

FEATURE – USDA OFFICIAL’S WORK HONORED AT CEREMONY

INTRO: The late Norman Berg dedicated his life’s work to conservation as a USDA official. His work and memory were honored at a recent ceremony. The USDA’s Bob Ellison has more. (1:33)

THE MEMORY OF A U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL KNOWN FOR HIS CONSERVATION EFFORTS WAS HONORED AT A CEREMONY OUTSIDE WASHINGTON D-C. U-S-D-A’S NATIONAL PLANT MATERIALS CENTER WAS RENAMED FOR THE LATE NORMAN BERG, A FORMER U-S-D-A NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION CHIEF KNOWN FOR HIS EFFORTS TO PRESERVE WATER AND FARMLAND.

Pamela Berg-Lieb, Daughter of Norman Berg: Norm Berg was proud to call himself a conservationist. He devoted his life to protecting soil and water. Not only in this country but all over the world.

Tom Vilsack, Agriculture Secretary: He understood that if you ignore it, you may not have it and that is a challenge that he leaves with us. A continuation of dedication to conservation.

U-S-D-A OFFICIALS SAY BERG’S MEMORY IS HONORED BY THE RENAMING SINCE PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS CARRY OUT RESEARCH VITAL TO CONSERVATION.

Dave White, Chief, USDA NRCS: These plants materials centers are really searching for plants...native plants...that will solve conservation problems. We’re looking for plants that will help wildlife populations, that will help solve erosion, that will help beautify our Earth and solve conservation problems at the same time.

Vilsack: Making sure that we educate young people about the connection of their life, regardless of where they live, whether they live in the middle of a city or whether they live in a rural community, their connection to that soil and water.

VILSACK ADDED THAT BERG’S EFFORTS WILL INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Vilsack: We’ve got to make sure that his papers, his speeches, his thoughts are preserved and that young people have access to that information.

FOR THE U-S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, I’M BOB ELLISON.