

IN RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN  
STATE FARM CREDIT

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Golden State Farm Credit for receiving the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Ag Supporter of the Year award at the 2016 Kings County Salute to Ag Banquet.

Golden State Farm Credit has been dedicated to lending to farmers, ranchers, and agribusiness for ninety years, despite difficult economic climate. It is the largest financial service provider in California's Central Valley. Golden State Farm Credit is a strong supporter of the agriculture industry and has helped Central Valley Farmers purchase real estate, develop property, and expand dairy facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and congratulating Golden State Farm Credit for its service to Kings County and for receiving the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Ag Supporter of the Year award at the 2016 Kings County Salute to Ag Banquet.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CLARESSA SHIELDS

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Claressa Shields for her history-making accomplishments as an athlete and Olympian, and continued commitment to the State of Michigan and to my hometown of Flint, Michigan.

Introduced to boxing at a young age, Claressa has built an impressive career that boasts, among many victories in national and world championships, two successive gold medals from the 2012 Olympics in London and 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. This feat makes her the first American, male or female, to win back-to-back gold medals in Boxing. On August 23, 2016, upon her return from the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, my home town of Flint welcomed home Claressa Shields in a celebration to spotlight her mark in history and inspiring story.

Through her victories, Claressa has breathed life into the dreams of young athletes and individuals in Michigan and across the nation. She is a remarkable woman who credits her success, her journey, to hard work and her faith. Her support system has been a small group of dedicated individuals ranging from the coaches whom have driven her to victory, to her grandmother who taught her that gender could not hold her back. Now, Claressa, who describes herself as "just a kid from Flint," is dedicating herself to supporting individuals, young and old, in Flint as they face the challenges of poverty, gun violence and the ongoing water crisis.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I submit Claressa Shields before the House as an example of

not only a great athlete, but a great American. She represents the resilience of the American dream, and the strong, proud spirit of Flint, Michigan. I applaud Claressa for her dedication to her sport, and her dedication to our community. The change that she will effect has only begun.

TRIBUTE TO THE 2016 JOHNSTON  
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Johnston High School Softball team for winning the Iowa Girls State Class 5A Softball Tournament on July 21, 2016.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team:

Players: Brooke Sandstoe, Chloe Fehn, Kylee Walker, Olivia Goodale, Emily Flint, Hannah Espeland, Sydney Illg, Emma Ford, Alisha Rusch, Haley Pemble, Taylor Canny, Alyssa Shepherd, Mercedes Worsfold, Brooke Wilmes, Sophie Maras, Haylee Towers, Bailey Sutton, Madison Thiiges, Halle Van Roekel, Ally Schaer, Ellie Roquet

Manager: Eilise Murray

Coaches: Todd Merical, Destiny Willer, Abby Sonner, Laura Calvert, Leah Embrey

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these students and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating these young women for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

CALIFORNIA WATER SUPPLY  
SHORTAGE

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

(By Cannon Michael, Sept. 8, 2016)

California's water supply shortage is a microcosm of what's wrong in U.S. politics. The San Joaquin Valley in Central California is the most productive agricultural area in the world and is the envy of many countries that rely on imported food supplies because their climate or soil is not suitable to sustain farming. But California's water supply to this region has been critically curtailed by the government's inability to manage water resources.

That breakdown caused President Obama to visit the Central Valley in 2014 and sit down with farmers to hear about water supply problems. Several members of his administration, including the Secretary of Interior and recently the Secretary of Commerce, have personally visited the area and listened to local business and community leaders talk about their concern for the future of the region. Former Speaker John Boehner and

numerous members of Congress, including Senate Energy Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski, have toured the ravaged area and committed to work with their colleagues to assist Central Valley communities. Republican members of Congress, including Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Rep. David Valadao, as well as their Democratic colleagues, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jim Costa, have introduced legislation to try to fix the problem.

Remarkably, the highest leadership in the country has focused on the water supply problem and a bipartisan group of legislators has been working on legislative solutions. They all claim that the status quo is unacceptable. And what has happened?

