



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

House of Representatives

HONORING THE 125th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT GRANGE

HON. JOSEPH D. COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, December 2, 2010

MR. COURTNEY. Madame Speaker, I rise today to honor the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary.

The National Grange, also known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with local chapter established in 2,700 local communities in 40 states. The Connecticut Grange has been one of the most active, continuously operating since 1885. In Connecticut the Grange has been an integral part of our states' efforts to preserve farmland, support rural communities and maintain the idyllic charm that is such an important part of New England's past.

The Grange has always welcomed farming families to involve themselves in the betterment of rural life and to contribute to its welfare by talent, thought, strength and willingness to labor heartily with fellow Patrons for the general good of the order and of mankind. The Grange's focus on community service, family activities and agricultural causes reflects well on the countless farmers who strive to preserve America's pastoral traditions. In eastern Connecticut, the Grange has a long and storied past supporting communities, maintaining our rural heritage and promoting the agricultural ideals that serve as the backbone of our country.

Not only is the Grange the oldest and one of the strongest farm organizations in America, it is the only farmers' fraternity in the world. The precepts of this farm-family fraternity are fourfold: (1) We should work toward a more prosperous agriculture; (2) Improve practical education; (3) Super-size community life and citizenship; and (4) Build higher ideals of manhood and womanhood among ourselves. With a strong faith in God, a nurturing hope, a focus on charity, and faithfulness to duty, the Granger continues to make rural life more desirable.

Members of the Grange have adopted the following creed; "United by the strong and faithful tie of agriculture, we mutually resolve to labor for the good of our order, our country and mankind." Madame Speaker, I believe those are words we can all live by, and so I ask my colleagues to join with me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing the Connecticut State Grange on their 125th anniversary.