

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I, like my colleagues from West Virginia, Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. MCKINLEY, remember Mick Staton as a dedicated public servant, a son of West Virginia.

I enjoyed serving in this body with Mick. He always knew where he stood on a given issue. While he and I were members of different political parties, on principle, we often agreed. He shared the most basic value of true West Virginians, loyalty—loyalty to his faith, to his family, to his friends, to his Nation, and to our State.

Mick's word was his bond. Of course, he was a loyal Republican, and as a copper-riveted, rock-ribbed Republican through and through, Mick was always my friend. There is a good lesson in that for our Members today. Our friendship continued to grow after his distinguished service ended in this body.

Mr. Speaker, Mick Staton's service to our State of West Virginia never ended, nor did his efforts to bring people together to get things accomplished for West Virginians.

He worked hard for that, and his devotion flowed as naturally as a pristine mountain stream. This courteous, cordial fellow—with what could best be described as an award-winning, ever-present smile—had a good way with people. It is no secret to anyone who knew him that all of that warm personality—that sincere charm—stemmed from a good heart.

Mick always made a point of delivering a birthday card to me, personally, sometimes in my congressional office. This May, as my birthday approaches, that good heart will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers remain with Lynn—his wife—and with his family.

□ 1600

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING PIONEER AND LIFELONG MOUNTAINEER DAVID "MICK" STATON

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 14, we lost a friend in West Virginia. Mick Staton and I had known each other for some time. I considered him a true friend, someone who had a passion for West Virginia.

He was a trailblazer for numbers of us, all through West Virginia, in trying different techniques, campaign styles, and work ethic. He made a difference for numbers of his conservatives in West Virginia. He was elected to the House of Representatives on behalf of the Second District.

He brought with him a background of work with the National Guard for 8 years. His role here in the House meant a lot to him, and after he left, whenever I would run into him, Mr. Speaker, he would always ask: What about

something new? What is happening? Because he cared passionately about our country and the State of West Virginia.

Afterwards, after leaving office, he served as the chief political adviser for the United States Chamber of Commerce. He continued his mission to try to get the message across of how we can be a better Nation, stronger, more vibrant, because he cared very much.

As you heard, he has left behind his wife, Lynn, and two adult kids: David "Mick" Staton, Jr., and his daughter, Cynthia.

Mr. Speaker, again, we have lost a friend. I would ask that we have just a moment of silence on behalf of the family.

APPROVING THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

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

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, almost 2 weeks ago, the administration announced yet another delay in approving the Keystone XL pipeline. I think they have it all wrong. Further delays in constructing this pipeline means that the U.S. will miss out on tens of thousands of jobs and continue to depend on foreign oil from hostile countries.

The Keystone XL pipeline will bring in 840,000 barrels of oil a day from our friend and neighbor, Canada. That can essentially replace the 900,000 barrels we have to get every day from Venezuela, one country we cannot count on. Add to that the roughly 20,000 jobs that will be created and the findings that the pipeline will have no net negative environmental impacts, you can see why there is broad, bipartisan support for the Keystone XL pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, this oil will be extracted, refined, and used by someone. The only question is who will get the jobs and who will be the first in line to use it. America needs the Keystone XL pipeline now, and I urge the administration to end the holdup.

NATIONAL DNA DAY

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, April is National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. April 25 was National DNA Day. It commemorates the discovery of DNA's double helix and subsequent scientific advancements.

DNA has revolutionized public safety in the criminal justice system. Since its inception in 1994, the national DNA database system has solved more than 200,000 previously unsolved crimes. It provides closure to victims of violent crimes. It assists prosecutors in taking violent offenders off the streets and has

helped clear more than 300 wrongfully convicted.

Katie Sepich was a 22-year-old New Mexico State University graduate student. In August of 2003, she was brutally raped, strangled to death, burned, and abandoned at a dumpsite. Katie was a fighter with full DNA profiles under her nails. Through DNA, we were able to find her attacker.

Katie's Law was signed into law last year, helping States with DNA collection. The discoveries and advancements of DNA have done wonders for our society. Closure has transformed our justice system.

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION COMPETITION

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last night it was my honor to be in the audience as Lincoln High School from Portland, Oregon, won the national Constitution competition. This is a terrific program. The We the People competition has been going on since 1987. It has involved almost 28 million youngsters, nearly 100,000 coaches and teachers, where young people do a deep dive into constitutional underpinnings. I will tell you, these students were no different.

I am pleased that this is the third year in a row that Portland, Oregon, has won: Lincoln 2 years ago, Grant High School, Lincoln again this year.

These are outstanding young men and women. It has been my privilege to have had an opportunity to work with them during their preparation. I am continually impressed with their insight and their commitment.

There is a lot of concern about the state of civic education in the United States today, and rightly so. But these young trailblazers are showing the ability of young people to master the subject, make a commitment, and they are sowing the seeds for productive careers for years to come.

I hope some day this Congress will see fit to once again support this civic education program, which we had done until 2 years ago. It is time to reconsider and see if we can be a partner as well.

