

Post reports of almost 400 police-involved shooting fatalities in the first five months of 2015, all should agree that the time for bipartisan action is long overdue.

The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act is designed to provide incentives for local police organizations to voluntarily adopt standards to ensure that incidents of deadly force or misconduct will be minimized through appropriate management and training protocols and properly investigated, should they occur. The bill authorizes the Department of Justice to work cooperatively with independent accreditation, law enforcement and community-based organizations to further develop and refine accreditation standards, and further authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of obtaining accreditation from certified law enforcement accreditation organizations.

Beyond the human toll created by law enforcement accountability issues, there remains the fiscal impact created by the high cost of litigation settlements for police abuse claims. Currently, there are no federally recognized minimum standards for operating a law enforcement agency. The ad hoc nature of police management has accordingly left many officers and agencies in the dark about how to cope with changes in their communities. While most cities fail to systematically track the cost of litigation, the cost reports for major cities have proven staggering. In New York City alone, during Mayor Michael Bloomberg's three term tenure, NYPD payouts were in excess of \$1 billion for policing claims. For small departments, the cost of a single high profile incident could prove crippling in its impact on public safety.

While the Department of Justice has a range of criminal and civil authority to address policing issues, the Civil Rights Division will never have the resources necessary to investigate more than a small fraction of those departments engaged in unconstitutional conduct, even with the enhanced funding and task force authority granted by this legislation. Through the support of a robust accreditation regime, like that existing in healthcare, Congress can ensure that all communities have the best trained and managed police departments. Only by establishing acceptable police operations standards can we begin to preemptively address issues like use of force and heal the rifts within our communities.

Media reports from Baltimore and other cities depicting confrontations between protestors and their police departments illustrate the current divide between law enforcement and the communities they police. In the past years, cities from New York to Cincinnati and Miami to Los Angeles have experienced unrest following controversial use of force incidents by their police. Absent a climate of trust and accountability, community needs are not served and the jobs of the police officers become more difficult and dangerous.

The energies of Congress should be focused on the adoption of legislative priorities that address the substance of law enforcement management and strengthen the current battery of tools available to sanction misconduct. As a Congress we have been enthusiastic about supporting programs designed to get officers on the street. We must be just as willing to support programs designed to train and manage them after they get there. The current national climate requires decisive ac-

tion to implement solutions. Out of respect for all who have lost their lives over the last nine months—both law enforcement and civilian—I hope you will join Ms. JACKSON LEE and myself in supporting legislation that initiates the reforms necessary to restore public trust and accountability to law enforcement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 375.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

HOUSE MAJORITY TURNING ITS BACK ON COMPETITIVENESS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I and many business leaders are having trouble fathoming this foolhardy decision by House Republicans to allow the Export-Import Bank to expire.

I thought my Republican colleagues wanted to support small businesses and create jobs.

Well, last year, the Bank helped 121 Virginia businesses, and thousands more nationwide, reach new global markets with their American-made products and services. Nearly 90% of its loans benefit small businesses, and those loans supported 164,000 jobs, most of which had higher-than-average wages.

I also thought my Republican colleagues wanted to help reduce the deficit.

The Bank returned \$675 million to the Treasury last year and more than \$1 billion in each of the previous two years.

By allowing the Bank to expire, House Republicans are casting aside a program that has consistently created jobs, strengthened small businesses, and helped reduce the deficit.

Every other industrialized nation has an export-import bank, and this unilateral disarmament cedes American competitiveness.

Mr. Speaker, there is a bipartisan majority that supports the Ex-Im Bank. I urge you to bring up a clean extension and let the House work its will.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. SUSAN MARTIN'S SERVICE AS PRESIDENT OF EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Susan Martin for her seven years of service as President of Eastern Michigan University and her long career as a public servant to the State of Michigan. Dr. Martin's commitment to EMU and higher education has

resulted in tremendous improvement for the university's campus and greatly enriched the collegiate experience of thousands of students. Dr. Martin's long career in public service reveals her dedication to the betterment of the State of Michigan and her capacity to inspire others to achieve academic excellence.

Dr. Martin's passion for higher education began when she worked as an administrator at Grand Valley State University. For 18 years, she worked in several faculty and administrative positions, including Assistant and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, Special Assistant to the Provost, and Executive Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. She later served as the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at The University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Dr. Martin's seven years as the first female president of Eastern Michigan University are marked by many accomplishments. Under her leadership, the university has experienced enrollment growth, the expansion of the Honors College, increased financial aid assistance, student-focused academic advising, collaboration with public safety agencies in the surrounding community, the creation of living and learning spaces, and massive construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Dr. Susan Martin for her seven years as president of Eastern Michigan University and her dedication to quality, affordable, public education. I thank her for her leadership, and wish her many years of success.

