

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DOUG
MADDOX

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 30, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the life of my dear friend and celebrated dairyman, Doug Maddox. One of our Nation's most principled and innovative farmers, Doug passed away on December 19, 2011, at the age of 75. Doug's immense impact on the San Joaquin Valley, California, and our Nation will ensure that his legacy lives on for years to come.

Doug was born in Hanford, California, under what he described as "dirt-poor" conditions. From the time he was six years old until he was in college he picked cotton by hand and was an integral part of his family's farm, which was located in Laton, California.

Doug was passionate in everything he did. Although his family did not operate a dairy farm, Doug's entrepreneurial spirit led him to enter the dairy industry after a neighbor gave him a bull calf. Doug's neighbor gave him this bull calf with the condition that Doug attend college. This gift changed Doug's life. By the time he graduated high school, he had two

calves and two heifers. Upon graduating from high school, Doug attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he was an active and dedicated student. Doug left college with 14 cows and 14 heifers.

Doug went on to establish RuAnn and Maddox Dairies in Riverdale, California. The name RuAnn is a combination of his parents' names: Rufus and Annie. Over the years, Doug and his family grew their operation to one of the largest in the Nation. RuAnn and Maddox dairies have over 5,000 registered Holstein cows, with over 12,000 total animals. Doug also farmed 10,000 acres, 5,000 of which included almonds and vineyards, with the remainder used as cropland for the dairy herd.

Doug had an unwavering love for the San Joaquin Valley and was well aware of the issues it faced. Not only did he work tirelessly to ensure the success of his business, he also dedicated his time to ensuring the health of our Valley. He committed time to visit Washington, D.C., to discuss dairy legislation with members of Congress. In addition, Doug advised the Riverdale District School Board, the National Dairy Herd Information Association (DHIA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Board, the California Milk Marketing Producer Review Board, and Holstein Association USA. He was past president of both California DHIA and Holstein Associa-

tion USA. Doug also demonstrated his passion for agriculture by mentoring future farmers and leaders.

Doug's many accomplishments did not go unnoticed. He was honored by Cal Poly as an Outstanding Alum in the School of Agriculture. He was also honored by the National Dairy Shrine as the Distinguished Cattle Breeder, by Holstein USA as the Elite Breeder, and as Outstanding Dairy Producer by the World Agriculture Exposition in Tulare, California, one of the largest in the world.

Doug always placed the utmost importance on loyalty and friendship. Through times of adversity, Doug could always be counted on to provide advice and counsel. He is survived by his loving wife Matilda; his four children, Steve, Patrick, Julia, and Liz; and his beloved grandchildren, many of whom are active in the family business.

Doug's unique combination of knowledge, dedication, and resolve remains unmatched. Doug's jovial demeanor will forever be remembered. He was a first class gentleman who always aspired to help his industry, his State, and his country. As we reflect on the relationships Doug formed and the partnerships he made, let us aspire to lead a life like Doug's—one filled with determination, compassion, and love.

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