CALLING UPON THE BELARUSIAN OFFICIALS FOR THE IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, every individual has a right to live in a free society. This May, the Ice Hockey World Championship 2014 will take place in Minsk, Belarus, challenging the Belarusian Government to demonstrate that it lives up to the core principles of good sportsmanship and fair play.

This global sports competition promotes integrity and emphasizes the fair application of rules and regulations. It is thus fitting that Belarus should do the same and show its citizens and the international community that it can play by the rules.

I then call upon the Belarusian officials for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Ales Bialiatski, Mikalai Statkevich, and Eduard Lobau, whom Amnesty International regards as prisoners of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING OUR REGION

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the challenges facing our coastal communities.

Last week, I was honored to help organize a conference in my district that brought increased attention to the economic, social, and environmental priorities of tribal communities.

With Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, tribal representatives, and other Federal agency officials and stakeholders, we were able to make significant progress in recognizing the need for active and sustained engagement on economic environmental issues affecting our region.

Secretary Jewell rightly pointed out that we have a moral obligation to act in the face of rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and severe weather patterns caused by climate change. In my district alone, three tribes are currently in the process of relocation due to the threats of floods.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. Let's help regions identify their infrastructure needs and work cooperatively to help ensure that we are protecting coastal communities and their heritage sites, maintaining livelihoods, and living up to our treaty and trust obligations.

Let's also work to develop new, cleaner energy sources, cut carbon emissions, and lead a global effort to tackle the real threat of climate change.

REAUTHORIZE THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank that begins this discussion.

I yield to the gentleman and my friend and a passionate advocate on behalf of the Export-Import Bank, Congressman CÁRDENAS from the 29th District of California.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. It is very rare that you will see, quite frankly, any government on the planet that actually has a program that they support, that actually puts money back to the taxpayers rather than costing the taxpayers.

I say that is rare anywhere in the world. It certainly is rare here. This Export-Import Bank in the United States is in fact that kind of organization. For example, last year the bank supported 205,000 American jobs. I did not say "exported jobs." I said "supported 205,000 American jobs." That is what those loans did for American companies.

In addition to that, it should be noted that the loans that are being given are actually filling the gap that private banks will not or choose not to support; but our American companies need that kind of support, especially when they are competing in our global economy. The Export-Import Bank is exactly that mechanism that should exist.

What I would like to ask all Americans is to go ahead and go online and start tweeting Export-Import Bank and find out what your Congressman or Congresswoman thinks about the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

If you care about jobs, if you care about the person who lives next to you or down the street and they are unemployed, the Export-Import Bank is an answer to solving some of the problems in our economy in this country. Yes, there are too many Americans out of work, but not reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank will just contribute even more to companies in the United States not being able to compete, but also possibly closing their doors.

In addition to that, I would like to point out that every developed country in the world actually has their version of an Export-Import Bank. And some of those countries like China and India are actually tenfold, maybe 100 times the support that we are giving to our domestic companies here they are giving to their companies so they can compete or perhaps overcompete around the world.

I think it is important for all of us as Americans to understand that there is something good about the Export-Import Bank, and that is that it exists for creating American jobs. That is exactly what it is doing. If you are concerned about the American tax dollar, you would support the reauthorization

of the Export-Import Bank because all it does is create more jobs and more taxes in the coffers, and it doesn't take away anything from the taxes of the American public.

Mr. HECK of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 18th Congressional District of Florida, Congressman PATRICK MURPHY, another passionate advocate on behalf of reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

Mr. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Washington for his advocacy and passion for this critical issue for our country and for American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out on the urgent need for Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, boosting job growth at home and the export of American-made products abroad.

Coming from the private sector, one of the first things I did after being elected was embark on a jobs tour, which included over 70 meetings, roundtables, and company visits within the first year. I have taken ideas and suggestions from all of these conversations and have put them into a plan to grow jobs in the Palm Beach-Treasure Coast district that I am so proud to represent.

This plan consists of commonsense, pro-growth policies that allow new businesses to gain a solid foothold in a tough economy and for existing businesses to expand and prosper. One of the major focuses of this plan is on how the government can provide stability and certainty and resources to keep jobs at home by investing in our manufacturing sector and promoting exports of American-made goods abroad. Reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank with greater lending authority is one pillar for how we can do this.

As my voting record shows, I have strong feelings about government overspending. As a former small business owner myself, I know that government does not create jobs. But government does have the responsibility to create an environment conducive to job growth, and that is exactly what the Ex-Im does at zero cost to taxpayers.

It is an unfortunate reality that the United States buys much more than it sells. In 2013 alone, we imported over \$400 billion, about 25 percent of GDP, more than we exported. We need to reverse this trend by boosting U.S. manufacturing and exports.

Now, the world knows we have the best equipment and the most highly trained workforce, and our products are sought after around the world for their high quality and skilled workmanship.

We must better leverage these strengths and provide greater opportunity to export goods made in America. One of the best ways to do this is by reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank before its current charter expires on September 30.

Just a few months ago, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Ex-Im Bank