

healthy growth and adds over \$15 billion annually to the value of U.S. crops.

Madam Speaker, the number of honey bee colonies throughout North America has gradually declined in recent decades due to parasites, pathogens, toxins and a host of other environmental factors. However, this rate of decline has increased significantly with the emergence of Colony Collapse Disorder. If the current rate of decline continues, the United States will be forced to rely more heavily on imported foods. This destabilization of American food security would have adverse effects on the availability, price, and quality of the many fruits, vegetables, and other products that depend on animal pollination.

I am proud of the vibrant variety of produce and citrus my district contributes to our Nation's food supply. However, this is an issue that not only impacts Floridians, but all citizens throughout this Nation. This is why I am honored that the Florida Department of Agriculture has contributed significantly to addressing Colony Collapse Disorder through the work of Jerry Hayes, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant and Apiary Inspection. Mr. Hayes has contributed significantly to the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and I commend his effort along with those of his colleagues at the Pennsylvania State University, the United States Department of Agriculture—Agricultural Research Service, Bee Alert Technology, Inc., North Carolina State University, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, it is necessary to provide funding to sustain the vital research of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group and the United States Department of Agriculture. As a former member of the Committee on Science and a graduate of Fisk University with an undergraduate degree in Zoology, I understand the value of their critical research. More specifically, this legislation will authorize immediate funding for laboratories conducting agricultural research at United States Department of Agriculture facilities as well as a reserve of \$10,000,000 for cooperative state research, education, and extension service grants to conduct relevant research to protect American agriculture. This legislation also authorizes \$5,250,000 over five years to conduct research specifically on Colony Collapse Disorder in the many affected States.

Madam Speaker, it is vital that this Congress takes on the task of supporting the work of the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group. I would like to commend my colleague Chairman CARDOZA of the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture for taking up this charge by calling for a hearing on "Honey Bee Decline" this upcoming Thursday, March 29, 2007. I hope that the Pollinator Protection Act that I introduce today will aid in this cause and urge this Congress to prioritize this effort. I look forward to working with Chairman CARDOZA on this issue and offer my utmost support for restoring stability to honey bee pollinated agriculture in this great Nation.

HONORING THE TUSKEGEE
AIRMEN

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the

Tuskegee Airmen on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. "Tuskegee Airmen" refers to all who were involved in the so-called "Tuskegee Experiment," the Army Air Corps program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. The Tuskegee Airmen included pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, instructors, and all the personnel who kept the planes in the air and bravely served our Nation during World War II.

In July 1941, 13 men started the first aviation cadet class at Tuskegee Army Field in Tuskegee, Alabama. After 9 months of vigorous flight training, 5 men successfully completed the program and graduated from the Tuskegee Flying School. These 5 airmen included CPT Lemuel R. Custis of my home State of Connecticut, who went on to become one of the first members of the 99th Fighter Squadron. The United States sent the 99th Fighter Squadron to North Africa and later Europe, where the Tuskegee Airmen proved to be valuable to the Allied Forces. In total, the Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th, 100th, 301st, and 302nd Fighter Squadrons distinguished themselves with 1,578 missions. Also, the 332nd earned a Presidential Unit Citation for "outstanding courage, aggressiveness, and combat technique" while escorting heavy bombers over Germany. The next generation of these outstanding individuals featured another constituent of mine, Flight Officer Connie Nappier, Jr., of Hartford, Connecticut. Nappier strived to excel at his work and passed every navigation exercise. Despite his accomplishments, he and others were constantly accused of cheating or denied credit for their outstanding achievements, which went directly to the white instructors. Connie Nappier and 100 other men were even thrown in prison for attempting to use the segregated Officer's Club at Freeman Field in Indiana, only to be released at the order of President Truman. The brave efforts of men like Connie Nappier, Jr., paved the way for African American aviators in the military.

Finally, these outstanding individuals will officially receive the award and credit that they have long deserved. Unfortunately, my constituent, Lemuel Custis passed away in February of 2005 at the age of 89, and will not have the opportunity to receive the honor he long deserved for his brave service to our Nation. Custis himself recognized in his own words that the Tuskegee Airmen "were fighting a war on two fronts. They were fighting the enemy in Europe and Africa and they fought a Jim Crow society at home." Lemuel Custis was a hero and a true patriot, but is widely remembered to be a "humble man who loved his country." Lemuel Custis, Connie Nappier, Jr., and the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen bravely rose above the obstacles set by the rampant discrimination of the period, and courageously defended a democracy that had not yet embraced them as true citizens.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the Tuskegee Airmen for their outstanding service to our Nation. I feel privileged to assist in honoring heroes like Lemuel Custis and Connie Nappier, Jr. who stood up to defend our Nation in the midst of World War II, and helped to break down the racial barriers of the United States military. We all owe them our appreciation and respect for their valiant contribution to this country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE
OF ENSIGN JESSE L. BROWN, USN

HON. GENE TAYLOR

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life and service of ENS Jesse LeRoy Brown, United States Navy. Ensign Brown was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on 13 October 1926. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1946 and was appointed a Midshipman, USN, the following year. After attending Navy pre-flight school and flight training, he was designated a Naval Aviator in October 1948, the first African-American to achieve this status. Midshipman Brown was then assigned to Fighter Squadron 32. He received his commission as an Ensign in April 1949.

During the Korean War, he operated from USS *Leyte*, flying F4U-4 Corsair fighter aircraft in support of United Nations forces. On December 4, 1950, while on a close air support mission near the Chosin Reservoir, Ensign Brown's plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed. Despite heroic efforts by other aviators, he could not be rescued and died in his aircraft. ENS Jesse L. Brown was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his Korean War combat service.

In honor of his service, the Secretary of the Navy named the 38th ship in the Knox-class of frigates the USS *Jesse L. Brown*.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Jesse's memory, and celebrating the addition of a plaque in his memory to the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach, to be presented May 5, 2007. Ensign Brown was both a pioneer and a model of service to country, who gave his life that we might enjoy our freedom.

DR. RABBI PAUL B. SILTON

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Madam Speaker, this morning I had the honor of introducing our guest chaplain for today, my very dear friend and teacher, Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton of Temple Israel in Albany, New York.

In order for House Members to have a greater understanding of Rabbi Sifton's extraordinary accomplishments, I submit a more detailed description of his impressive background:

Dr. Rabbi Paul Sifton, Rabbi of Temple Israel, the largest conservative synagogue in northeast New York, received his B.A. in Philosophy from Boston University, an M.A. in Hebrew Literature and Rabbinical Ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1970, and a Doctor of Divinity in 1996. At his graduation from the Jewish Theological Seminary, he was awarded the top prize in Pastoral Counseling. While at the Seminary, he studied at the Meir Yeshiva in Brooklyn and taught at religious schools in Fort Lee, New Jersey; Hartford, Connecticut; and Rumson, New Jersey. He also served as Gabbai of the Seminary Synagogue under the