

hope to see you all there. God bless America.

EX-IM BANK REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the House finally came to its senses and overwhelmingly passed the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. I am encouraged to see that it has been included in the long-term highway bill we will be considering this week.

We know the Ex-Im Bank helps American businesses gain access to critical markets overseas and is a vital piece of our export strategy. But thanks to the vocal minority, the Bank's charter expired for the first time in its history on July 1.

This doesn't just hurt the likes of Boeing or GE. It hurts small businesses, many of which are minority- and women-owned.

Last year nearly 90 percent of the Ex-Im transactions directly supported small businesses without costing taxpayers a penny. That is why I urge all 313 Members who voted for Ex-Im reauthorization to oppose any attempts in the highway bill that significantly weaken or eliminate the Bank.

Now is the time for supporters to stop standing on the sidelines and start standing up for American workers and exporters.

NOVEMBER IS DIABETES 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 as a member of the Diabetes Caucus to recognize November as Diabetes Awareness Month.

Approximately 29 million Americans suffer from diabetes. This disease is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States.

It is critically important that we help educate people to understand their risk factors and that we educate people on how to prevent the disease by living healthier lives.

Although there are many treatments for diabetes, there is no cure. I was proud to help introduce the 21st Century Cures Act, which provides critical funding to the National Institutes of Health so that they can continue their innovative research into diabetes and other diseases. Mr. Speaker, we spend \$330 billion each and every year treating diabetes. We need to find a cure.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, which will help seniors manage obesity, one of the leading causes of type 2 diabetes. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and advocates across the country to continue helping patients fight this disease.

VETERANS AND CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday is Veterans Day, and we will recognize and thank the millions of men and women who have put their lives on the line for our freedom.

One way to honor those who have served is to make certain that our veterans—and all Americans—are protected from predatory payday lenders, who leave them saddled with insurmountable debt. That is why I am speaking out today to urge the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to pass strong rules that protect veterans and all Americans from these harmful practices.

In Oregon and around the country, predatory lenders prey on consumers who have fallen on hard times. When consumers cannot pay back the loans, with fees and interest rates that can dwarf the amount of the underlying loan, they find themselves in financial ruin.

The CFPB must act quickly to develop rules to protect veterans and all Americans.

THANK YOU TO THE FRANKLIN FAMILY

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank an incredible American family in my district. The Franklin family of Richland Parish made a generous donation to our Nation's heroes. The family has given 50 acres of land to develop the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

George Franklin, the patriarch of the family, was a veteran himself, a member of the Greatest Generation. In World War II, George served in the Eighth Air Force, European Theater. He was a tail gunner. He flew over 35 missions in a B-17. He earned six air medals, four battle stars, and a Presidential citation.

The Franklin family represents a true American commitment to serve, and this gift from their family to the veterans is yet just another example of that service. The cemetery will officially open next week—on time—with the first internment on Veterans Day.

The Franklin family has given so much to Louisiana. I commend them for this honorable contribution to those who gave so much for us.

CHILD ABUSE IN MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, Talia Williams was just 5 years old when she was beaten to death by her own father

after suffering months of abuse at home. Despite multiple reports to officials at the Army base in Hawaii where Talia and her father lived, the system failed to protect her.

Talia's tragic story is just one of over 29,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in military homes over the last decade. This is a problem that demands better protections for our children in military families who are being abused and better support for military families facing the stresses of war, multiple deployments, and economic hardship.

I have introduced Talia's Law today, joined by Representative MARK TAKAL, which requires military officials to immediately report suspected cases of abuse to State child protective services. We owe it to our servicemembers, their families, and thousands of children like Talia to disrupt the status quo and stop another decade of preventable child abuse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWNAN-COWETA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come today to honor the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce on being named the Nation's Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The members, volunteers, leaders, and friends of this chamber are what makes this organization so successful and, in turn, allow our small businesses to continue to be successful.

Because of this partnership, Coweta County is fortunate to have many businessowners who have achieved the American Dream by opening their own business.

Our businesses are also examples of how investing in our local community and economy can have great impact throughout the area. And I mean not just the store owners, but the loyal customers who buy and source local goods and services. Healthy small businesses mean a healthy local economy and stable jobs for our community.

I thank the Newnan-Coweta Chamber for providing guidance, advocacy, and encouragement to our businesses as we fight our way out of a struggling economy and back onto a path for prosperity.

So, again, congratulations to the Newnan-Coweta Chamber on being the number one chamber of commerce as named by the ACCE's Chamber of the Year, and I wish you the best for continued success.

U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support and optimism for the U.N. Climate Change Conference, or COP 21, which will be held in Paris next month.

In advance of the negotiations, 146 parties submitted Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, laying out the actions they intend to take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These pledges cover 86 percent of global emissions.

We have seen major commitments from the United States, the European Union, China, and other major developing nations. We have also seen incredible support from the private sector.

