

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Juneteenth to celebrate our Nation's rich African American history.

YWCA BRADFORD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the YWCA of Bradford, Pennsylvania, on celebrating its 100-year anniversary.

The YWCA of Bradford, which started as the Young Women's Christian League in 1915, seeks to eliminate racism; empower women; and promote peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

In the 1980s, the YWCA was converted from a social organization to one based on service. Since then, it has been the home of McKean County's first program to provide services to victims of domestic and sexual assault.

During its centennial year, the YWCA of Bradford expanded its programs to include services and shelters for the homeless, mentally ill, and intellectually disabled. Meals on Wheels and a food pantry are among the other new amenities offered by the organization.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor an organization that has worked so hard to improve its community, and I thank the YWCA of Bradford for its dedicated service to the citizens of McKean County, Pennsylvania.

LET'S ACT TO CUT DOWN GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, last week, we witnessed an act of pure hatred and evil in Charleston, South Carolina.

This is a time to mourn the victims, to pray for their families, for a community to heal, and for Congress to take action against unchecked and widespread gun violence.

Thirty-plus people are killed every day by someone using a gun. Mass shootings are becoming almost commonplace; yet we continue to do nothing. No legislation will stop every tragedy, but passing commonsense gun laws will at least stop some. We need to pass background checks as our first line of defense against criminals and the dangerously mentally ill getting guns.

We don't know what laws could have prevented the shooting in Charleston, but we do know that background checks help keep guns from dangerous people, and that saves lives.

If the Republican leadership has a better idea to cut down on gun violence, let's see it. If not, let's bring commonsense, bipartisan reforms like my bill to expand criminal background checks up for a vote.

BLUE STAR MOTHERS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is time we recognize the important role Blue Star Mothers play in supporting our troops by passing my bipartisan resolution which calls for August 2015 to be designated as Blue Star Mothers of America Month.

The Blue Star Mothers have been tireless advocates for our troops and have assisted by providing hundreds of thousands of care packages, sending letters to troops stationed overseas, and hosting thousands of events and ceremonies.

Blue Star Mothers of America is a nonprofit, nonpartisan service organization that was chartered by Congress in 1960 and has currently over 11,000 members in 42 States.

Women who have a son or daughter that is currently serving or previously served in the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible for membership. Many of these Blue Star Mothers have seen their loved ones sent into harm's way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to stand with the Blue Star Mothers of America and support House Resolution 140.

STEVE WILBURN DOESN'T GET IT

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, there is just one more congressional workday before the charter for the U.S. Export-Import Bank expires. If Republicans allow it to expire, thousands of Americans will lose their jobs and many small-business owners will be hurt, people like Steve Wilburn.

Steve is a pretty amazing guy. He is a former marine who was wounded in Vietnam; he owns a small business, and he is a Republican. Today, Steve runs a biomass-to-energy company, and thanks to the help of our Ex-Im Bank, he had a tentative \$300 million deal with the Philippines; but they sent him a letter saying that, if the Ex-Im Bank goes under, so does his deal. Steve won't get the contract, and instead, it will go to a South Korean firm using a South Korean export bank.

Perhaps our ideologically driven friends on the right can explain to Steve and to his employees who are going to lose their jobs why this is a good thing.

We should join together. Let's pass the Ex-Im Bank for American jobs.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Min-

nesota's dairy industry and National Dairy Month.

In my home State, dairy is one of our largest agricultural products. We are one of the Nation's top dairy-producing States, and Stearns County, in my district, is the top dairy-producing county in Minnesota.

Dairy farming is more than a profession; it is a way of life for many Minnesota families. I have had the privilege of visiting dairy farms across my district and have seen firsthand the hard work these men and women do day in and day out. From waking up before sunrise to milk their cows, to breeding, to delivering and raising newborn calves, it is just another day at the office for these folks.

I am proud of Minnesota's dairy industry, and I hope that every American will take some time to grab an ice cream cone and appreciate the hard work that goes into making some of our Nation's favorite food.

Happy Dairy Month to all of our hard-working farmers.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues who have spoken before in support of the Export-Import Bank, which is an absolutely vital tool that helps businesses of all sizes compete in the world market.

It does this not by competing with private sector lenders, but by partnering with them. The Bank fills gaps and provides loans to folks that the private sector is often unwilling or often unable to provide, and it costs the taxpayers nothing. In fact, since 1990, it has generated \$7 billion in deficit reduction.

The Export-Import Bank is overwhelmingly supported by Republicans and Democrats; business groups, like the Chamber of Commerce; and labor, like the AFL-CIO. Presidents Eisenhower, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, and Obama have all been on board.

It sure seems like a commonsense measure, right? I think we have all learned in this Congress that a small, vocal extremist minority can derail the most bipartisan measures. Unfortunately, this is exactly what is happening.

I ask you, Speaker BOEHNER, to not allow that small, vocal extreme minority derail a very good program. That is not the way our government is supposed to work.

Southern Minnesota is working, too. Businesses like Davigco, Fastenal, and AGCO all rely on the Bank. The last thing they need is for Congress to get in the way and stop the growth, putting their prosperity at risk.

