

# Trade policies and drought topics of meeting

This week, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary, Ann Veneman, and the U.S. Trade Ambassador, Robert Zoellick, met with members of the House Agriculture Committee to discuss upcoming trade negotiations. A meeting of the World Trade Organization will be held in Mexico, later this month.

I spoke about the importance of ensuring market access for the commodities produced by Kansas farmers and maintaining the ability of the United States to respond to unfair trading practices in foreign countries. In addition, I took the opportunity to let the Agriculture Secretary know of the current situation in Kansas agriculture and the fact that many farmers in our state are facing the fourth consecutive year of drought conditions.

## Veterans Invited to Health Care Forum Planned for Clay Center

On Monday, September 15, I will host representatives from the Veterans Administration to meet with Kansas veterans at a forum in Clay Center. I invite anyone interested in veterans' health care to attend the forum and share their suggestions and ideas for improving access to and quality of veterans health care services with Veterans Administration personnel.

The directors of the Veterans Medical Centers in Topeka, Leavenworth and Wichita will participate, as well as a representative from the Community Based Outpatient Clinics, to provide an over-



**jerry moran**

• in congress

view and update on health care services available to veterans. In addition, veterans service officers will be available to assist individual veterans with specific case related issues. As a member of the House Veterans Subcommittee on Health, I have held hearings and other forums across the state to address veterans health care issues. Now more than ever, we need to ensure that today's veterans and future veterans receive the health care services they have earned and deserve.

This forum will help me to become better informed on how the Veterans Administration is serving our veterans and on the overall status of veterans' care in Kansas — specifically in northeast Kansas. The Veterans' Health Care Forum will be held on Monday, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Center, 730 Court Street, in Clay Center.

## Speaking to the State Chamber of Commerce

This week, I had the opportunity to speak before the board of directors to the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Wichita.

During the discussion, we talked about the challenges our state faces with rising health care costs and

providing insurance coverage. We talked about the state of the agriculture economy and how that affects the state economy. In addition, we discussed the need for Congress to pass a comprehensive energy policy.

In addition, I urged the Chamber to do all they can to bring back the "Big Red One" to Kansas. The Department of Defense is looking into the possibility of moving the Army's First Infantry Division from Germany back to the U.S., and Fort Riley is rumored to be a top possibility. The return of this division to its prior home at Fort Riley would provide a significant boost not only to the Junction City and Fort Riley areas, but to the entire state. Kansas businesses, communities, and citizens must work together to support our troops and highlight the important role that Fort Riley plays in the U.S. Army. Fort Riley is one of the top Army bases in the country, and we as a state should do all we can to see that this distinguished unit returns to the state.

## Meeting with Kansans at the State Fair

Immediately after votes ended in Washington, I flew back to Kansas for the start of the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson. I've attended the fair each year I've been a member of Congress. It's a great opportunity for me to meet with Kansans and gather their suggestions to take back to Washington, D.C.

On Saturday, I took part in several

events, including a Salute to the Military, hosted by Kelly Lenz and broadcast on WIBW Radio. The hour-long event included the Chief of Staff at Fort Riley, Richard McPhee, the Vice Commander of McConnell Air Force Base, Colonel David Kramer, and Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts. Throughout the program, patriotic music was performed by the Buhler High School Singers.

Also at the fair on Saturday, I took part in the Kansas Farm Bureau Agriculture Leaders Breakfast and the state fair's annual Legislator's Day. I have an information booth available throughout the rest of the week at the fair, which runs through September 14. The booth is located in the Pride of Kansas Building. Staff will be on hand throughout the fair to answer questions and provide any information people might be seeking.

## Presenting the Purple Heart

One of the great honors I have as a Member of Congress is to recognize military veterans for their service. On Saturday, I was able to present the Purple Heart to Albert Klose of Hillsboro before his friends and family at the Hillsboro American Legion.

Klose was a truck driver in the U.S. Army in World War II. He was wounded on March 8, 1946 in Italy. In addition to the Purple Heart, Klose earned the FAME Ribbon with four bronze battle stars and a victory medal. I congratulate Klose

for this recognition and thank him for his brave service to protect our country.

## Meeting with Residents in Hoisington

Monday was Labor Day across our country — a day set aside to honor the American worker. It's also a day on which many small towns across our state hold community celebrations.

I took the opportunity to visit with Hoisington-area residents during their annual celebration. I visited with people around town and all along the "Freedom in the Heartland" parade route.

## In the Office

Being back in Washington, D.C. allowed me the opportunity to meet with Kansans visiting the capital. Victor and Lola Suelter of Lincoln were in to visit their daughter, Jeanette. Jeanette works for you in my Washington, D.C. offices. Also in was Miss Kansas, Angela Busby of Lenexa. Also visiting the office were Kari Austin, originally from

Hays, and Dr. Rick Kellerman, originally from Plainville, and other health care representatives from the University of Kansas Medical Center to discuss additional Medicare reimbursements for teaching hospitals.

## Contact me

It is an honor to serve you in Washington, D.C. Please let me know how I can be of service. You can email me at: jerry.moran@mail.house.gov or visit my webpage at: www.house.gov/moran-ks01/.

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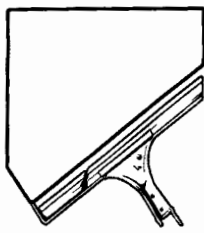
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