

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, with the Supreme Court about to rule on the legal definition of marriage, I rise in support of States like Pennsylvania that have defined marriage as between a man and a woman.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was founded on religious tolerance by William Penn. In Europe, whoever was most popular and powerful in a given place and time tried to force minorities to violate their beliefs, and that was why so many different groups of people came to America and particularly to Pennsylvania, religious minorities such as the Quakers, the Amish, the Mennonites, the Moravians, and others.

Philadelphia has the most synagogues per capita of any city in the United States. Pittsburgh and Harrisburg also have significant Jewish populations. Pennsylvania continues the tradition of respecting each other, even when they disagree.

We hear a lot of talk about diversity these days, but many of those same people who tell us they want diversity are also trying to force their views on others by law. States that, through the democratic process, have defined marriage should not be overridden by five Federal unelected judges.

FUND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, globally, the National Institutes of Health works to protect against bioterrorist attacks and disease outbreaks. Domestically, its groundbreaking research provides treatments and cures for devastating diseases, such as Alzheimer's and cancer; and the more than 400,000 jobs provided through the National Institutes of Health bolster our economy.

However, when we account for inflation, funding for the National Institutes of Health peaked in 2003. This budgetary reality has forced the NIH to administer fewer competitive research grants, to admit fewer new patients to its clinical trials, and to ultimately fall behind in scientific discoveries.

Mr. Speaker, America cannot afford to continue to underfund the National Institutes of Health. This is why I started the House NIH Caucus with Representatives ROSA DELAURO and PETER KING. I urge my colleagues to join us as we work together to develop a plan to increase the purchasing power of the National Institutes of Health. The time to act is now.

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

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

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, men don't usually like to talk about their health, but the well-being of every man in the United States is an important topic.

Mr. Speaker, this week is National Men's Health Week, a time when we have the opportunity to have a serious conversation about our health.

Despite advances in medical technology and research, men continue to live an average of 5 years less than women. Even more, men are less likely than women to seek preventative care. As a co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Men's Health Caucus, I am also committed to teaching our youth the importance of eating right and getting exercise.

As we celebrate this week, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all husbands, brothers, fathers, sons, uncles—and we may even need to have a talk with ourselves—to make sure that we are taking the steps to stay healthy.

IRAN SANCTIONS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about one of the greatest security threats that our Nation and world face today, the threat of a nuclear Iran.

I greatly respect all of the hard work that the White House, the State Department, and the Department of Energy have put forth in developing the framework for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program, and I strongly urge them to continue these negotiations over the coming weeks. It is vitally important that the U.S. employ every means of diplomatic persuasion at their disposal in order to reach a peaceful resolution that prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

I would also like to encourage all of the negotiating partners to ensure that a final agreement includes the following: unfettered inspections and a verification system, the disclosure of Iran's past military actions in pursuing a nuclear weapon, gradual sanctions relief that progresses only as Iran meets its obligations under the agreement, long-term nuclear weapons prevention, and the dismantlement of current nuclear infrastructure.

This agreement represents a turning point towards peace in the security of Israel, of the U.S., and of the world. Let's make sure we seize this historic opportunity.

LACROIX: FRANCO AMERICAN OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual from Manchester, New Hampshire, who has been named Franco American of the Year.

Gerald Cardinal Lacroix was born in Quebec but moved to New Hampshire while still a young boy. Lacroix at-

tended Catholic schools in Manchester, and he continued his studies at Saint Anselm College before receiving degrees in theology from Laval University in Quebec.

In 1975, he entered religious life by joining the Pius X Secular Institute. Ordained a priest in 1988, Father Lacroix served as a missionary in Colombia. He then returned to North America and was elected as director general of the institute.

Consecrated as a bishop in 2009, Lacroix began his service as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Quebec. Two years later, he succeeded as archbishop of Quebec and primate of Canada, receiving his pallium from Pope Benedict XVI. Most recently, Pope Francis elevated Lacroix to the College of Cardinals, appointing him a cardinal-priest in Rome.

This is a tremendous accomplishment. On behalf of the Granite State, we are all proud of Cardinal Lacroix's accomplishments. He is truly worthy of the title "Franco American of the Year."

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, in 2 weeks, at a time when every American has anxiety about the economy and is wondering how he is going to make ends meet, in 2 weeks, the Export-Import Bank, absent action by this Congress, will be allowed to expire and cost this country and our economy hundreds of thousands of jobs.

For the RECORD, let me read a comment by the President:

Exports create and sustain jobs for millions of American workers and contribute to the growth and strength of the United States' economy. The Export-Import Bank contributes in a significant way to our Nation's export sales.

That is a comment from the President, President Ronald Reagan.

This is not an ideological debate between thoughtful participants in the legislative process. There are extreme voices for ideological purposes on the far right that oppose the Export-Import Bank and its work, but a majority of this Congress and a majority of the American people would like to see it reauthorized.

We were sent here to do the people's work, and I think it is long past time for the majority of Congress to have its voice heard and for the majority of the American people to have its interests represented.

We should reauthorize the Export-Import Bank and save hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

REPEAL THE INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY BOARD

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