

community. Since he assumed the leadership of the chamber, the organization has grown by leaps and bounds. Today, the chamber's membership includes 215,000 members, 3,000 State and local chambers, and 1,200 trade and professional associations. Additionally, the chamber represents 72 American chambers of commerce abroad in 65 nations.

Programmatically, Dr. Leshner was responsible for establishing the National Litigation Law Center that has successfully represented business interests in Federal court. He was also instrumental in developing the Quality Learning Services Program of the Federation Programs and Services Division of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This program is dedicated to delivering management seminars and continuing professional education throughout the United States.

Dr. Leshner has been effective in generating new membership and creating new programs for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce because of his success at making the chamber a more active part of American politics and business. He has energetically promoted the chamber's Grassroots Action Information Network [GAIN] that is dedicated to amplifying the voices of chamber members. He also created the "How They Voted" program, which ranks the voting records of Members of Congress on the basis of their stands on small business issues. Additionally under his watch, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce also launched BizNet—the American Business Network—featuring the shows "First Business" and "It's Your Business."

Leshner, whose two decades as president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have shown him to be an individual dedicated to promoting small business, individual initiative, and effective grassroots political action. Dr. Leshner's advocacy has had but one end—preserving the United States as a land of opportunity. I applaud Dr. Leshner's fruitful career, and I wish him continued success in all his future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF HERMAN FEHL'S
RETIREMENT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has spent the last 19 years as a devoted public servant of San Benito County. Mr. Herman Fehl has been recognized as a community leader and visionary in both the job training and community action arenas. It is my privilege to be speaking of this man's countless accomplishments today.

In 1978, Mr. Fehl began his public service as the director of San Benito's Comprehensive Employment Training Act program, which over time evolved into the Federal Job Training Partnership Act program. Three years later, Mr. Fehl, in conjunction with several members of the San Benito board of supervisors, successfully established the county as a Community Action Agency [CAA]. This led to Federal community services block grant funding for San Benito County.

In addition to forming the community action agency, in 1984 Mr. Fehl joined together with several community members to form the San

Benito County Community Services Development Corporation [CSDC]. This nonprofit corporation is dedicated to helping low-income families become self-sufficient. Mr. Fehl watched the CSDC's assets grow from \$30,000 to over \$6,000,000. Under his able leadership, CSDC developed the San Benito Business and Industry Park, which includes the Community Services Building. This is an award-winning one stop Social Services Center.

The newly reorganized Department of Community and Workforce Development is now recognized as the primary provider of comprehensive social services for the low-income community. Due to Mr. Fehl's excellent direction, the Department budget has grown to over \$3,000,000. Its extensive range of services include rental housing assistance, a homeless shelter, utility assistance, emergency food, and first-time homebuyers mortgage assistance, in addition to plans for on-site child care for job training clients.

If a measure of success is recognition from your peers, Herman Fehl's many contributions to the residents of San Benito have been generously acknowledged: Citizen of the Year 1988 for San Benito County; the 1990 League of United Latin American Citizens award for his devoted service to the Hispanic community in San Benito County; and Disaster Relief Coordinator for his heroic leadership during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

Mr. Speaker, please join me saluting an outstanding public servant who has given so much to his community as both a leader and as a citizen. The residents of San Benito County will sorely miss Herman Fehl's commitment to its citizenry but joins me in extending him a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FARMLAND
INDUSTRIES' AG-21

HON. BILL BARRETT

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to bring my colleagues' attention to a model pollution prevention program and to recognize several Nebraska farmers and their cooperatives for their achievements.

On June 3, 1997, the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] awarded one of eight 1997 Pollution Prevention Award to Farmland Industries' AG-21 program for successfully implementing pollution prevention measures in agricultural production. Farmland was the only agribusiness firm to receive the award this year. An interdepartmental committee within EPA's Region 7 evaluated nearly 30 applications for their innovative approaches, techniques, and use of technology in meeting pollution prevention goals.

AG-21 is an innovative crop production process developed by the Farmland cooperative to raise the agronomic, environmental, and managerial standard for its cooperatives across North America. The program is a partnership between local cooperatives, their farmer members, and Farmland Industries. Each brings their unique skills and experience to the project, including support services, cutting-edge technology, and experience with environmentally sound management practices. The

program's goal is to use the best crop production techniques and the latest technology to maximize crop potential in an environmentally friendly manner.

I'm proud to be able to share this news with my colleagues. AG-21 is a unique program with enormous potential. For farmers and all Americans, AG-21 will improve crop yields and quality, sustainability of crop production, and economic yields. Also, it will increase conservation of soil and water, protection of the environment, and protection of human health.

This is the future of environmental protection—it's not government regulation, but individuals working with their communities and businesses to protect the environment while feeding a hungry world. Congratulations to Farmland, its cooperatives, and my producers. Keep up the good work!

TAX RELIEF HELPS AMERICA'S
WOMEN

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 1997

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud support of the historic budget agreement this Congress reached with the President earlier this week. For the first time in 16 years, the American people will receive a major tax cut.

What makes this plan so effective, Mr. Speaker, is that it reaches so many different groups of people across our Nation. I am especially pleased by what this tax cut means to America's women.

Our budget agreement is a direct result of Republican efforts to provide for America's families and that begins with helping America's mothers. The \$500-per-child tax credit goes straight to the heart of every family. The mothers of 41 million children will be keeping more of their own money. That means much more for school clothes, groceries, and savings for college tuition.

Mr. Speaker, we did not stop there. Our plan also helps those women who are successful entrepreneurs and business owners. With women now starting businesses at twice the rate of men, a cut in the capital gains tax will help them the most. Republicans want to ensure that those women who are now contributing to our economy as employers and investors continue to do so. But tax cuts not only help those women who already own small businesses, they help open doors for those who wish they could.

We have also reduced estate or death taxes and expanded individual retirement accounts. Because women generally live longer, we need to make it easier for women to save and to inherit family businesses. Republicans are ensuring that women of all ages can remain financially secure, even after the death of a husband.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that our plan to provide tax relief especially helps America's women. The truth is, cutting taxes helps everyone and everyone will benefit from this historic budget agreement.