

year. Over the past ten years, the Rawson family has managed the land to grow trees and attract wildlife. They use their one hundred fifty acres to plant myriad trees, including loblolly and slash pine longleaf, sawtooth, bur, shumard, willow, swamp chestnut, cherry bark oak, and pecan trees. The family's fruit orchard with pears, muscadines, and many other fruits was a later addition to the pre-existing varieties of plants.

David and Pat Rawson have been married for thirty-six years, and they have three wonderful children, Paige, Suzanne, and Scott. They all assist in helping out with the farm, including tree planting, pruning, fertilizing, bush hogging, and weed management. It is David and Pat's plan to one day pass on the farm to their children to continue their farming legacy. The Rawson family truly embodies the cohesive nature and household unity that characterize our nation's family farmers.

Outside of their farm, David works part-time as an oral surgeon, and Pat is a devoted homemaker. In addition, both find the time to be active members of the Northwest Florida community. David is a member of the Southeastern Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Florida Dental Association, Escambia and Santa Rosa Dental Society, and Escambia Sertoma. Pat is a member of the Junior League of Pensacola and Gulf Breeze Hospital Auxiliary. They both worship and volunteer at the Dorcas Baptist Church, and their continued commitment to agriculture and wildlife is further displayed through their involvement with the Certified Tree Farmers of America, National Wild Turkey Federation, Forest Landowners Association, National Rifle Association, and Florida Farm Bureau. The Rawson's commitment to farm, family, faith, and community is certainly commendable, and they serve as an example to all.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families, and I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to the outstanding farm families located in Northwest Florida. This year we honor the Rawson family for their contributions to Okaloosa County and the farming community. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Rawson family for being awarded the title of Okaloosa County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family for 2012. My wife, Vicki and I extend our best wishes for their continued success.

VOICING THE CONCERNS OF  
UPSTATE NEW YORK FARMERS

**HON. TOM REED**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the concerns of farmers from New York's 29th congressional district. On Monday, September 17th, 2012 I had the opportunity to host an open discussion with my Agricultural Advisory Council which is comprised of farmers ranging from dairy and specialty crop growers to wine makers and beef. The members of this Council represent all eight counties of the district and based on their extensive experience and contributions to New York Agriculture, I greatly value their opinions.

With Agriculture being the largest industry in New York State, any legislation which impacts our farmers also has a direct impact on our local economy as well as our communities. While all members of this Council said that they would prefer a long term Farm Bill over any extension, I heard an additional sentiment from the audience. That sentiment is a need for stability. This year's setbacks have reminded us just how extremely volatile the agricultural industry is and without stability today, our farmers cannot accurately plan for tomorrow and years to come.

Western New York dairy farmers are currently dealing with the growing Greek yogurt industry in New York State. Without Congressional action, provisions critical to the dairy industry will expire, and dairy farmers across New York will be faced with skyrocketing feed prices. For many of the small family farms in New York this could mean the end of their livelihood. While many provisions in the current farm bill would remain intact through the end of the year, inaction by Congress before September 30th will leave dairy farmers in New York out in the cold.

Other farmers in my district are anxious about the Estate Tax, which is set to return to 55 percent in 2013. Mr. Speaker, with the value of equipment and property, even the smallest farms in New York can be appraised at over one million dollars, making them eligible to be taxed. Our farmers again need the stability of knowing they can build for their family's future and be able to pass down the fruits of their labor for their children and grandchildren. We cannot return to the days when family farms had to be sold off just to pay the estate taxes.

Mr. Speaker, our farmers are the backbone of our nation. We need to help them stabilize their production costs, stabilize their workforce and stabilize their confidence. With a stable agricultural sector we can create jobs, and continue to work to improve our economy and provide badly-needed career opportunities.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NASHVILLE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA LEAGUE

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a Music City gem that is celebrating its Diamond Anniversary. This fall marks the 60th Anniversary of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra League. Helping to bring the lofty sounds of the soul to Middle Tennessee, the Orchestra League's good work adds more than just notes to our great State, it adds a glorious soundtrack to our story.

The Nashville Symphony Orchestra League works to support and promote the work of the Nashville Symphony. Since 1946, the Nashville Symphony has been enriching audiences and shaping cultural life through a diverse mix of concerts and performances. The Nashville Symphony Orchestra League, founded in 1952, engages the community by providing innovative programs and educational opportunities; a mission that has been at the heart of the orchestra since its beginnings. For over 60

years the Orchestra League has touched countless lives, the young at heart and in age, as it continues to offer time, talents, and treasures to enrich the music.

Were it not for the Nashville Symphony Orchestra League, and its hard work throughout the years, Middle Tennessee might not have another beautiful note in her composition known the world over. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honor of those who dedicate their work to the ongoing preservation of the Nashville Symphony; ensuring Nashville's extraordinary and musical legacy rises and settles for another generation of Music City listeners.

HONORING SHELDON OHREN

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Sheldon Ohren of Monsey in my district who was elected National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. at its 117th Annual National Convention this August. He has served as Commander of the Department of New York and is a life member of PFC Fred Hecht Post 425 in Rockland County.

Mr. Ohren served in the Air Force from April 1952 through January 1956. As an Airman First Class, he was assigned to the 6910th Security Group Headquarters in Landsberg am Lech, Germany, where he served as a cryptographic communications specialist.

After leaving the service, he enrolled at New York University and graduated with a Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations. Afterwards he finished his accounting credits at the City College of New York and in 1965 joined the Internal Revenue Service. Before retiring in 2000 as an Appeals Team Chief, he earned a Master of Science Degree from Pace University and taught at Long Island University.

Mr. Ohren was elected Jr. Vice Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, and ultimately Commander of the JWV Department of New York in 2008. He has worked as a member of the National Executive Committee, the National Court, the Convention Committee, as well as a Special Assistant to the President of the National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

He also serves as Vice-Chairman of the West Point Liaison Committee and attends Oneg Shabbats sponsored by JWV at the Academy, and presents Kiddush Cups and Shabbat Candlesticks to the Jewish graduates. In addition, he represents JWV at local Naturalization ceremonies and presents a copy of the Bill of Rights to the new citizens.

Mr. Ohren is a regular visitor at the VA Hospital in Montrose, NY, and has served as a Docent at the Camp Shanks Museum, the Port of Embarkation during World War II.

In addition to JWV, he has been President and Treasurer of his B'nai B'rith Lodge for 10 years and has been a member of Congregation Shaarey Israel for the past 19 years. He is also a Charter Member of the United States Holocaust Museum and a member of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center in Spring Valley, NY.

He is a Brooklyn native and he and his wife Judy, a Life Member of the Ladies Auxiliary of