

in our Nation's defense and those who serve in the 1st Battalion and call our area home.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. ARMY CAPTAIN ANTOINE LEWIS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the late U.S. Army Captain Antoine Lewis of Matteson, Illinois, in the Second Congressional District.

I was shocked and saddened to learn that Captain Lewis was among the 157 people killed in the tragic plane crash in Ethiopia on March 10. His funeral was November 9 because his family just received his remains.

This incredible young man had so much more to give the world and constantly gave of himself to others. He possessed an irrepressible curiosity and a desire to make the world a better place.

Captain Lewis was a man of passionate commitment to his family, to the Matteson community, to our country, and to his faith. He was a one-man recruitment team when it came to getting so many in his own family to enlist. An honorable man, he represented the very best of America whenever he served in uniform or wherever he traveled in the world.

Captain Lewis was a patriot who proudly served his country. He had been stationed in Afghanistan, South Korea, and Canada.

He had an adventuresome and free spirit and was filled with wonder and curiosity about other people and cultures. While he was raised in Matteson, he belonged to the world.

He, like many others, went to Africa to offer hope and opportunity to others through mission work. As called to do by St. James, he put his faith into actions and deeds that uplifted others and worked to build a better world.

As we grieve with his family and friends, we are comforted by the knowledge that he did fulfill his desire to make the world a better place by the love he gave to every person and mission that he encountered.

HONORING AMERICA'S DEPARTED HEROES

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Jeremiah Heesaker and Theresa Miller of Ely, Minnesota, for their dedication to our Nation's veterans.

Last week, in freezing cold temperatures, Jeremiah and Theresa led a small group of Minnesotans in laying wreaths decorated with American flags on top of 130 veteran graves in the Ely Cemetery. They laid all the wreaths out before Veterans Day weekend, hop-

ing to bring happiness to all the families who would be visiting the grave of a loved one.

For Jeremiah and Theresa, the care of our veterans is an issue close to their hearts. Jeremiah served in the Army in the 101st Airborne; Theresa's husband is also a veteran.

Mr. Speaker, American heroes deserve to be treated in death with the same amount of respect and admiration that they earned in life. I am grateful to Jeremiah and Theresa for taking action to honor America's departed heroes and their families this Veterans Day.

We must never forget those who have bravely served so that we can continue to live in the land of the free.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS FOR AMERICANS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was World Diabetes Day.

Diabetes is a disease that affects millions of Americans, including my own daughter, Katy, who was diagnosed as a type 1 diabetic when she was 8 years old, almost 20 years ago.

We have to do more to make sure that hardworking families have access to affordable prescription drugs, often, lifesaving drugs.

Sadly, under the Trump administration, the President has rolled back access to healthcare and undermined the Affordable Care Act, raising prices for lifesaving drugs and eliminating protections for those with preexisting conditions. That is the aim of this administration.

One in five Americans are skipping doses, cutting pills in half, and skipping their insulin because they just don't have the money it takes to keep themselves healthy.

It costs about \$5.60 to produce a vial of insulin. Americans sometimes have to pay hundreds of dollars just to have that drug that was brought into this country, invented in the 1920s, and hasn't changed substantially.

We have to make sure to pass H.R. 3, which will make sure that Americans have access to prescription drugs at an affordable price. It is the right thing to do. Congress has to act.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE COUNSELING RESOURCES TO LEARNERS OF ALL AGES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Counseling for Career Choice Act, a bill I cosponsored with my fellow Career and Technical Caucus co-chair, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN. The Counseling for Career Choice Act aims to empower students by providing effective

counseling resources to learners of all ages.

Unfortunately, many students go to college without being fully aware of their education and career opportunities and options. According to the Coalition of Career Development, about one-third of high school graduates do not go to college right away and often struggle to find meaningful work.

Additionally, a business roundtable survey found that more than 90 percent of CEOs agree the skills gap is a significant threat to their organizations. There are approximately 7 million unfilled jobs in the United States, but equipping students with the necessary tools to succeed will help us close this gap.

With increased counseling opportunities, students can take control of their professional futures with confidence. Whether students choose the traditional college route or apprenticeships and trade schools, proper counseling can make a positive impact in the lives of students of all ages.

STOP EITC AND CTC SEIZURES

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit are some of the most effective, bipartisan antipoverty programs to come out of Congress; yet many hardworking individuals are unable to access well-earned EITC or CTC refunds.

In some cases, the U.S. Treasury has seized an individual's tax credits if they owed student loan debt. These tax credit seizures, in many cases, have pushed families into homelessness. Some have lost their homes; some have lost their cars; others can't even put food on the table for their loved ones.

I am filing a bill this morning that seeks to protect these most vulnerable people from EITC and CTC seizures. It would prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from automatically seizing an individual's EITC or CTC refund for the purpose of paying back student loan debt.

