

a “civil servant” through his various charitable and volunteer roles. To highlight a few of these roles; he delivers “meals on wheels,” serves on the Economic Development Commission of Davidson County, serves on the Community General Hospital Board, and is an active member in the Rotary Club of Thomasville.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in thanking Mayor Joe Bennett for his esteemed service to the City of Thomasville and congratulating him on his well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I voted for H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, which will delay enforcement of the Mortgage Disclosure Rule until early next year. While I understand concerns about this legislation and delaying enforcement, even the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which drafted this regulation, has delayed the rule and acknowledged that further improvements need to be made. The Motion to Recommit would refine this legislation by ensuring that the path towards legal redress is not blocked for our most vulnerable homebuyers like veterans and seniors, which is why I voted for it as well as the underlying bill. Going forward, it’s my hope that the Senate will continue to improve the Homebuyers Assistance Act. The underlying objective of securing a more transparent and consumer-friendly process for home ownership is deeply important. The rule would increase transparency for mortgage lenders and reduce confusion for homebuyers seeking a mortgage, strengthening critical consumer protections. That’s why it is necessary to get this right, even it takes a few more months.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROTARY CLUB OF HANFORD

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Rotary Club of Hanford in honor of its Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

The Rotary Club of Hanford (RCH) was chartered on October 6, 1940 in order to serve the community of Hanford, California. Since its establishment, the RCH has been a pillar in its community and spearheaded many events. Specifically, the Chapter has helped acquire playground equipment for multiple parks, rebuild the Babe Ruth Baseball Field, sponsored numerous Little League teams, assisted with highway cleanup, conducted holiday food drives, sponsored foreign exchange students, and administered a Job Shadow Program. The RCH has also been active internationally and helped to establish two orphanages in Mexico, schools, health clinics, and clean water projects in Guatemala, and build Hope High School in Kenya.

Over the past seventy-five years, the RCH has helped Hanford and its residents thrive.

We are fortunate to have such a committed Rotary Club in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the Rotary Club of Hanford’s Seventy-Fifth Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL HAYES

HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Hayes, president and chief executive officer of the Midland Center for the Arts, in recognition of his five years of service to the Center and his many contributions to the community.

An influential member of the Midland community for more than forty years, Michael Hayes originally moved to Midland to work in the Midland County Courthouse. He went on to serve four terms in the Michigan House of Representatives, work as the vice-president of executive relations at the Dow Chemical Company, and founded Main Street Consulting. Before his selection as CEO of the Midland Center for the Arts, Michael Hayes served on the board of directors for the Center and on the Matrix:Midland advisory board.

During his tenure as president and CEO, Michael Hayes brought in exciting exhibits, enhanced the Operating Philosophy and Core Values of the Midland Center for the Arts and oversaw the highest earned revenue season in MCFTA history. In his five years at the helm of MCFTA, Michael truly helped to change lives through the arts, sciences and history.

On behalf of the Fourth Congressional District of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Michael Hayes for his service to the Midland Center for the Arts and his contributions to the Midland community.

WELCOMING SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT PARK GEUN-HYE TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Northern New Jersey’s vibrant Korean American community. I would like to welcome the long awaited visit of South Korean President Park Geun-hye to the United States.

I want to express my deepest condolences to President Park and the people of South Korea for the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) outbreak, which infected 186 people and tragically claimed 36 lives.

As we mourn this heartbreaking loss, I was encouraged to learn that the last South Korean patient previously diagnosed with MERS has tested negative for the virus and has showed a complete recovery from the disease.

It is my hope that this visit will provide a venue for our countries to find new areas of cooperation in protecting our environment, improving global responses to health crisis, and for continued engagement on regional security that will bolster our nation’s relationship in the 21st century.

I am proud to represent one of the largest Korean American communities in Congress because they have made significant contributions to the success of our nation and have enriched our heritage through their unwavering patriotism, strong values and entrepreneurial spirit.

I look forward to President Park’s visit and will continue to be a strong advocate for my constituents so we can make New Jersey and our nation a better place for all.

INTERNATIONAL PLASMA AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, International Plasma Awareness Week will occur October 11 to 17, 2015. Around the world, there will be observances to raise global awareness of the crucial need for plasma to create lifesaving therapies, recognize that plasma donors contribute greatly in saving and improving lives, and increase understanding of the many rare diseases and plasma protein therapies that help to treat them.

Plasma-derived therapies and recombinant blood clotting factors, collectively known as plasma protein therapies, are unique, biologic medicines that are either infused or injected to treat a variety of rare, life-threatening, chronic, and genetic diseases including bleeding disorders, immune deficiencies, pulmonary disorders, neurological disorders, shock and trauma, liver cirrhosis, and infectious diseases such as tetanus, hepatitis, and rabies.

Plasma-derived therapies save and improve lives of individuals throughout the world, including in emergency and surgical medicine. Plasma protein therapies have significantly improved the quality of life, markedly improved patient outcomes, and extended the life expectancy of individuals with rare, chronic diseases and conditions.

Healthy, committed donors provide the plasma essential to manufacture these lifesaving therapies; and there are more than 450 plasma collection centers in the U.S. that have demonstrated their commitment to plasma donor and patient safety and quality by earning International Quality Plasma Program (IQPP) certification.

I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me and rise in commemoration of International Plasma Awareness Week, honoring those committed donors and collection centers who make and collect needed and lifesaving contributions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call 540 on final passage of H.R. 3192, the Homebuyers Assistance Act, I would have voted “Aye,” which is consistent with my position on this legislation.