Many companies, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies, have made commitments to the American Business Act on Climate Pledge. Many businesses recognize that acting on climate change is not only the morally right thing to do, but the economically right thing to do, also.

An agreement in Paris would be an incredible first step that could be built upon with even more ambitious goals in the coming years because the bottom line in climate change is too big to tackle alone.

We need global cooperation from governments and businesses, and the United States must be a leader, demanding bold action to take on the very real threats we face.

An agreement in Paris is good for our national security, our economy, and our environment. I wish good luck to our negotiating team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MASON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mason High School marching band, which was selected to participate in the Rose Bowl parade on New Year's Day. Only 20 high school bands are selected from across the country each year to participate in this highly prestigious event.

The Mason High School band has won four consecutive titles as the top high school band in all of Ohio. They also finished fifth in the national competition, becoming only the second band from southwest Ohio to ever play in the Rose Bowl parade.

I know that the students in the band have put in a lot of hard work for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I have no doubt that they will perform magnificently.

The Rose Bowl parade is televised around the world in 115 countries. So this is a great opportunity to show the world the talented students from southwest Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I want to wish the students, the parents, the teachers, and all of Mason High School the best as they travel and perform and make our community proud. Go, Comets.

CELEBRATING DIWALI

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, next week is Diwali. The annual festival of lights is celebrated by more than 2 million Indian Americans and more than 1 billion people worldwide.

Tomorrow more than a thousand Indian Americans will descend on Capitol Hill to celebrate Diwali. It is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the South Asian community, accomplishments in business, technology, health care, and academics.

All across this Nation, in communities small and large, you will see those small-business owners, those academics, those doctors. It is a chance to give back to a country that has provided so much opportunity to immigrants over the generations, including the Indian American community.

For a community that has benefited so much, it is great to see them participating in the political process, celebrating those accomplishments, and giving back to a country that means so much to us.

Mr. Speaker, let's celebrate. Let's celebrate who we are as Americans. Let's celebrate a dynasty of immigrants, one successive generation after another, moving this country forward.

□ 1215

CONGRATULATIONS TO EDINA GIRLS TENNIS

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, if it is fall, it means it is time for another Edina High School girls tennis State title. For the 19th year in a row, the Hornets won the Minnesota State championship. This year concluded with a very hard-fought victory over Prior Lake.

Despite Edina's previous success, this year's title was never a sure thing, as the team needed to rebound from an early season loss. Led by strong performances in singles by Sophia Reddy and in doubles by Katie Engelking and Nicole Copeland, the Hornets came out with a 5-2 victory.

Mr. Speaker, it is exciting to see the commitment from these athletes as they compete at a high level year in and year out while still excelling in school and setting aside time for family and other commitments. The parents, family members, friends, fans, and coaches are all very proud of what they have accomplished.

Congratulations, again, to the Edina High School girls tennis team for winning the State championship.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROBERT E. STARR

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a beloved Fort Worth educator, veteran, and civil rights activist, Mr. Robert E. Starr.

Mr. Starr attended I.M. Terrell High School and was the first in his family to attend college. While he was in college, he was drafted into the military and served as a medic during World War II, a time when the Army was still segregated. There were two Armies: one Black and one White. Mr. Starr saw some things that he shared with us that I will never forget.

After he completed his education at Texas College in Tyler, he got his master's degree at Texas Southern University. He worked in the Fort Worth schools. He became known as a civil rights activist that was passionate about issues in the community. Mr. Starr was also employed at the FAA as a diversity manager, worked for the City of Fort Worth as an affirmative action manager, and worked as an investigator for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Mr. Starr was also dedicated to the NAACP.

Mr. Starr was a proud member of the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church on the north side of Fort Worth. He was also a very proud resident of the north side of Fort Worth.

Mr. Starr was preceded in death by his wife and daughter. He and his wife had a daughter that was severely disabled, and they were 100 percent dedicated to her. She died a few years ago.

Mr. Starr will be sorely missed in the community. He was at every event and did so much for everyone. He was literally a friend to everybody that he ever met.

HONORING WOODY WOODSIDE

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Woody Woodside for his outstanding service with the Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

Over the last 30 years as president of the chamber of commerce, Woody has dedicated his life to the success of Brunswick and the Golden Isles, making countless trips to Washington, D.C., for the benefit of southeast Georgia. But his service and leadership go far beyond his chamber presidency.

Woody graduated from The Citadel in 1970 and is a retired officer with 23 years of service to the Georgia National Guard. In addition, he served as a congressional staff member for 14 years to two of my predecessors, Congressman "Bo" Ginn and Congressman Lindsay Thomas.

Woody has devoted his life to serving his country and his community. I am very lucky to call him a constituent, but I am luckier to call him a friend.

I would like to thank Woody for his service to the Golden Isles, the First Congressional District of Georgia, the great State of Georgia, and our country.