

Renew this Nation in its trust of Your divine providence and in the honest trust of human relationships.

Without trust there can be no open society.

Trust allows us to seek knowledge, experience, and personal wisdom from others.

Trust builds strong partnerships in business and in government.

Trust helps us take down walls, remove barriers, and eliminate friction.

Lord, make us a people who are trustworthy and skilled in building trust.

For this Chamber proclaims what America prays: "In God we trust" now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHIMKUS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the benefits of the Central American Free Trade Agreement to agricultural interests in my home State of Illinois.

As the number two soybean and soy products exporter, Illinois already sends approximately \$50 million worth of soy products per year to CAFTA countries. The immediate duty-free access for some products and reductions in tariffs on others are expected to significantly improve opportunities for Illinois soybeans and their products.

Illinois corn farmers are the Nation's number two exporter of feed grains. U.S. corn exports to CAFTA countries will benefit from reduced tariffs and duty-free access for corn products. In total, CAFTA countries are already Illinois' 22nd largest export market, accounting for more than \$211 million in exports in 2004. After the first year of CAFTA implementation, Illinois is expected to realize \$79 million in increased output across all industries in the State and \$24 million in increased employees earnings and nearly 700 new jobs created.

This historic agreement will eliminate tariffs and trade barriers and expand regional opportunities for the workers, manufacturers, consumers, farmers, and service providers of all the countries.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a quitter never wins and a winner never quits.

Seven-time winner of the Tour De France, Lance Armstrong, embodies these words. Raised in Plano, Texas, Lance Armstrong has become a household name synonymous with sacrifice, victory, and courage.

Most agree Lance's biggest victory was defeating cancer. Lance has spread his message that "you too can help fight the disease and beat it."

Many now wear his yellow Livestrong bracelets, with countless dollars pouring into cancer research to help find a cure. He truly is a hero of hope.

I thank Lance Armstrong for all he has done for the American spirit and the cancer community. His tenacity, courage, and strength are an inspiration. I congratulate him on his seventh Tour De France victory. God bless him. I salute him.

SUPPORTING EGYPT

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, today the President and countless others will be sending their condolences to the people of Egypt. For the second time in less than a week, they have suffered a loss at the hands of terrorists, this time in Sharm el-Sheik, the site of the historic peace conference between Israel and the Palestinians that have led to the quiet period and the hope for a Palestinian state and for two peoples living side by side once and for all in peace.

It is amazing to me that Iraq's first Arab ambassador came from Egypt, and yet this body seems to be always in doubt about whether or not Egypt is our ally, whether or not military support is necessary for this largest Arab nation anywhere in the world. I believe today after the assassination of their ambassador in Iraq, after the attacks in Sharm el-Sheik, after so many times Egypt has been there for us and paid a price, we should reflect on this special relationship and be glad that this Arab nation is there for us in our time of need.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC-CENTRAL AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the DR-CAFTA accord, not just because it is good for America but because it is good for the businesses and workers in my district in suburban Chicago.

Recently, I received a letter from one of the largest employers in my district. He wrote to say that today the tariff he pays on one of the products he manufactures and sends to Guatemala is 5 percent. If it enters the Dominican Republic, he pays 8 percent. And if it goes to Costa Rica, the tax is 14 percent.

In his letter he pointed out that all that will change on the day that DR-CAFTA goes into effect. Most tariffs on U.S. manufactured goods, including the product he wrote about, will be completely eliminated. For his company, shareholders, and workers, it means profits, greater competitiveness, and jobs.

About 80 percent of the goods made in DR-CAFTA countries already enter the U.S. duty free. Let us level the playing field and do something positive for our manufacturers and workers. Let us pass DR-CAFTA now.

CAFTA AND ITS NEGATIVE IMPACT ON LATINOS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to CAFTA because it is a bad policy for families that I represent in my district, particularly Latino families not only in the United States but in Central America.

CAFTA will outsource valuable American jobs. In fact, in the last 10 years when we approved NAFTA, we lost 1,000 jobs in my district alone.

CAFTA will destroy the jobs of subsistence for farmers and others who depend on the environment in Central America.

As the only member of Central American descent, I think I do have the right to say that poverty there is still something that is very real for many of the people that live in Central America and particularly they will be most affected, whether it is their health care, access to medicines, whether it is farming jobs there. All that is at stake for people in Central America.

I am afraid to say that if we take away those opportunities, those individuals might want to come here to this country. And I know that there is a movement here in this country to say close the borders, but at the same time we are sending signals that we are going to be helping the very wealthy in these countries and not those who need it very much.

So I would oppose CAFTA and ask my colleagues to do so as well.