

The Ex-Im Bank partners with American exporters, such as Tejas Tubular and Frenchy's Sausage Manufacturing in Houston, so they can close more deals abroad and support more middle class jobs here at home.

The Ex-Im Bank is an independent federal agency that supports and maintains U.S. jobs by filling gaps in private export financing at no cost to American taxpayers.

The Ex-Im Bank provides a variety of financing mechanisms, including working capital guarantees and export credit insurance, to promote the sale of U.S. goods and services abroad, 90 percent of which directly serve American small businesses.

"In fiscal year 2014, the Ex-Im Bank approved \$20.5 billion in total authorizations. These authorizations supported an estimated \$27.5 billion in U.S. export sales, as well as approximately 164,000 American jobs in communities across the country.

Recently Diversitybusiness.com announced the selection of Ex-Im Bank as one of the top agencies providing opportunities for small and minority businesses to expand export business operations.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has authorized more financing to support the growth of minority- and women-owned businesses than it did over the previous sixteen years combined.

In FY 2014, the Ex-Im Bank financed U.S. exports from minority- and women-owned businesses valued at more than \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im is dedicated to pursuing equality of opportunity and supporting economic growth and jobs here in Houston and across America.

I strongly support H.R. 597, which reauthorizes the vital agency that does so much to help American business create and maintain high-paying jobs for American families.

HONORING DR. ALLEN PAUL  
WEAVER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2015*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a spiritual leader in the New Rochelle community, Reverend Dr. Paul Allen Weaver, who for 35 years has led the Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle congregation with great distinction and remarkable integrity.

Originally from Orlando, Florida, Reverend Weaver answered the call to join the ministry at age 17. He graduated from Florida Memorial University in 1969 with a B.S. in Religious Education, and graduated with his Masters of Divinity Degree in 1972.

In July 1980, Reverend Weaver came to New Rochelle as Pastor of Bethesda Baptist, and began what has been an incredible multi-decade partnership with the community. During his formative years at Bethesda Baptist, Reverend Weaver helped institute many social programs to address the needs of the neighborhood. He created the Lad's Lunch Ministry, which fed over 100 people for over 25 years. Through the Helping Hand Ministry, the church was able to address the lack of adequate clothing for those less fortunate in the community. And the development of the Family Life

Center as part of the church's 120th anniversary has created a beautiful community facility for thousands to enjoy.

Reverend Weaver's list of accomplishments also extend beyond Bethesda Baptist. He has taught as an adjunct professor at New York Theological Seminary in New York, served as President of the prestigious Baptist Ministers Conference of Greater New York, and was President of the New Rochelle branch of the NAACP.

But Reverend Weaver's greatest joy has always been derived from his family. He married the love of his life, Deacon Nettie J. Weaver, and together they have two sons, Allen and Cyrus-Charles, a daughter-in-law, Ijnanya, and one grandson, Noble Xavier Weaver.

This year, Bethesda Baptist is holding a commemorative luncheon in Reverend Weaver's honor celebrating his 35 years as pastor. Congratulations to Reverend Weaver on this great honor.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 597, THE REFORM EXPORTS AND EXPAND THE AMERICAN ECONOMY ACT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2015*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 597, legislation to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, our nation's official export credit agency.

The Export-Import Bank, created 80 years ago during the depths of the Great Depression, has been authorized 16 times by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and has broad support from industry and labor for the very simple fact that it works.

Since 2009, the Ex-Im Bank has supported more than 1.3 million jobs and has returned over \$2 billion in deficit-reducing profits to the U.S. Treasury while providing over \$27 billion in export credit last year alone.

My home state of Texas is the number one beneficiary of Ex-Im's support for American business and jobs. Nearly one-in-five companies receiving financing from the Ex-Im Bank call Texas home. Ex-Im supports more than 135,000 jobs in Texas and provides financing to over 1,600 companies, over half of which are small businesses and nearly 10 percent are minority-owned.

The Ex-Im Bank has supported over \$11 billion in export sales for Houston-area companies for the past five years, more than any other region in the country, with \$3.5 billion going to local small businesses. In fact, Harris County is home to the largest number of small businesses that use Ex-Im.

America has already felt the negative impact of Congress's failure to reauthorize Ex-Im and freeze its ability to issue loans for the past four months. In September, General Electric, one of America's most important domestic manufacturers, announced it would move 500 jobs from Texas and other states to France, Hungary, and China because it would receive export credit financing overseas that's no longer available here.

Boeing, one of our nation's largest companies, announced in recent months that it has lost two satellite manufacturing bids to over-

seas competitors because it no longer had access to Ex-Im financing.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when foreign competition is becoming more fierce than ever before, with nations like China using any means necessary to win contracts in overseas markets, Congress must act immediately on this pressing matter. I call on all my colleagues to stand with working families and American businesses and join me by voting to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank.

LT. COL. THOMAS PARR—SOLDIER,  
SURGEON, AND SCHOLAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 27, 2015*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Thomas J. Parr's story should be taught and known. This man reflects what is good and right about our country.

In 1967, Thomas Parr graduated from the United States Military Academy. While studying and training at West Point, he completed Ranger School. This earned him the coveted Ranger Tab. After graduation, he served in two tours to Germany and Vietnam. In Germany, he commanded an Armored Cavalry Troop during the Soviet Union's invasion of Czechoslovakia. In Vietnam, he served as Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Company. The training he endured in Ranger School provided him with the tools to soldier as a combat leader.

He commanded his troop to root out the Viet Cong underground organization. He did this by moving his troop quickly through the search areas in order to barricade villages harboring Viet Cong. This provided the village with protection and ultimately drove out the enemy. For his service and leadership in Vietnam, he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and three Bronze Stars for Valor and Merit.

After serving time in combat, he soon realized his calling was medicine. Parr stayed enlisted and got his degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1975. He traded his officer's uniform for scrubs and became an Orthopedic Surgeon. He interned and did his residency at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. By the late 80s, he relocated to Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington to become the Assistant Chief of Orthopedics. There, he set up the surgery department and trained physicians. He was among the first Army surgeons to start performing arthroscopic surgery.

He served our country over 20 years and retired as United States Army Medical Corps Colonel. Following his military retirement in 1987, Dr. Parr and his wife, Joannie, came back to Texas—of course. Once back in the Lone Star State, Dr. Parr started a private practice in Sugar Land. And the rest they say is history. His achievements as an orthopedic surgeon have made him well known and well respected. He is recognized nationally as a leader in Orthopedic and Sports Injury Medicine and today, he continues to make remarkable strides in the medical field. He's the first in the nation to perform MAKOpasty—a robotic arm procedure used in knee replacement surgery.