Nothing.

Absolutely nothing.

This is why so many people are frustrated with politics as usual and are demanding that things change. We have an identified problem—a water delivery system that has been completely overrun and strangled by a regulatory process run amok. We have a water delivery system that was brilliantly designed and constructed decades ago to withstand five consecutive years of extreme drought, but when the state is blessed with rainfall and snowpack, as we were this year, the system still can't even provide water to communities. As a result, a key part of the U.S. food supply is in jeopardy and millions of Californians are seeing an important part of their state in decline.

Many people outside of California often ask why this is happening to such a productive area of the country? Unfortunately, there is no acceptable answer. The current policies restricting water deliveries are intended to protect endangered species, but those policies have failed miserably. Despite the massive redistribution of water from people, schools, communities and farms in a misguided attempt to save a fish, the fish populations have actually declined. After three very dry years, California had a wet winter in early 2016 but rather than using the water to re-supply reservoirs and communities, the government sent over 200 billion gallons of water into the ocean. The result? Dead fish, depleted reservoirs, and dying communities. Nobody wins.

This is not a recent problem; the water system has been failing for more than 20 years. Part of the problem is that progress on a solution is being held hostage by federal agencies that are serving narrow interests and creating legal issues that prohibit any progress toward achieving comprehensive solutions. The agencies' water management policies might be defensible if the policies were working and providing some beneficial result. But farmland continues to die out, jobs have been lost, fish populations are at greater risk, land subsidence and other environmental consequences are continuing, and poverty rates are rising in the impacted communities. The result, agencies hide behind the law and the Administration and Congress have been unable to agree on a solution that will reverse this horrible decline.

To be fair, there are efforts from both sides of the aisle working to solve the problem. S. 1894 or S. 2533 (Feinstein) and HR 2898 (Valadao) are proposing to modify current policies and rein in federal agencies. These are not radical proposals, but are measured policy changes designed to improve all the outcomes—increased water supply for communities, better water management, and increased funding for environmental programs. This is what government is supposed to do—find solutions that are compatible with a variety of interests.

With the critical period for California water supply system to be replenished arriving in less than six months, Congress has

very little time to act on legislation. For farmers and farmworkers, planning and financial decisions about crops and food production and hiring start long before planting season begins in February. There is no more time to waste.

Absolutely nothing is no longer acceptable. Congress needs to pass legislation that solves this decades-long problem. If they do not, absolutely nothing is what they should expect from us in return.

RECOGNIZING DORIS M. JACQUES AS SHE RECEIVES THE GOVERNOR GEORGE ROMNEY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Doris M. Jacques of Saginaw for her unwavering commitment to serving her community.

The Michigan Community Service Commission will award Ms. Jacques the Governor George Romney Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors an individual, usually a senior citizen, who has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to community involvement and volunteer service.

Ms. Jacques began her service career in the 1950's at St. Stephen's Church (now St. Dominic Parish) completing miscellaneous errands around the church, co-chaired the "First Nighters" family entertainment series for 19 years, organized the first church library and served on the funeral luncheon ministry.

The more Ms. Jacques involved herself in service, the more friends she made, the more she accomplished and the more sense of purpose she experienced. This led her to volunteer with the Volunteer Auxiliary at St. Mary's of Michigan hospital in 1960, where she is currently the longest serving volunteer with well over 50,000 hours.

Ms. Jacques is a co-founder of the Hospital Gift Shop, frequented by hospital visitors, staff and community members seeking gifts and sundries. In 1981 she co-founded Timeless Treasures Thrift Store, dedicated to providing low-cost household and clothing items for the needy. During her 55 year tenure at the hospital, Ms. Jacques' inspiring leadership has helped raise \$3.5 million through Auxiliary fundraisers, vendor sales, and sales proceeds from the Gift Shop and the Thrift Shop. These proceeds have been used by the hospital for major medical equipment purchases, two Cancer Care Vans and renovations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Doris M. Jacques for her magnanimity and unyielding commitment to philanthropy.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. TONY WILLIAM DEGROOT

**HON. DAVID G. VALADAO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the late Tony William DeGroot for

receiving the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Commitment to Kings County Agriculture Award.

