

world will have access to that consumer market. We need to create jobs here in the United States of America. We need to open up that market for U.S. goods and services.

And so, Mr. Speaker, when this vote comes forward, don't believe that this is somehow a reward to Vladimir Putin and the people who are leading Russia. This, in fact, is a great benefit for workers in the United States of America, businesses in the United States of America, and a benefit to the consumers of Russia who will have access to our goods and services.

I want to congratulate, in closing, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues BILLY LONG and TOM REED, who, along with 71 other of the newly elected Members, sent a letter that indicates strong support of this effort.

□ 1040

RECOGNIZING BELL FLAVORS & FRAGRANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to echo the comments of the esteemed chairman from the Rules Committee about the effects the Russian PNTR is going to have for American businesses. It really is going to allow us to compete more on a level playing field.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also to recognize Bell Flavors & Fragrances of Northbrook, Illinois, who tomorrow will celebrate their 100-year anniversary on July 25. This is, indeed, a remarkable achievement and something that we should celebrate. Mr. James Heintz and his team at Bell Flavors & Fragrances are innovating and selling products that satisfy the needs of their customers. And their customers, Mr. Speaker, are literally all over the world. Headquartered in Northbrook, Illinois, Bell Flavors & Fragrances has sales offices in 40 countries around the world and tailors its products to meet the regional demands of its consumers.

Bell is one of the many small businesses in my district that has utilized the Export-Import Bank. They've utilized it this year to support their export operations. As a member of the Financial Services Committee and a strong supporter of the Export-Import Bank, I'm proud that here in Congress we were able to work together on a broad, bipartisan basis to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. So many of our small and medium-sized businesses rely on support of the Export-Import Bank in order to more efficiently and effectively compete in the global marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, we don't always spend enough time, effort, or energy here in Washington, D.C., celebrating business growth and success. So today on behalf of the residents of the 10th District of Illinois, I want to congratulate the wonderful people who make up Bell

Flavors & Fragrances on their centennial anniversary.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Bud Roland, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Austin, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Good and loving God, we thank You for this day. We thank You for the gift of public service.

We ask for Your blessings on these women and men who serve on our behalf. Grant them the wisdom to be humble in collaboration, the vision to consider the needs of all American citizens, and the desire to protect our freedom as they provide for the common good.

Direct their deliberations to be good leaders and guide them in fruitful dialogue.

May Your grace shine forth in all their proceedings. May they enact just laws for our government, and may they seek to preserve peace, promote national happiness, and continue to bring us the blessings of liberty and equality. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will remind the House that on July 24, 1998, at

3:40 p.m., Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol against an intruder armed with a gun.

At 3:40 p.m. today, the Chair will recognize the anniversary of this tragedy by observing a moment of silence in their memory.

WELCOMING REVEREND BUD ROLAND

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good and decent man, a man of God and a man of faith, a man who has devoted his entire life to the service of his fellow man. Father Bud Roland, whom we affectionately call Father Bud, is our guest chaplain today and is the pastor of St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin, Texas.

A native of Amarillo, Father Bud was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in January 1999. He was inspired to convert to Catholicism by a loving and generous man in Amarillo named Jordan Grooms who also inspired scores of others to go into the priesthood.

I am thankful that this man impacted Father Bud, who has gone on to shepherd so many with great love and great leadership. Father Bud is revered, admired, and loved by all whose lives he has touched. It has been a great privilege to call him my pastor, and everyone who knows him experiences the true message of Christ. In his words, in his deeds and, above all, in his heart, his example is a beacon of light which draws us all closer to the Creator.

I am reminded of Romans 8:28, which says:

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

We are blessed, and the world is a better place because Father Bud was called according to His purpose.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNITION OF RETA HAMILTON

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the leadership and dedication Reta Hamilton has shown to the Republican Party of Arkansas and the Republican National Committee. Ms. Hamilton has made a lifelong commitment to advancing conservative causes.

Her career began as a volunteer in political activism in 1995; and she has

gone on to hold positions, including the first vice chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas, an appointee to the Governor's Appointments Committee, and a member of the National Committee's Women's Leadership Forum.

She served as a national committee-woman for the Republican Party of Arkansas since 2004; and as a member of the national rules committee, she is able to influence party nominations and messages.

Ms. Hamilton has been a delegate to every Republican national convention since 1992. She is also a 2012 RNC convention committee member.

Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Reta Hamilton for her commitment to our commonsense, conservative ideals and thank her for her service.

