

and economic issues. We stand by the people of Zimbabwe in their efforts to see a more democratic, peaceful, and prosperous Zimbabwe.

HR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING R.D. KINSEY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my good friend, R.D. Kinsey, on becoming the first African American to be elected as commander of the American Legion Department of Arkansas.

Kinsey is a Vietnam-era veteran of the Air Force and a retired Federal civil service employee. He is the founding member of American Legion Post 74 and has been the post commander every year since that founding in 2004. He decided to step down this spring to seek the State commander's position.

He previously served as the vice chairman of the National Legislative Council of Arkansas and held numerous appointments on the National Legislative Commission. He is a member of the City of Sherwood Civil Service Commission and is the founding president of the Sherwood Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

I am proud of my friend, Commander R.D. Kinsey, who has proven his devotion to community and our State and veterans. He will be a great leader for Arkansas' American Legion.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN PAKISTAN

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the House's attention to ongoing human rights abuses in Pakistan, particularly in the province of Sindh. For years, political activists and religious minorities in Sindh have faced daily threats of forced conversion, disappearances by security forces, and murder.

Hundreds of Sindhis remain unaccounted for and others have been held away from their families for months or years to create a climate of fear and repression. There is also a disturbingly high incidence of terrorist violence against religious minorities, which Pakistani security forces have been unable or unwilling to prevent.

I call upon the administration to prioritize these issues with Pakistan,

which is conducting their national election today. The assault on religious and ethnic minorities in Pakistan must end, and the hundreds of people who have been detained indefinitely must be released.

RECOGNIZING "BLUEBONNET BELLE"

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the famed *Bluebonnet Belle* C-47 Skytrain in Burnet, Texas, that I represent.

The *Bluebonnet Belle* was designed and built in 1944. It flew more than 75 missions during World War II to carry cargo, passengers, and evacuate casualties.

The Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force purchased the *Belle* in 2002 where it then made its way to Burnet, Texas, and has called the Lone Star State home ever since.

As recently as last year, this aircraft was used to transport food and supplies to the good people of Texas who suffered from Hurricane Harvey. It logged 13.6 flight hours going back and forth, which is incredible for a plane of this age.

Unfortunately, on Saturday, June 21, as the plane headed for the Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin, it crashed upon takeoff before catching fire and eventually exploding.

By the grace of God, all 13 crew members and passengers aboard the aircraft survived and are now in good spirits and safe.

I am thankful for the first responders who tended the aircrew and to those who helped contain the fire. I am sad to say that the *Bluebonnet Belle* will not be able to be restored. It is a huge loss for Burnet and for Texas 25. We will always remember this plane and all it accomplished across the United States and the world. It was a treasure that cannot be replaced.

In God we trust.

AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Cut Flower Caucus, I rise today in recognition of July as American Grown Flower Month.

Every year, U.S. consumers spend billions of dollars on cut flowers, but I think most would be surprised to hear that just 20 percent of these flowers are grown in the United States. The vast majority are imported from Colombia and other countries in South America and Africa.

The U.S.-grown flower industry has shrunk considerably in the last 30 years, but recently it has had a resurgence. As consumers have bought more

food from local farmers, they have begun to ask where their flowers come from as well.

The growth in consumer interest has been an opportunity for many farmers I represent to diversify and boost their income. For example, Broadturn Farm in my district has had so much success selling flowers that it now has four acres under cultivation and even offers a flower Consumer Supported Agriculture, or CSA, share.

So, this month, I ask my fellow consumers to ask themselves an important question before their next flower purchase: What better way to celebrate a wedding, offer condolences, or show your appreciation than with flowers that are not only beautiful but also meaningful in their connection to the places where they grow and the people who grow them.

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AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER MONTH

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a co-chair of the Congressional Cut Flower Caucus to recognize July as the American Grown Flower Month.

During the month of July, every State is in the season of harvesting a wide variety of beautiful flowers and blooms. This makes July the perfect month to celebrate America's flower farms in all 50 States and, specifically, Holland America Flower Gardens, located in my district.

Holland America Flower Gardens in Woodland, Washington, is owned and operated by four generations of Dobbe family members. Their expertise in flower bulbs allows for the harvesting of several specialty crops, such as lilies, freesias, peonies, and tulips. Most important, all of their vibrant cut flowers are American grown.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 413, I support the designation of July as American Grown Flower Month and support America's flower farmers that range in size and economic production, but make up an ever-growing floriculture industry. Flowers grown in the United States create almost \$42 million in economic impact daily and support hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States.

In addition to the important economic impact, this industry also has a huge cultural impact.

UNDERSTANDING STORM SURGE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the heart of hurricane season, it is important to understand hurricane storm surge.