

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY, III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2015, I was unable to vote on Roll Call 705.

If I had been present, I would have supported H.R. 2029, the fiscal year 2016 omnibus spending legislation.

I would have voted in favor of this legislation because it includes necessary funding to keep the government operating. It provides needed clarifications to ensure the work of the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation coordinates among existing manufacturing institutes and moves forward in the investment of new centers. Additionally it includes an increase, over 2015 enacted levels, of \$2 billion for the National Institutes of Health and \$132 million for the Food and Drug Administration. The legislation provides a \$6.4 billion increase for veterans services and a one-time appropriation for international food aid. Finally, the AmeriCorps program will receive \$368 million, which is a 15% increase over last year's funding levels.

However no compromise bill is ever perfect, and I am disappointed that the bill fails to lift the ban prohibiting the Centers for Disease Control from researching the impact of gun violence.

CALLING FOR AN END TO THE TRADE EMBARGO WITH CUBA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the continued normaliza-

tion of relations with Cuba and ending the embargo. Today marks the one year anniversary since the historic announcement by President Obama that the Cold War relations between the U.S. and Cuba were officially coming to an end.

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations and increase in travel, commerce, information flows, and research collaboration will improve the lives of both the Cuban and American people. In the past year we have seen remarkable progress. Cuba has been removed from the list of state sponsors of terror, so that the State Department can more appropriately focus its resources on countries and regions where counter-terrorism efforts are critical. Embassies have been reopened in Washington and Havana. The Treasury and Commerce Departments continue to implement changes to make it easier to travel between our nations.

These efforts are critical steps to improve relations between the United States and the Cuban people but more must be done. The trade embargo, in place since 1960, must come to an end. This misguided policy to pressure the Cuban government into democracy has clearly failed. The President has pursued normalization of relations to the greatest extent possible under the law. Now, Congress must act.

Removing the embargo with Cuba could generate up to \$365 million in additional American goods and would help to create thousands of new jobs in the United States, according to a study by Texas A&M University.

Last year on official visit to the island nation, I saw firsthand the innovative power of Cuban entrepreneurs, especially women who are opening small businesses, restaurants, and shops for the first time across the island. We can and should continue to build momentum for economic liberalization so that these women can access the tools and capital they need to expand and grow their enterprises.

I am proud to be a founding member of the re-launched bipartisan Cuba Working Group steering committee. It is time to support the Cuban people and create jobs here in the United States. I urge action in this body to remove the embargo so that we can fully engage with our neighbors across the Straits of Florida.

HONORING THE EAST NICOLAUS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 31, 2015

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the East Nicolaus High School Spartans for winning the Northern California championship, advancing to the CIF Division VI-AA Championship Game to be played in San Diego on December 19, 2015.

Under the leadership of Coach Travis Barker, this school of 250 students from Trowbridge in Sutter County will be making a road trip of over 500 miles to face a school four times their size.

They may be underdogs in this championship game, but this team and these players are tough. They have proven their worth throughout the season. They are prepared and disciplined, and will represent Sutter County well.

The Spartans have had an incredible season, and I wish them the best of luck in the championship game.

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