the pests are present in the Mexican avocados, you can be sure that the United States avocados will be susceptible to infestation. Therefore, I believe this poses a great threat to U.S. crop. The United States should deny, or at least postpone, the importation of Hass avocados until we are convinced that no threat is apparent. This issue is of critical importance to the future of our country's avocado crop.

Again, I wish to congratulate the industry for joining me in sending a clear message to the Department of Agriculture regarding their views on the proposed rule. An overwhelming 1,800 public comments were filed, with a majority of the comments in opposition to the proposed rule. Surely, the sentiments of such a united front cannot be ignored. I agree with the members of the avocado industry who are demanding that the avocado industry not be put in jeopardy as a result of such a dramatic policy change. The avocado growers' request that credible and sound science be employed with the decisionmaking process should be granted.

SALUTE TO GUAM'S VETERANS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on November 11, our Nation will observe Veterans Day, a day dedicated in honor of the people who have, in times of war and peace, willingly and unselfishly offered their services to the American people. We, on Guam, appreciate the important contributions of our veterans. We recognize the sacrifices they have made in order to preserve for us the blessings of liberty.

In the same respect, we also commend the importance of veterans and their personal commitment to our communities. Most veterans return to their hometowns to actively participate in community affairs. On Guam, their unsolicited contributions have made the island a better place to live in. By virtue of their outstanding achievements and numerous contributions, they serve as effective role models to all members of the community, especially the young people. They are vital forces of development and growth.

In recognition of this, island leaders have made it a point to acknowledge the contributions of Guam's distinguished veterans. Village mayors and veterans organizations all over the island submit names on an annual basis to be included in an elite list of the top veterans of the island.

This year the village mayors have each selected the following people as their awardees: Vicente Tuncap of Agana, Jose P. Javier of Agana Heights, Carmen J. Balajadia of Agat, Fidel L.G. Jesus of Asan-Maina, Joseph L. Aguon of Barrigada, Nicolas F. Borja of Chalan Pago-Ordot, Juan P. San Nicolas of Dededo, Joaquin L. Paulino of Inarajan, Manuel U. Fejeran of Mangilao, Richard Barcinas of Merizo, Alfred M. Cruz of Mongmong-Toto-Maite, Roque M. Mendiola of Piti, Joseph B. Chargualaf of Santa Rita, Joseph C. Gogo of Sinajana, Antonio T. Pablo of Talofofo, Felix E. Edelo of Tamuning-Tumon, Francisco Q. Sanchez of Umatac, William A. Burger of Yigo, and Jose Mabayah of Yona.

The island's veteran's organizations also included to the list the following names: Clyde Blackie Barnes of the American Legion Post 53, Jesus M. Camacho of the Army Retirees Association, Juan M. Tajito of the Chamorro Military Society, Antonio Deligreen of the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 73, Juan C. Wusstig of the Guam Combat Patrol, Adrian C. Sanchez of the Guam Navy Club, Alejandro B. Toves of the Korean War Veterans, Vicente (Ben) Gumataotao of the National Association for Uniformed Services, Alfredo Somera of the Philippine Scouts Association, Don Kimmel of the V.F.W. Hafa Adai Post 1509, Cris N. Quintanilla of the V.F.W. Ga'an Memorial Post 2917, Jesus H. Aguon of the Vietnam Veterans of America Guam Chapter No. 668, Antonio Peredo of the Wake Island Defenders, Celestin Babauta of the Air Force Retirees Association, Jose S. Reyes of the Guam Civilian Scouts, and Peter C. Siguenza of the Third Marine Division Association.

On this year's Veteran's Day commemoration, I would like to once again commend all the men and women who have truly been instrumental to the great success of this Nation. On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer all of our Nation's veterans my sincerest thanks and appreciation for their contributions and sacrifices.

A special commendation is also in order for the top veterans of Guam for the year 1995. They have truly distinguished themselves as vital contributors to the growth of the island. I commend and congratulate this year's selectees for all their accomplishments and contributions to the community.

HONORING PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 7, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin. Of the many tributes paid him, during the memorial service at Congregation Olam Tikvah of Fairfax, VA, on November 6, 1995, in my opinion Rabbi Melvin J. Glazer's was most poignant and moving.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that my colleagues will appreciate hearing the words of Rabbi