

materially from the Ex-Im Bank: Universal Industrial Gases in Easton; Fluortek, Inc., in Easton; Victaulic Company of America in Easton; Noble Biomaterials, Inc., in Scranton; Leighton Electronics in Leighton; and Copperhead Chemical Company in Tamaqua.

Mr. Speaker, we have to do the sensible thing and renew the Export-Import Bank. It is as plain as the nose on your face; it is as true as the law of gravity.

#### LAMENTING DEATHS IN THE AMERICAN FAMILY

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the wake of last week's devastating shooting in a church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The killing of any human is a real tragedy, but to lose nine innocent people while they were in a Bible study simply because of the color of their skin is heinous beyond words. On behalf of the people of southwest Alabama, I want to share our condolences with the families of those who lost loved ones.

Let me be very clear. In today's society, this kind of hate-based act and particularly hate-based on race or ethnicity is deplorable and unacceptable. We are one Nation, and there is no place in our country for racism.

As a southerner, but more importantly, as an American, I feel as if there has been a death in my own family because these deaths were in my family, the family of all citizens in the United States of America.

#### MARRIAGE EQUALITY

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, I stood on the steps of the Supreme Court as the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act was struck down.

On a beautiful day in June, much like today, I stood there with the words "Equal Justice Under Law" inscribed on the top of the Court and celebrated a truly historic decision that finally, after decades of injustice, granted LGBT Americans the right to have their marriages recognized by the Federal Government.

That day was even more important to me because I stood on those steps with many of my close friends and many of my staff whom I deeply care about, many of whom for the first time had their basic humanity recognized by the highest court in the land.

I am looking forward again, in the next coming days, to stand on those same steps as the Supreme Court hopefully rules that every American has the constitutional right to marry the person they love.

I am optimistic and hopeful that marriage equality will soon be the law

of the land. As a vice chair of the LGBT Equality Caucus, I am committed to continuing to provide Federal policies that recognize the rights of all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

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#### IPAB REPEAL VOTE

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I am opposed to ObamaCare. I have been since day one. It is a bad law that is hurting Americans. It is hurting Americans with higher costs; it is hurting Americans because they have lost doctors they liked, and it is hurting our seniors because it will ration their health care.

When ObamaCare created the Independent Payment Advisory Board, it put 15 unelected bureaucrats in charge of what payments Medicare seniors could get for their treatments. Many people have referred to this Board as a "death panel."

That is wrong. I have been working to repeal this Board, and yesterday, I was proud to stand up for our seniors by voting for the Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act, which would do just that.

The Senate needs to pass this commonsense bill now, and we need to keep working to see that ObamaCare is fully and permanently repealed.

#### IN CELEBRATION OF THE USS GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

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

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the christening and launch of the USS *Gabrielle Giffords*, the Navy's 10th littoral combat ship.

My former colleague in the House of Representatives, Gabrielle Giffords, could teach us all a thing or two about honor, courage, and commitment.

On January 8, Navy spouse and former Representative Giffords was shot in Tucson, Arizona, while meeting with many of her constituents and has since made an incredible recovery. She still works tirelessly to serve the people of Arizona, as well as citizens all across the country.

I am pleased that the U.S. Navy christened the USS *Gabrielle Giffords* last week in a ceremony led by Dr. Jill Biden, the sponsor of the ship. Dr. Biden aptly noted that former Representative Giffords represents the same qualities that the Navy embodies, and I could not agree more. As this vessel travels the world, I hope it will inspire patriotism and resiliency.

I am proud that the Navy has chosen to honor former Representative Giffords in this prestigious manner, and I am encouraged by the work she is

doing as an advocate for safe and responsible gun ownership in order to prevent needless gun violence.

#### POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The month of June is the Veterans Affairs Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month.

Unacceptably, we lose 22 heroes a day to mental illness, often connected to PTSD trauma. We must take steps to reduce this horrible statistic. Even one is too many. Mr. Speaker, 22 is a disgrace to everything these heroes fought for.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is widespread, affecting one in five when they return home. Only 40 percent will seek treatment, leaving the remaining three-fifths unaware of their condition, uneducated about the resources available to them, and often fearing that seeking help could hurt their career.

Mr. Speaker, our servicemen and -women deserve the best treatment, and so I pledge to continue supporting initiatives that put our troops and veterans first.

I am honored to stand here today to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder and urge others to fight the fight to combat this terrible disease.

#### CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Juneteenth, a celebration that commemorates the ultimate implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Mr. Speaker, 150 years ago, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers marched into Galveston, Texas, with the news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were now free. Two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, its promise was realized at least.

Juneteenth is a celebration of African American freedom, and it also serves as a reminder to constantly strive for the expression and extension of the American idea—one of freedom, independence, and liberty.

This year, I had the honor to join in the 40th annual Buffalo Juneteenth Festival, the third largest in the Nation. People of all backgrounds partake in cultural activities that promote and preserve the African American heritage.

Juneteenth has established its position as an important tradition in western New York and in neighborhoods, towns, and cities throughout America.