

the Federal Government” by the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is to be honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of the College of Arts & Sciences of the University of Oklahoma in 2005.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Dr. Brandt and his wife of 51 years, Patricia Lawson Brandt, raised three sons, Patrick James, Edward III, and Rex Carlin Brandt. They have four grandchildren, Rex Carlin Brandt, Jr., Jeremy Scott Brandt, Justin Schwartz and Karina Schwartz.

This Fall, Dr. Brandt will “retire.” In fact, he has become Regents Professor Emeritus and continues to teach, advise students and otherwise remain active in many activities of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. I am pleased to join with the citizens of the great state of Oklahoma and of this nation in thanking and recognizing Dr. Edward N. Brandt, Jr., for his long service and many contributions to our society. We are proud to have a gentleman, scholar, and citizen of his caliber in our midst.

RECOGNIZING THE BRACEROS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the achievements of Hispanic Americans during Hispanic Heritage Month, I stand to recognize a group of individuals, known as the Braceros, for their incredible contributions to our great nation during World War II.

September 29th marked the Day of the Bracero. These brave men registered to leave their wives and children behind in their country of origin and homes, while they came to the United States as the “soldiers of the fields.” The Braceros wore no uniform and received no medals, but today I rise to honor the Braceros just as I salute our World War II veterans, living and deceased, for their contributions to a safer world and democracy.

This is merely a partial list of the hundreds of Braceros whose families live in my district:

Antonio Silva; Jesus Fernandez; Julian Paras Aguilera; Jesus Sanchez Beltran; Amador Palafox Bustos; Exiquio Contreras Parra; Leonides Gomez; Arturo Venegas, Sr.; Jose Luis Figueroa Tamayo Jose Negrete Sanchez; Jose Dolores Magaña Areas; Jose Ramirez Barajas; J. Jesus Torres Salas; Sr. Gutierrez; Alejandro Arellano; Sr. Magaña; Pedro de Luna; Roberto Mauzo; Jose F. Ramirez; Rodolfo Martinez Castillo; Modesto Martinez Rosas Ramon Barraza; Carlos Rodriguez; Julian Paras; Jose Guadalupe Ruiz Aguilar; Ruben Cortez Luna; Jose Isabel Violaro; Antonio Hernandez; Joaquin Mendez Mendez; Jesus Torres Salas Rodolfo Castaneda; Juan Reyes Garcia; Rodrigo Izquierdo; Jose Diaz; Conrado Cardenas; Lazaro Gonzalo; Martin Perez; Celedonio Perez; Jose Lua; Cecilio Santillana; Sotero Cervantes; Flores Timoteo; Juan Rico; Francisco Mariscal; Manuel Nava; Jesus Macias;

Ruben Jarillo; Juan Rico; Juan Baes; Manuel Briceno; Arturo Romero Barajas; Jose Sanchez Rodriguez; Gonzalo Castaneda; Honorio Ramirez; Antonio Gutierrez; etc.

World War II forced our nation to shift the economy. Throughout the war, upwards of 13 million men served in our nation, roughly one-tenth of the total population. While our servicemen were fighting across the oceans, millions more were working constant shifts in the factories to support the war effort. This resulted in a severe labor shortage in concentrated areas, such as agriculture.

In an effort to minimize this loss of labor, the United States and Mexico entered into a bilateral agreement in August 1942 to provide contracted labor.

These guest workers, known as Braceros, (a derivative of “brazo” literally meaning “arm”) were recruited and hired to work in the fields and on the railroads across the United States.

The first 1,500 Braceros to enter the United States arrived in California to work in the sugar beet fields outside of Stockton on September 29, 1942, where they worked until December 24th of that same year.

Over the course of the next twenty-two years, as many as five million Braceros had participated in the program, supporting our critical infrastructure. Some of them would travel back and forth from the United States to Mexico over a century, each time leaving their wives and children behind again.

Jesus Sanchez Beltran was a Bracero from Jalisco, Mexico, until the program ended. There were six in his family that he left behind to work in the California agriculture. His wife and children would only see him three months out of the year. Jesus’ story reflects the sacrifice of all the Braceros.

It was through their hard work that our nation was able to effectively sustain our agricultural economy as well as expand and maintain our railroads, resulting in a safe, reliable and effective means of transporting our food, medicine, troops and other supplies for the war.

In 1964, the last Braceros fulfilled their contracts and the program came to an end. However, their contributions and the contributions of their descendants still last today.

The President of the United States has called upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities and programs. May we honor their contributions and recognize the Braceros for their place in American history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 2004

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to the devastation Hurricane Jeanne brought to my district, I was in Florida attending to official duties on Tuesday, September 28 and Wednesday, September 29 and was unable to be in Washington for recorded votes 473–479.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES 107, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, it is with frustration that I rise today to oppose H.J. Res. 107, to make continuing appropriations for Fiscal Year 2005, as it is currently drafted.

I want to be clear—I am not opposing the need for, or principle of, this resolution. I, like any of my colleagues, do not believe our nation’s federal agencies and numerous, federally-funded programs should suffer just because Congress has failed to reach agreements on 12 of the 13 appropriations measures.

I do, however, take issue with one specific provision attached to the Continuing Resolution (CR) which extends, for the duration of the CR, fee collection authority under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977. Commonly known as the Abandoned Mine Land or “AML” program, this fee collection authority was intended to expire at the end of this fiscal year, or tomorrow, Sept. 30, 2004.

Layered in bureaucracy, the AML program is one badly in need of reform. Believing in the principle of the AML program, however, I have been working diligently with my colleagues from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, other members of the Resources Committee, Appropriators, Leadership in this body, and the Administration in the effort to provide that much needed reform before this program expired. Unfortunately, largely due to election year politics and an unwillingness to meet a reasonable compromise by some parties involved, comprehensive reform legislation still lags at the Committee level.

As we continue to negotiate such a comprehensive fix, extending this broken program as the bill under consideration today will do, does not move us any closer to finding a solution that best addresses the needs of all parties involved. In addition to accumulating debts to other certified states and tribes, Wyoming alone is owed approximately \$400 million, as authorized by SMCRA. Notwithstanding that fiscal obligation, Wyoming has never received what it is due. The AML extension language included in H.J. Res 107 only further exacerbates this failure to make good on the nation’s responsibility to my home State of Wyoming.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would prefer not to oppose this resolution today. Unfortunately, the decision to include the AML extension language in H.J. Res 107, despite my continued and consistent opposition to such an action, provided me with no other option but a “no” vote.