

poverty line. Just recently, the government of Pakistan announced new school meal program to target at least 500,000 schoolgirls ages 5 to 12. The amount of funding allocated for the new program is US\$50 million. The Pakistan delegation encouraged U.S. school feeding implementers to work with the government's new programs, expand feeding to the Madrassa schools and combine efforts with a strong focus on local capacity building of the dairy production sector with aims to increase the percentage of milk that is being hygienically packaged. Everyone wins in this situation: farmers receive a more fair price per liter of milk that is clean; processors are able to fully utilize processing capacity and consumers are guaranteed a safe, nutritious and affordable milk product.

Cindy Buhl from the office of Congressman Jim McGovern provided an overview of the current status of food community programs, the Executive Branch review of U.S. food aid programs and recommendations made by the Bush Administration on adjustments and their impacts of U.S. government food commodity programs. Many questions were presented to Ms. Buhl by participants of which most revolved around what can the international development community (PVOs and private sector) do to ensure congressional and Executive Branch support for the Global Food for Education Initiative. Ms. Buhl stated that first and foremost, school feeding implementers must continue their excellence in the field, improve monitoring and evaluation of program impacts and provide quantitative results in reports back to donors and congressional offices. She also strongly encouraged local governments to state their interest and support directly to the Bush Administration, Congress and USDA/USAID for continuing and receiving U.S. government school feeding programs in their country. Ms. Buhl commented on the power of observing a school feeding program in action and seeing the exuberance and passion for learning and contributing to helping hundreds of thousands of school children reach their full potential and maximizing their contribution to society is an overwhelming experience. She highly recommended to the group to seek ways to get more congressional representatives to see these programs in action. The presentation was concluded with a strong statement of the importance of partnerships and commitment by governments, private sector and non-government organizations to work together to constantly enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of feeding our future leaders.

Beth Sheehy and Kristin Penn from Land O'Lakes International Division presented the multiple benefits generated from a school feeding program—especially programs supported by the private sector in close partnerships with local government and community of whom all have their unique capacities that make school feeding programs a LONG-TERM success.

The conference ended on a high note with participants armed with a comprehensive education on how a school-feeding program is implemented in the field and what needs to be done to expand these programs and create momentum for the global school feeding effort.

THANK YOU, JUAN LUCERO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OTTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time today to

recognize and express my deep appreciation to a gentleman who has worked for me since I came to Congress.

Professional staff, for the most part, work in the back stage of history, but their work is fundamental to our duties as representatives of the people. They are dedicated and professional public servants, and I commend them for their service to their country and their contributions to the House of Representatives.

Juan Lucero, who serves as my case-work manager in my Santa Fe office, is retiring this year at the age of 63 after a remarkable career. He spent over 3 decades of his life serving the people of New Mexico in some capacity. I stand here today not only to recognize him but to also thank him on behalf of thousands of people that he has helped over the years.

Juan has had jobs ranging from being a fruit picker in California to being a DJ at a Spanish radio station in Albuquerque and in serving in the Nation's military as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army. This diversity has given him a unique perspective on people and their personal situations.

His career as a civil servant in New Mexico began in 1969, when he worked at the State Welfare Department. For 10 years, Juan worked tirelessly to help people with their claims for food stamps and Medicaid. From 1979 to 1983, he worked for Lieutenant Governor Roberto Mondragon. He remembers many successes as a caseworker in this progression, for example, helping clear up a \$10,000 hospital bill for a destitute woman.

Juan stayed in this position from 1983 to 1987, while working for the next Lieutenant Governor, Mike Rybbeks. Juan then found himself working for the New Mexico State Senate Chief Clerk's Office, where he worked on cases on behalf of State senators.

Juan continued his governmental service when he came to work for my Democratic predecessor in 1991, Congressman Bill Richardson. It was in this position where Juan began helping his fellow New Mexicans resolve their problems with the Federal Government. He had his first experiences with Social Security, the Veterans Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and other agencies that make our government work. At any given time, he handled over 250 cases. He stayed in this position until Bill Richardson left the Congress in 1997.

Before he came to my office in 1999, Juan worked for the Social Security Administration Teleservice Center in Albuquerque. He assisted hundreds of callers each day, often utilizing his outstanding Spanish skills, taking calls from Puerto Rico and all over the country. He also worked as a prison chaplain at the Estancia jail in New Mexico.

Juan has a natural gift for helping people during hard times. Our constituents that come to our offices for help are usually at the end of their rope and

frustrated by miles of red tape and bureaucracy that they have had to endure. Wherever Juan absorbed his passion for service, it has been a fulfilling aspect of his life. As he once explained: "This is one place where you can really help people, and the most desperate person can come here and at the very least they can find an ear to let out their frustrations. To be able to make someone's life more meaningful is a special privilege. People come to their Congressman with life-changing events. Their problems are serious. To me, all cases are important because they mean so much to the individual. The reward in this type of work is so much greater than money."

For about 15 years, Juan has been commuting to Santa Fe from his home in Torreon, 4 hours round trip. Neither rain nor snow nor hail nor heat nor the gloom of night has kept him from faithfully doing his job.

I cannot begin to describe the case-work successes that we have shared together. Juan has also earned several letters to the editor in various newspapers in New Mexico thanking him for his diligent work. Those examples speak volumes about Juan's work ethic.

Juan is a veteran, a husband of 40 years, a father to 13 children, and a grandfather to 26. I know that more than anything he ever did in his professional career he is most proud of his loving family. He has a true passion for his Spanish heritage.

He enjoys explaining to those of different backgrounds the traditions and the history of his people. He has helped me in my quest to provide justice to Hispanic land grant heirs of the Southwest.

He is a talented musician and takes great pride in performing with his family throughout New Mexico. He loves music and has written many corridos, Mexican ballads, during his life. Some of these songs are archived at the University of New Mexico Department of Music.

I applaud Juan for his great public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO U.S. WORLD CUP SOCCER TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I do not know if any of my colleagues have done this, but I simply wanted to rise and extend congratulations to the U.S. World Cup soccer team. Over the last weeks, we have had the chance to watch a phenomenal group of individuals under the leadership of Coach Arena move all the way to the quarter finals. We saw the spectacular win earlier this week over our dear friends from Mexico.

Today, unfortunately, we saw them lose 1-0 to Germany. There is little doubt that the game that was played