

added a social hall shortly thereafter. St. George continued its expansion and built a school building for religious and cultural education and an audio-visual studio to support these educational activities.

St. George Church has initiated educational programs to reach out to the children, youth, and seniors in the Fresno area. St. George also reaches out to the growing multicultural, non-Greek Eastern Orthodox following including other Americans, Russians, Armenians, Lebanese, Serbians, Eritreans, Bulgarians, and Asians.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of Fresno for its 75 year anniversary. St. George Church and its parish have established a strong foundation of moral guidance and Christian faith in its service to the community of Fresno. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing St. George Greek Orthodox Church many more years of success.

A TRIBUTE TO PAT & ANN
CIMMARUSTI

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor two people whose lifetimes of service to others serves as a model to which others should strive.

Pat and Ann Cimmarusti will be honored tonight by UNICO National, Los Angeles Chapter. UNICO stands for Unity, Neighborliness, Integrity, Charity and Opportunity to serve. This husband and wife team have embodied that spirit over the years and are profoundly deserving of the honor.

Ann and Pat have been married for 56 years. They have raised three children, Loretta, Larry, and Ralph, who have brought into the family son-in-law Richard, and daughters-in-law Amalia and Hallie. Those unions have in turn blessed Ann and Pat with seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Pat and Ann stand for family and unity and have been blessed by success and love by adhering to the UNICO motto of "Service above Self."

That service has extended far beyond their immediate family. Through UNICO, a national organization since 1947, Ann and Pat have given to a variety of organizations, such as hospitals, churches, families, and much, much more. UNICO provides a variety of scholarships and awards. Members actively participate in the Easter Seal project and raise funds for victims of national and international disasters. In 1987, UNICO founded Hope University, UNICO National College for the gifted and mentally retarded.

Pat and Ann Cimmarusti are in no small part responsible for the organization's continued success.

I know my colleagues will join me in extending our congratulations to this remarkable couple as they are honored for a lifetime of selfless service to others.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON
H.R. 4101, AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 15, 1998

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of American farmers. It is undeniable that there is an emergency facing the farming communities across the country. Natural disasters, global oversupply, diminished overseas demand, and low prices have combined to create this emergency.

I am a strong supporter of maintaining a balanced budget, but emergency designation for this additional spending is fully justified. It is a true emergency when our agriculture base is in danger of collapsing. This funding is an investment in our future prosperity and it is essential that it be delivered quickly.

This funding will not be a permanent solution, nor perhaps will it be nearly enough to adequately address the growing crisis. We must do much more to provide farmers and farming communities a safety net that works. Now, however, we have the opportunity to take immediate steps to address an immediate emergency.

I urge my colleagues to support this instruction and to support America's farmers.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE DRUG
ELIMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4300) to support enhanced drug interdiction efforts in the major transit countries and support a comprehensive supply eradication and crop substitution program in source countries:

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Chairman, I would like to state my concern with H.R. 4300, the so called Western Hemisphere Drug Elimination Act.

I want to talk about a problem that already exists and which will only be exacerbated by Title III of this legislation. Title III authorizes \$65 million to the U.S. Agency for International Development to create and develop programs to urge farmers to stop growing crops that may be used to create illegal drugs and replace them with other crops.

Since enactment in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) has provided duty-free access to the U.S. market for flower exporters in four Latin American countries: Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. For seven years it has allowed flower growers in these four countries to avoid tariffs normally imposed on their product. These tariffs range from 3.6 percent to 7.4 percent.

The purpose of this preferential treatment was intended to encourage Andean countries

to develop legal alternatives to drug crop cultivation and production, the same intention of Title III that we are considering now. This policy has failed in Colombia. Coca eradication efforts to date in Colombia have been less than anticipated.

For the third consecutive year Colombia has failed in its efforts to be fully certified, or reduce the production of illegal drugs. In order to maintain an open dialogue, the Administration recently made the determination to put forward a national-interest waiver with respect to Colombia.

Cultivation of coca, the raw material used to make cocaine, has dropped significantly in all of the Andean countries except Colombia. The Colombian coca crop expanded more than 30 percent from 1996 to 1997, from almost 51,000 hectares to over 67,000 hectares. Alternative crops developed in Colombia include cut flowers such as roses and carnations and then exported to the United States. Colombia now has the distinction of producing 80 percent of the world's cocaine and over 70 percent of the cut-flower imports into the United States.

The latter has resulted in a steady weakening of the American flower industry. Since the enactment of ATPA, the number of American chrysanthemum growers has fallen by 25 percent, the number of carnation growers has fallen as by much as one-third and the remaining major commercial types have fallen in the double-figure range as well. California flower growers go out of business at a rate of 10 percent per year.

California grows 22.1 percent of the Nation's cut flowers. In 1997 alone, flowers and foliage sales brought \$729 million to the states economy. Although California is ranked number one in flower production, 77.9 percent of the industry is scattered throughout the United States, in my colleagues districts. In 1997 in California, more than 270 million rose blooms were sold for nearly \$69 million. In my district in Monterey county alone, 75 million rose blooms were sold for more than \$18 million.

We must oppose the continuation or expansion of a policy that has proved effective and is, in fact, detrimental to our own citizens and businesses.

Also of serious concern is the lack of reference to human rights protection in this bill. The countries who will "benefit" from this bill have some of the worse human rights abuse records in the hemisphere.

Since 1988, an average of ten people per day have died as a result of the political conflict in Colombia. In Bolivia in the first few months of 1997 at least six individuals were killed in confrontations with antinarcotics police, including a 3-month-old baby, a six-year old child and a 53-year-old woman.

There is no assurance that funds, equipment, or training intended for drug eradication will not be used against innocent citizens or for the benefit of the recipients. One Colombian General, when asked if counter-narcotics aid might be used against guerrillas struggling for political recognition, whether or not they are involved in drugs said, "It's the same organization, and everyone in it is responsible." To avoid corrupt law-enforcement officials in Mexico, elite units were formed, trained, and given helicopters by the U.S. Now, two years later, some 80 members of these elite units have been under investigation on allegations that some took hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to transport drugs to the U.S.