TRIBUTE TO MS. GLADYS OPELOUSAS

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, reaching the age of 90 years is a remarkable milestone; and

Whereas, Ms. Gladys Opelousas was born on August 30, 1925 in Marks, Mississippi and today she is celebrating reaching that milestone of reaching 90 years of age; and

Whereas, Ms. Opelousas has been blessed with a long, happy life, devoted to God and credits it all to the Will of God; she is a devoted aunt and sister that blesses the lives of others with her kindness and charm; and

Whereas, Ms. Opelousas is celebrating her 90th Birthday with family members and friends in Chicago, Illinois; and

Whereas, she celebrates a life of blessings and through her goodwill, communities across the nation have been enhanced; and

Whereas, the Lord has been her Shepherd throughout 90 years and she is leading by example a blessed life by serving as a faithful matriarch to her family and a precious jewel to our nation; and

Whereas, we are honored that she is celebrating the milestone of her birthday today with family that hail from the 4th District of Georgia; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Ms. Gladys Opelousas for an exemplary life which is an

inspiration to all; now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim August 30, 2015 as Ms. Gladys Opelousas Day in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 15th day of August, 2015.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on June 23, 2015 due to responsibilities back in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"No" on roll call no. 376, passage of H.R. 1190, the Protecting Seniors Access to Medicare Act of 2015;

"Yes" on roll call no. 377, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 805, the Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters Act of 2015 (DOTCOM Act of 2015); and,

"Yes" on roll call no. 378, on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 2576, the TSCA Modernization Act of 2015.

HONORING LOUIS WILLIAMS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tremendous public servant who has dedicated his life to serving the needs of his community. Louis Williams, of Edwards, Mississippi, is retiring from the police force after 39 years of service, 38 of which he spent as chief of police. As an officer, Williams has served as a vital link between law enforcement and the youth of his community as a figure both highly respected and admired.

Before joining the police force, Williams coached Edwards' youth baseball and basketball and has continued doing so over the years. His mentorship gave him the relatability necessary to effectively police his city and maintain a healthy relationship with its citizens. The number of adolescents he has coached now spans three generations for many families whom Williams has gotten to know over his decades of service.

As police chief, his dedication is unquestioned, as he has made the concerted effort to maintain round-the-clock availability. While Williams views that as a condition of the job, he is greatly appreciated for it by all who have ever given him a call. His career has exemplified how policemen and women can govern efficiently by truly committing their time and effort to their citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chief Williams for his dedication to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 23rd, 2015, I was absent during roll call vote #377. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 805, Domain Openness Through Continued Oversight Matters Act of 2015 (DOTCOM Act of 2015).

IN SUPPORT OF THE INTRODUCTION OF H. RES. 329 "LGBTQ PRIDE MONTH"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBTQ Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing differences in the 17 years since the cruel murder of Matthew Shepard, a college student from Laramie, Wyoming, and 12 years since the historic case of Lawrence v. Texas that laid the groundwork for the Supreme Court decision in United States v. Windsor, which held that the Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional.

As a country, America has made and continues to make great progress in the area of social equality, as evidenced most dramatically by the seismic shift in public support for marriage equality over the past decade.

Today, supporters of marriage equality dramatically outnumber opponents by 61%–35%; a near total reversal from 2004, when opponents outnumbered supporters 58–39 percent. Currently, we await a critical ruling from the Supreme Court which could legalize same-sex marriage nationwide later this month.

Our country made progress in bringing our LGBTQ brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, out of the shadows with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support.

Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better.

In April 2015, President Obama issued a landmark Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ persons in the workplace.

This civil rights victory ensures the tax dollars used to pay government contractors support contractors that are committed to equal employment opportunity for all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

This legislation marks a major shift from a time when the U.S. Civil Service Commission prohibited the hiring of LGBTQ persons to a time when the Secretary of Defense has selected an openly gay man as his chief of staff.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 46th anniversary of the LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement, where activists such as Frank Kameny led the struggle for the voices of the LGBTQ community to be heard.

Frank Kameny's courageous demonstrations inspired others to resist mistreatment, and we witnessed in 1969 what happens when a community says enough is enough.

Our country has made progress since the Stonewall uprising of 1969, and with the support of equal rights for all communities by leaders such as President Barack Obama, more and more voices are being heard.

Mr. Speaker, although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law, it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism as my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week right now.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBTQ community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent.

The Houston LGBTQ community is culturally diverse, economically dynamic, and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 36 years, since 1979, and promotes the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBTQ community.

The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world. I am a proud participant and previous grand marshal of the event.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to ensure that the rights of all are clearly recognized and protected.

People like the legendary Bayard Rustin, who organized the 1947 Journey of Reconciliation which inspired the Freedom Rides of the 1960s and helped Dr. King organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and who was the driving force behind the historic 1963 March on Washington.

Texas natives such as Sheryl Swoopes, a 3-time WNBA Most Valuable Player and champion for the Houston Comets, as well as Houston Mayor Annise Parker, whose election made Houston the largest city in the U.S. to have an openly gay mayor.

These leaders have set an example of what can happen when we lift the limits of inequality and support our fellow Americans in pursuit of their inalienable rights.

Other members of the LGBTQ community whose contributions have enriched American culture and made our country better include the great poet Langston Hughes; Mandy Carter, 2008 national co-chair of Obama Pride and lifelong activist; Billy Strayhorn, the musician and gifted composer whose 30-year collaboration with Duke Ellington gave the world some of the greatest jazz music ever; Tom Waddell, army medical doctor and Olympic athlete; and James Baldwin, one of the towering figures in the history of American literature.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge the achievements of just a few of the countless number of Americans who overcame prejudice and discrimination to make America a more welcoming place for succeeding generations of LGBTQ community members.