Raised in Bennekom, Netherlands, Mr. DeGroot was the youngest of eleven children. During World War II, Mr. DeGroot's family was heavily involved in the Dutch Resistance, which led to his admiration of the bravery of the American soldiers and later his emigration to the United States at the age of twenty-one. On May 15, 1957, Mr. DeGroot and his wife, Betty, were married in Hollandale, Minnesota. They later moved to Southern California in 1959, and five years later they began their successful dairy farm operation in the Central Valley. In 1965, Mr. DeGroot became a founding member of the Visalia Christian Reformed Church where he worshiped, sang in the choir, and led song service. He was also a youth group leader and hosted Bible studies with his wife.

Having been a dairy farmer, Mr. DeGroot was significantly involved in the dairy community of the Central Valley for many years. He was passionate about involving future generations in the industry and supported participants in FFA and 4-H. He served on the board for Rabobank and Alltech, among others. Mr. DeGroot was also one of the developers of DG Bar Ranch, which he started for his wife.

In September of 2015, Mr. DeGroot passed at the age of eighty in a plane accident while on a fishing trip in Alaska, doing what he loved. He had a great sense for adventure, loved agriculture, and cared deeply for his family. He was a remarkable man who was hospitable to all who entered his life. Mr. DeGroot is survived by his loving wife, Betty, daughter, Rochelle, son, Tony, and grandson Jason.

Mr. DeGroot was unanimously selected by the Kings County Agriculture Selection Committee as the honoree for this award due to his important contributions to the agriculture industry in the Central Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in commending the late Tony William DeGroot for receiving the Lemoore Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Commitment to Kings County Agriculture Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF SCHUYLKILL UNITED WAY

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Schuylkill United Way, which celebrates its 80th anniversary today, September 9, 2016. The Schuylkill United Way is dedicated to providing funding, guidance, and encouragement to partner organizations that provide a variety of programs and services to the residents of Schuylkill County. The Schuylkill United Way supports fifteen organizations and has provided invaluable assistance to the Schuylkill County community over the last 80 years.

The organization was founded in 1936 to help local groups that offered human services at little or no cost. Originally known as the Community Chest, the organization became

an independent member of United Way Worldwide in 1976 and changed its name to Schuylkill United Way.

Today, Schuylkill United Way partners with entities such as American Red Cross, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Salvation Army, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania and Meals on Wheels. Partnering efforts and contributions come from local businesses and individuals alike, and ninety-nine percent of the assistance marshalled stays within Schuylkill County. Schuylkill United Way organizes events like Stuff the Bus, which provides school supplies to children in need, and the Captain Jason B. Jones Day of Caring, where volunteers donate their time working at nonprofit and government locations.

It is an honor to recognize the Schuylkill United Way as it celebrates 80 years of helping others. I am deeply grateful for the many services they provide to the people of Schuylkill County. May they continue their great work for welfare of their neighbors for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA YOUNG

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Patricia Young of Jamaica, Iowa for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD).

Ms. Young manages the Iowa HIV and Hepatitis Prevention Program. She earned the award because of her passion, leadership and dedication in working to improve the lives of people living with HIV and hepatitis as well as her tireless service and devotion to NASTAD. She has engaged in HIV prevention and care for nearly three decades and has held many roles in the Iowa Department of Health including prevention, care and community planning.

Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to represent Iowans like Patricia Young in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating her on receiving this award and in wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING DOCTOR SAMUEL SHAHEEN AND THE SHAHEEN FAMILY AS THEY RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY AWARD

**HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 9, 2016*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dr. Samuel J. Shaheen and his family for their unwavering commitment to the betterment of their local community. The Shaheen family was selected as the 2016 recipient for the Community Philanthropy Award presented by the Council of Michigan Foundations, the Michigan Nonprofit Association and the Governor's office.