VETERANS TRANSITIONING TO CIVILIAN LIFE

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

Ms. HOCHUL. Mr. Speaker, exactly 2 months ago, I was in Afghanistan breaking bread with our troops, and I asked them, What is your biggest worry? What keeps you awake at night? I thought it had to be the Taliban lurking in the nearby mountains. Well, it wasn't. Their biggest fear—and I heard this over and over—was the fear of coming back to this country and not finding a job.

At this point in our country, over 30 percent is the rate of unemployment for recently returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. That is absolutely unacceptable. We've taken some steps in Congress. The tax credit for employers is a good start, and I introduced the VETS bill, which will help veterans receive professional certification for the training and skills they've already acquired abroad.

I also want to recognize that the VA and DOD are recognizing that we need to do much more to help these individuals transition into civilian society. In fact, tomorrow we are having a joint hearing with the Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs Committees to address these matters.

As I told many veterans groups, we didn't get it right after Vietnam. We have to do so much more to help them reintegrate into society and help them heal their wounds. I say instead of just giving them a thank-you, let's give our veterans a job.

RED TAPE REDUCTION ACT HELPS CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the President took office, his administration has enacted over 400 new government regulations limiting small business owners from

creating new jobs. This year alone, the Federal Register has published over 41,000 pages of regulations that would cost \$56.6 billion and result in paperwork that would take over 114 million wasted hours to complete.

With record unemployment, it is sadly clear that the President's new taxes and policies are failing American families and destroying jobs. House Republicans are focused on putting Americans back to work. As a result, we have passed over 30 job-creation bills in the past year. Sadly, these bills remain stalled by the liberal-controlled Senate.

This week, the House, led by KEVIN BRADY, will vote on the Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act and, once again, attempt to remove government red tape prohibiting America's job creators from achieving economic success in creating jobs. I hope we can work together to support this legislation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

□ 1210

THINK BEFORE WE CUT

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, the whole country was struck with the tragedy in Aurora, Colorado. A deranged individual murdered 12 citizens and wounded 58 others.

My mind went back to the day that Gabrielle Giffords was shot—another deranged individual. What it says to me is we need to spend more money, not less money, on mental health issues. There are a lot of mentally disturbed people out there who need mental health treatment, and this Congress has been cutting funds for mental health and for clinics and for health care. And we need more law enforcement and more protection.

There are cuts that can be made to protect our country's fiscal health, but to protect our Nation's physical health, some funds need to be maintained. Let's think before we cut.

CONGRATULATING DR. VIRGILIO I. BEATO NUNEZ

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride, admiration, and affection that I rise to recognize Dr. Virgilio Beato Nunez, an outstanding member of the south Florida medical community, on his very well-deserved retirement.

In his 69 years of medical practice, he has improved the lives of countless individuals and has enjoyed a career of many achievements. Dr. Beato is a

great example of the patriotism and dedication that we see throughout our Nation, and also to his profession.

Forced to flee from the oppressive Communist regime of Fidel Castro, Dr. Beato began his new life and his career in Miami. He then moved to San Antonio, Texas, where in 1974 he was elected vice president of the American Heart Association. In 1977, Dr. Beato moved back to Miami, where he helped many struggling young doctors who had moved to freedom in the United States.

He has received many awards, including a proclamation by the city of Miami naming "Dr. Virgilio Beato Day," and a congressional recognition in 2006 for his many contributions to the medical field.

Congratulations to Dr. Beato on his retirement, and I wish him all the best in this new, exciting chapter in his life.

MARKETPLACE EQUITY ACT

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, retailing is an important part of the American economy. The Main Street retailers—brick-and-mortar retailers—play an essential function of providing access to stores in communities. They're the engine of downtown revitalization. E-commerce retailers are emerging as a very strong retailing force, providing convenience and low cost to consumers.

The challenge we face is having a level playing field between these two retailers. The way things stand right now, if a State assesses a sales tax, Main Street retailers have to collect it; e-retailers, more often than not, don't. That's not a level playing field for them to compete on a fair basis.

There are two bills in the House to resolve this: the Main Street Fairness Act and the Marketplace Equity Act. Both I am a cosponsor of, with bipartisan support.

Fair is fair. We're making progress on this. Just recently, the Governors from both parties attending the National Governors Association spoke in favor of the importance of updating Federal law so there will be this level playing field. And just this morning, in Chairman SMITH's House Judiciary Committee, there was a hearing on the Marketplace Equity Act.

Let's bring this to the floor for a vote. Let's pass it. Let's return fairness.

STOP THE TAX HIKE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice to those calling attention to the harmful tax hikes that could soon come our way.

With tax cuts set to expire at midnight on December 31 of this year, the