

promote the public welfare. Citing the actual legislation, the financial institutions "may make investments designed primarily to promote the public welfare, including the welfare of low and moderate income communities and families through housing, services and jobs."

The changes mandated by this bill send a clear message to financial institutions that the needs of low and moderate income communities and families are important. More often than not, these groups are overlooked or their needs underestimated. In addition, the bill enables our financial institutions to look at investments on an investment by investment basis rather than in the aggregate.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 6062, because it will strengthen investment in low and moderate income communities across this Nation. Financial institutions must continue to play a role in strengthening and stabilizing our communities and this bill will facilitate both.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5533

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5533, to advance the development of biological countermeasures.

The anthrax attacks of 2001 shined a bright light on our lack of preparedness to deal with a biological attack. While we were blessed that Cipro was an effective countermeasure for anthrax specifically, the attacks led us to realize the real possibility that our enemies could develop the capability to attack our country using several biological agents for which we do not have effective countermeasures.

This possibility strikes great fear in most Americans, who have been bombarded in recent years with the threat not only of bioterrorism but also pandemic flu. However, this uncertainty of a biological attack or pandemic flu is the same factor that often keeps manufacturers from making the investments necessary to bring a countermeasure to market.

When medical treatments for conditions such as high blood pressure and high cholesterol are developed, pharmaceutical manufacturers are willing to make the investment in research and development because there is a known demand for these treatments. We are lucky that there is no current demand for biological countermeasures. As a country responsible for protecting American citizens, however, we cannot wait for a biological attack or pandemic flu to occur before these countermeasures are developed.

This is a classic case of market failure, where the government must intervene and provide public resources to ensure that we have effective countermeasures before a biological attack occurs. This bill achieves that goal by providing the incentives to encourage the private sector to develop these treatments. Specifically, it would provide the necessary assurances that the federal government will purchase the end product for use in the event of an attack. Additionally, it will provide milestone payments to countermeasure developers to bridge the funding gap between basic research and countermeasure development.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, which will go a long way toward ensuring that we have effective biological countermeasures in place in the event of a biological attack or infectious disease pandemic.

TRIBUTE TO COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize one of the cities in my district, and its commitment to advancing the true ideals of the American Dream.

Columbus, Georgia, was founded on the Chattahoochee River, and was the birthplace of the Coca-Cola formula. But it achieved another vital distinction earlier this year, when Columbus was recognized as Georgia's largest city to achieve the "Entrepreneur Friendly Community" designation by the Georgia Department of Economic Development's Entrepreneur and Small Business Office.

Columbus and its Chamber of Commerce have worked closely to develop a Small Business Development Center and encourage the location of businesses in Columbus. So far, the Business One Stop Shop has helped more than 850 small businesses in the city.

Achieving this designation and involved a lot of hard work and effort. But it also demonstrates the spirit of the people of Columbus—working hard, helping their neighbors, and doing everything possible to ensure that the American Dream is encouraged.

Mr. Speaker, Columbus is an example to our entire Nation of the possibilities that can be achieved. And their work will not stop now, but will continue as Columbus continues to grow.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CIVIL WAR ARTIFACT AUTHENTICITY ACT"

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Civil War Artifact Authenticity Act" that will curb the proliferation of fraudulent Civil War artifacts and memorabilia entering the legitimate market place.

Since the last shot fired in America's Civil War, countless numbers of people across the Nation have become fascinated with this monumental conflict. From the battlefields of Virginia and Louisiana's Red River to the hallowed ground of Antietam, Gettysburg, and thousands of other places that saw brother fighting brother, this war touched virtually every part of this country and every home and hearth. More than 600,000 combatants died from battle, disease, and imprisonment.

With the war's end, soldiers who fought in that conflict returned frequently, often with families in tow, to the places of the most stirring moments of their lives. They revered the fields on which they fought and established numerous associations, North and South,

commemorating those who served. These veterans created strong links to their service and sacrifice, through their memoirs and other writings and the personal items and artifacts they carried on the battlefield and brought home to rest in conspicuous places on the mantles of their homes in recognition of the soldiers' service and sacrifice.

Over the ensuing decades, as the soldiers and families who owned and cared for these artifacts died away, many of these heirlooms began to scatter, particularly as later generations forgot the importance of these historic belongings, failed to care for them, or sold the items to augment their incomes.

With the arrival of the 100th anniversary of the Civil War, and the deaths of the last Union and Confederate soldier, respectively, in 1956 and 1961, people began to consider the importance of these relics, personal items, letters, diaries, and other memorabilia that the soldiers took home. Scholars and researchers, collectors, museum curators, and others who knew the historic importance of these artifacts have renewed the connections to the conflict and have sought to protect and preserve the Civil War's tangible heritage that the soldiers cherished. From the day the guns fell silent up until this moment, these artifacts and other memorabilia have helped us define and understand our Civil War.

The personal artifacts of the Civil War have spawned a large and growing interest in the Civil War. Probably more books and articles have been written about the war than any other era in our history. Researchers, writers, curators, and many average Americans have felt the need to own, study and preserve what that long-gone generation once owned. These artifacts which now populate the homes, shops, museums, schools and any number of other venues have great meaning for many of us today. As a result, entrepreneurs have opened commercial establishments to trade these relics in honest commercial enterprise.

The fascination with the Civil War has grown a new generation of sellers and collectors. Original artifacts and memorabilia have skyrocketed in value among collectors and others. A "belt plate," which most people know as a buckle, sold for \$5 in 1960, and now cost as much as \$200 to a \$1,000 depending on the particular item. Sadly, unscrupulous people have opened new markets in fraudulent items that never saw the Civil War.

As a result, the entry of fake items into the market for relics and artifacts not only cheats people financially, but also disrupts historical scholarship and the legitimate display in museums and other venues. Internet trade makes it easier for people to sell fake items to unschooled and unwary buyers because the con artists are unknown, many working overseas to flood the market with costly junk. To protect the true artifacts of the Civil War era, I propose new legislation designed to interfere with the manufacture and sale of fraudulent items, and increasing the awareness among sellers and buyers of the large trade in these fake items.

My bill would add a second title to existing Federal law, the "Hobby Protection Act," which requires that fake political items and memorabilia, and numismatic items must have the words "copy" or "facsimile" clearly stamped on them to ensure that they are recognized as replicas or non-authentic items. Because original Civil War artifacts and