

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize National Forest Products Week and to acknowledge what an important role our forests play in all of our daily lives.

The Second District of Florida is home to hundreds of thousands of acres of public and private forest lands. The Apalachicola National Forest alone is nearly 1,000 square miles.

Just last week, I participated in a work day with the Nature Conservancy in the Apalachicola Forest to learn how responsible management can boost the economic and environmental value of forestland.

I am proud that north Florida forests make such an important contribution to our country's economy and our environment. We depend on wood for the structure of our homes, the paper we write on, and a million different things in between, but most significantly for the oxygen we breathe.

FOREST PRODUCTS WEEK RECOGNITION

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today in recognition of National Forest Products Week and the men and women across our country that work in this crucial industry. Forest products have been an integral part of the North American economy even before our States were united.

From our beginnings, forest products built ships and were the main source of fuel. Through our industrialization, forest products became the foundation of our vast rail system and the media that fills our great libraries. Today so much of everything we get is shipped and contained in forest products. Forest products have always been the backbone of housing, a critical sector of our economy.

Forest products are green, renewable, and sequester carbon. We have been prolific in perfecting our conversion technologies, developing new products, and growing more timber. In fact, we have more trees today in America than in 1900.

To keep our forests healthy and our economy strong, we need to develop more markets at home and abroad for our forest products, and we need to commit more research to find cost-effective ways to utilize our woody biomass, a vast, renewable, carbon-neutral fuel source.

IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT NEED FUNDING

(Mr. HASTINGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, this month all of us know that we are addressing the issue of breast cancer and cancer generally. I will proudly wear this label today for the number of people around our country and around the world that are suffering from cancer.

On Monday, I participated at Nova Southeastern University with experts in genomics and studying this issue. I learned from them that only 8 percent of grants are made from the National Institutes of Health. That is an incredible resource for all of us, and we need to be about the business of increasing the National Institutes of Health's opportunities to go forward on breast cancer.

The second part of my remarks this morning, Mr. Speaker, deals with airport workers, specifically in Fort Lauderdale and elsewhere. They are fighting for \$15 an hour. These are the people that clean up the toilets at the airport in Broward County. They are the people who carry the people on the airplane with wheelchairs. We can at least afford \$15 an hour for them.

□ 1230

REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the potentially grave situation facing our Nation's security this week.

Despite the National Defense Authorization Act garnering widespread bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress, President Obama has inexplicably threatened to veto it. Our soldiers and their families deserve better than an administration that plays politics with the pay for our troops and puts our national security on the line just to prove a political point.

What I find most shocking is the President spent the last several months fighting to lift economic sanctions so that Iran's terrorist army could receive billions in aid, and now he is planning to block funding for America's military. This is unbelievable. Our soldiers deserve better. Our Nation deserves better.

America is facing increased threats from around the globe. We have soldiers fighting in Afghanistan. We have military families bravely continuing with their lives as their loved ones risk their lives for freedom.

Not only do we need to fully fund our troops, but we need to show the world that, when it comes to our defense and national security, the United States stands as one strong, unified body.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the President drops the partisan games and stands with our troops. It is time he signs the bill.

WE ARE THE GREATEST NATION ON THE PLANET

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to take this opportunity to remind us how great we are as a country, but also to remind ourselves that we are as great as we are as individuals collectively that make our country so great, a country where anyone can practice whatever faith they choose to practice.

You can come to this country from whatever part of the world and start anew and perhaps reach heights that you could never dream of in other places. We still are the greatest nation on the planet.

I am compelled to say these words because far too often I see, almost everywhere I turn, where people want to leave this country. They talk about how we are not great and how we need to get back to greatness.

We have never lost that greatness. I think it is really important for us to understand, as Members of Congress, that our responsibility is to guide this country and to legislate and to make decisions, but to always keep in mind those fundamental responsibilities that we have held true for so many hundreds of years in this country and that we are blessed to be the greatest nation on the planet. The only way that we can do that is if we take our personal responsibilities to heart and exercise that every single day.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DAY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Support Your Local Chamber of Commerce Day.

Livingston Parish is one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana, and the chamber of commerce appropriately—with the extraordinary growth of this parish, we have had a growth in the businesses, the mom-and-pop businesses, and the large industrial businesses as well. Appropriately, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized for the Louisiana State Chamber of the Year Award for the mid-size category by the Louisiana Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

When you have a parish that grows at rapid rates, you have huge swells in population. You have all sorts of demands on infrastructure, but you have demands on the growth of the businesses as well. Particularly, the Livingston Parish Chamber of Commerce was recognized in the areas of business resource and representation, community alignment, organizational excellence, and professional development.