

DEFENDING OUR HOMELAND

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and grief for those who suffered loss of life and harm in Boston. I had two of my own constituents who suffered grievous loss and one of them the loss of a leg. It reminds us once again that those who seek our destruction are fully committed to that objective.

While the terrorists and others work in a very open way, seeking public notoriety, they have also learned to work in a very quiet and sophisticated and tactical way in cyber warfare.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very important bill before us today, H.R. 624. We need to really look at it, and we need to pass it. We need to show the world that we are fully committed to defending our homeland.

300,000 cyber attacks occur on major industry every single day—on each industry. We must stop this. They are bent on our destruction. We can do what it takes today to show the world that we are fully committed to defending our homeland.

MEMPHIS SOUL

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Last night, PBS aired the “Memphis Soul” performance recorded last week at the White House. The performance featured many songs that were recorded at Stax Records located in Memphis.

In 1998, Memphis civic leaders raised more than \$10 million to build the Stax Museum on the original site of Stax Records. The museum honors all of the artists who recorded at Stax, including Isaac Hayes, Al Green, Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs, and others.

From Eddie Floyd’s “Knock on Wood” to Booker T and the MGs’ classic “Green Onions,” Isaac Hayes’ “Shaft,” and Sam and Dave’s “Soul Man,” the recordings at Stax Records made significant contributions to the music of the era.

Beyond honoring its history, Stax is about education. In 2005, the Soulsville Charter School opened its doors to 60 sixth graders. Now expanded to grades 6–12, the 2013 class of Soulsville Charter School has a 100 percent college acceptance rate and scholarships.

I encourage everyone to come to Memphis to visit the Stax Museum and see the Soulsville Charter School to learn more about Memphis’ contribution to music. I also hope you will tune in to PBS this afternoon to watch another performance of “Memphis Soul” at 5 o’clock eastern, 4 o’clock central.

CONGRATULATING ASHLAND UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP

(Mr. GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Ashland University women’s basketball team for winning the NCAA Division II Championship. The Ashland Eagles earned Ashland University’s first basketball national championship with a 71–56 victory over New York’s Dowling College on Friday, March 29, 2013.

I would like to congratulate the Eagles MVP, AU senior Kari Daugherty, for contributing 26 points to the win. Ms. Daugherty was also honored with the Player of the Year title for the division.

I would also like to congratulate Coach Sue Ramsey for leading her team to victory. This sportsmanship, determination, and hard work displayed by the Ashland Eagles throughout the season has been unparalleled. This momentous accomplishment deserves the most sincere congratulations, and we’re very proud of Ashland University and the Ashland Eagles.

Go Eagles.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. CÁRDENAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Last week, right here in D.C., I hosted farm workers from all over this country that only ask for fair treatment and compensation as they do their work. As they chanted “Si, se puede”—yes, it is possible—with 20 of us congressional Members, I saw the look of hope on their faces—hope that they would soon have a pathway to citizenship, fair wages, and adequate worker protections. I saw the same hope in the eyes of my parents who came here as farm workers.

With the introduction of the Senate’s immigration bill, farm workers are one step closer to gaining legal status and the right to feed their families as they feed America. However, as any legislation moves forward, I will remain vigilant against any effort to legalize farm worker mistreatments.

I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle and both of our Houses to make sure that we fix this broken immigration system.

SENIORS’ TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the American people have just finished the annual aggravation of tax preparation. Every year, individuals and businesses spend more than 6 billion hours and about \$168 billion just to meet the filing requirements of the IRS.

Among those hit hardest by our 4-million-word Tax Code are senior citizens. Many live on fixed incomes and have common forms of income, like dividends, Social Security benefits, and IRA distributions; yet they face the high cost of compliance. That’s why I introduced the Seniors’ Tax Simplification Act. This commonsense bill—and it is bipartisan—would create one simple form, much like the popular 1040EZ form. It would be used for the relatively simple tax filing situations that are common for seniors anyway. Creating a no-nonsense 1040SR form would reduce compliance costs for seniors and lessen the burden of the tax season for them.

The Seniors’ Tax Simplification Act is a straightforward, no-cost bill that has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by many senior citizen groups and deserves a vote in this House.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. After far too long, there is finally real bipartisan momentum in Washington towards implementing much-needed comprehensive immigration reform.

Our immigration system today is crowded and confusing. It divides families, it stifles the American Dream for high-skilled foreign students and entrepreneurs, and it does not address the exploitation of many immigrants in the workplace.

The proposals unveiled last night are not perfect. For example, they eliminate diversity visas and certain family visas. But we are making progress. I look forward to supporting a bill that secures our borders, makes our existing laws more efficient and timely, promotes entrepreneurship and innovation, provides a fair pathway to citizenship for the millions of immigrants already in the United States, and includes the DREAM Act. It must also include humane provisions to keep families of all kinds together. We can and must get this done.

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IN MEMORY OF FORMER MEMBER CHARLIE WILSON

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Ohio Republican delegation in the House, I was greatly saddened to hear of the untimely passing early Sunday morning of our friend and former colleague, Representative Charlie Wilson. Although Charlie and I were on different sides of the aisle and often disagreed on policy, I always admired his dedication to our State and his tireless energy as he worked to serve his constituents to the best of his ability.

I am not alone when I say that a conversation with Charlie was always