Speaker BOEHNER, all we are asking for is a simple thing. Bring it to the floor, and let us vote. If it passes, America is better off.

ARKANSAS RAZORBACK BASEBALL

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Arkansas Razorback baseball team on their successful 2015 season.

After winning their regional and super regional play, they made it to the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. This was the Omahogs' eighth trip to the College World Series and their fourth under the leadership of Coach Dave Van Horn.

While their season may have come to an end last week, they still have many reasons to be proud. On April 4 of this year, the team was idling with a .500 record, and postseason play seemed doubtful. They then embarked on one of the greatest turnarounds in the program's history, winning 25 of their next 35 games to finish the season with an impressive 40-25 record.

With their seemingly limitless enthusiasm and spirit, the Razorbacks represented themselves on the national stage with the determination and dedication that made all Arkansans and Arkansas alumni proud.

Congratulations on a great season, and I look forward to your continued success.

Go Hogs, go.

LET'S DREAM AGAIN

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, the other day, I was out in my community and was introduced to a young man, Tyus Ashby, of Boy Scout Troop 447.

Tyus and I got into a conversation, and he discovered I was on the Space Subcommittee. He asked if he could write me a letter. It is one of the requirements to get a Boy Scout merit badge. The other day, my staff passed me Tyus' letter, and I want to read from it.

Congressman, you told me you are on the committee that looks into why we aren't going to space right now. I hope you can convince them to try again. There is so much more for us to discover. I hope you tell the other people on the committee that kids like me hope they won't let the space program end before we grow up and get to be part of it. We might be missing out on something really fun and important.

Mr. Speaker, let's dream again. Let's explore. Let's invest in the research that is going to take us to the next generation, to Mars, and all the technologies that come with it. Let's not let Tyus' generation down.

□ 1230

ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's Awareness Month.

In 2014, approximately 270,000 Pennsylvania seniors were diagnosed and living with Alzheimer's disease. Just a little over a decade from now, in 2025, this number is expected to jump by nearly 18 percent to 320,000.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, the disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and is the only cause of death in the top 10 that cannot be prevented, cured, or slowed.

As someone who watched his grandmother suffer and ultimately pass away from this horrible disease, I can say that is a startling trend that needs to be reversed starting now. That is why I am proud to have joined the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and committed to support greater coordination and cooperation among patients, caregivers, and healthcare providers.

Together, we can improve the long-term health of those diagnosed, and increase our efforts on combating Alzheimer's, preventing it, curing it, and slowing the disease.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark June as Immigrant Heritage Month. I am also proud to represent and support Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ' House resolution to recognize June as Hispanic Heritage Month.

In the closing days of Immigrant Heritage Month, we celebrate our country being fueled by immigrants from around the world and how America and her immigrants who have built our country are linked and share in a very productive history.

Members of my own staff, people who serve in the military and our armed services, police forces, and all sorts of jobs around our country help add to the history that makes America great. Each weaves their own family's unique experience into the American fabric and makes our country stronger.

Although June 30 marks the end of Immigrant Heritage Month, the universal American ethos of entrepreneurship, inclusion, strength, and resilience unifies all of us and resonates beyond the end of this month. Today and every day, I remain committed to fighting for immigrant families in my district and nationwide.

PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

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

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the perma-

nent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, an important program that benefits every American.

LWCF was founded 50 years ago to utilize revenue from energy projects to fund important conservation efforts. In total, it has conserved approximately 7 million acres of land and water resources, including mountains, forest, waterways, nature trails, and other beautiful aspects of our natural environment.

In New York's 19th District, for example, several different projects have benefited, including the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance's Community Forest and, potentially soon, a new improvement to the Appalachian Trail.

Unfortunately, this critical program expires in about 100 days, potentially jeopardizing important funding for many local communities, States, and private organizations. We simply can't let that happen. We must permanently reauthorize this important program.

AFFIRMING MARRIAGE EQUALITY

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of affirming marriage equality and providing equal protection guarantees to LGBT Americans throughout our country. Mr. Speaker, the overwhelming majority of the American public supports marriage equality. They know that same-sex couples should have access to dignity and security that only marriage can provide.

In 37 States in our Nation, this is already a reality. Today, more than 70 percent of our population live in jurisdictions where they are free to marry whom they love. However, at this very moment, marriage discrimination is still openly practiced in 13 States, taking away the securities and protections, financial and otherwise, that many Americans have, but not our LGBT Americans.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker; the failure or prohibition to recognize and allow same-sex couples to marry is discrimination. The fight for marriage equality for our LGBT brothers and sisters is one of the great civil rights battles of our lifetime, and it continues through our tireless efforts to achieve full equality under the law for all.

A positive Supreme Court decision on marriage is an important step towards ending the discrimination that too many American families are suffering because of where they live and whom they love. Mr. Speaker, it is the year 2015. It is well past time we end the discrimination against our LGBT Americans.

THE PROTECT MEDICAL INNOVATION ACT

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1