This is the right thing to do. No one should have to decide between paying off their student loan debt and providing for their family.

□ 0915

APPRENTICESHIPS CAN HELP CLOSE THE SKILLED TRADES GAP

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, it is National Apprenticeship Week.

We have 7 million unfilled jobs in this country, and many of them are in the skilled trades. We have got to close

that gap, and I think apprenticeships can help. There are companies like Midwestern Mechanical in Sioux Falls who understand that and have created their own in-house apprenticeship programs.

Their apprentices get free classes while they work 40 hours a week in their field. They earn while they learn. Unlike many college students, they finish their program with a license, with a skill, with a job, and without college debt.

Now, as we look forward to how do we grow this economy and how do we do a better job, we have to understand that, yes, 4-year degrees are important, but they are not the only way to close that skill gap.

I think that in-house apprenticeships like those at Midwestern Mechanical show us an important way forward.

EXPAND REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, it is National Apprenticeship Week.

In Oregon and around the country, registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships are helping people access good-paying jobs, improving economic security, and increasing opportunities for women, people of color, and dislocated workers.

Last week I met with more than 30 apprentices and union leaders at the UA 290 Training Center in Tualatin, Oregon. Their stories are inspiring. I heard from apprentices like Sade with Steamfitters Local 290, who said, "I love what I do, and people who look like me coming into these spaces matters."

Jackie, who was once incarcerated, is now helping others overcome barriers and enter the workforce. She said IBEW "gave me a chance."

In discussing the Constructing Hope Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program, Sarah, a single mom, said that, without it, "I would never be here providing a better life for my kids and myself."

During National Apprenticeship Week, I say to all of my colleagues, join me. Let's work together to protect and expand registered apprenticeship programs to provide workers with quality training, portable credentials, high wages, support services, and a pathway to a permanent job.

These programs do more than train a workforce; they change lives for the better.

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, this week the American people saw the first public impeachment hearings in a generation. These hearings are happening after weeks of a sham process where

witnesses auditioned, questions were rehearsed, and testimony was selectively leaked by Democrats as they tried to craft their narrative.

Unfortunately, despite the start of public hearings, Democrats are continuing to audition witnesses, holding two more secret depositions in a SCIF this week.

This sham impeachment of President Trump is continuing despite four undeniable facts that the Democrats have ignored since day one:

One, the transcript of the phone call shows there was no discussion of conditionality;

Two, both President Trump and President Zelensky said there was no pressure;

Three, Ukraine didn't know the military aid was being withheld; and

Four, the aid was ultimately released, and Ukraine didn't have to do anything.

There is no "there" there. It is time to move on and work on things that will benefit the American people, like passing the USMCA, truly bipartisan prescription drug reform, fully funding our military, and taking care of our veterans.

Let's move past this partisan process and get to work on the issues that will benefit every American family.

UNITED STATES EXPORT FINANCE AGENCY ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BONAMICI). Pursuant to House Resolution 695 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4863.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) kindly take the chair.

□ 0919

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4863) to promote the competitiveness of the United States, to reform and reauthorize the United States Export Finance Agency, and for other purposes, with Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, November 14, 2019, amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 116-289 offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. MENG

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 116-289.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 17, insert "Asian American- and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions," before "Tribal colleges".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 695, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Chair, my amendment would ensure that the United States Export Finance Agency's efforts to diversify its workforce include outreach to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, AANAPISIs.

AANAPISIs, like other minority-serving institutions, can provide pathways for underserved communities to earn a degree and secure a job in the economy.

The underlying bill includes outreach to historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and Tribal colleges and universities. Whenever there are discussions of minority communities, it is essential that we remember to include Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

For those who are the first in their family to attend college, minority-serving institutions can open doors and fulfill their dreams. If we are to have a workforce that reflects our diversity, we must ensure that our government is reaching into all underserved communities.

The AAPI community is the fastest-growing minority group in the U.S. By 2060, the AAPI population is projected to reach 40 million.

By engaging with minority-serving institutions like these AANAPISIs, we can help people achieve their goals, find fulfilling careers, and ensure our Nation remains globally competitive.

Again, with my amendment, I am requesting that the U.S. Export Finance Agency is inclusive and engages AANAPISIs in its workforce outreach efforts.

Mr. Chair, I urge support for the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Chair, first, I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG) for offering this in the series that she is offering. I think they are constructive amendments to this reauthorization and important insights on what we should be doing to recruit in the Federal workforce.

And we have a major need, though it is not in the financial services jurisdiction, but it is really important for all of us to acknowledge that we have a need in the Federal workforce for a wider set of views and expertise coming into the Federal workforce. I think this is a thoughtful attempt to do those things, so I do appreciate the gentlewoman's efforts.