

purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEFANIK). Pursuant to clause 1, rule XXI, all points of order are reserved on the bill.

□ 1130

THE VENEZUELA OF YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW

(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. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to visit the graphic display that is exhibited right now at the Rayburn foyer called the Venezuela of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

This exhibit carries the hopes and dreams of Venezuelans and Venezuelan Americans who worked hard to restore democracy, freedom, and prosperity to their homeland.

The Maduro regime has destroyed the economy of a once wealthy nation, causing widespread shortages and long lines for consumer goods.

Innocent men and women who demand the protection of democratic principles are arrested with false charges and tried by kangaroo courts, where their fate is already sealed.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join the Educational Foundation for Democracy and IVAC for a tour of this impressive collection of photos that documents the prosperous democratic past, the oppressive present, and the bright future that awaits Venezuela, for which they are fighting now.

CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today is a proud day in the State of South Carolina and should be a proud day throughout the South in the United States of America, for the South Carolina legislature, under the direction of their Governor, took down the Confederate flag that flew on their capitol.

It should be a proud day for all, for the South is much more than the flag, and the South has much to be proud of. But the flag symbolizes things that are not something the South should not be proud of.

Patterson Hood, a member of a band called Drive-by Truckers, wrote a song called The Southern Thing and has a commentary in The New York Times Magazine this week, expressing why he hates hatred and sees the flag as divisive and why it should come down.

It was the right thing to do. And the Mississippi State flag should come down, which has the rebel flag as part of its insignia and is in the halls of the Congress. That flag, as has been asked

by Representative BENNIE THOMPSON of Mississippi and Leader PELOSI, should also come down.

Signs of treason, signs of hate, signs of racism have no place in the United States of America's halls of Congress and should come down.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues today for passing the 21st Century Cures Act to create a path forward to expedite the delivery of lifesaving and life-improving cures that will change the lives of millions across this Nation.

I want to share the story of Arturo Solares from my district, who is 7½ years old and lives in Evans, Georgia. Arturo was diagnosed on his fourth birthday with autism. On that day, he had less than 50 words and was considered severely affected. The doctor didn't give his family much hope for the future.

Thanks to the dedication of his parents and innovation in our medical community there, today Arturo doesn't even need speech therapy. However, he still needs medications which are currently caught up in bureaucratic red tape.

This bill, the 21st Century Cures Act, provides a modern healthcare solution that gives hope to so many families like Arturo's and others across this great country.

I thank my colleagues for passing this legislation today that will improve the lives of future generations.

TARRANT COUNTY BLACK HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the four surviving charter members of the Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society, those being Ms. Erma Johnson Hadley, Ms. Opal Lee, Mr. Frank Moss, and Reverend Arthur Slaughter.

The Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Society began as a need for material relating to the Black history that was available to Tarrant County universities and libraries.

In 1974, the late Ms. Lenora Rolla began to collect personal papers, scrapbooks, clippings, photographic collections, artwork, and other relevant materials to create this society and, also, what is an incredible archive.

Following its inception, Ms. Hadley, Opal Lee, Frank Moss, and Reverend Slaughter continued the organization's work to educate Tarrant County residents about its rich African American history, and they will be honored during this month's Tarrant County Black Historical & Genealogical Biannual

Member Luncheon at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens.

Today, with the help of these four charter members, the society continues to collect, preserve, and enrich our community, and I applaud their efforts.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

(Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we have all heard the phrase "if you have your health, you have everything."

But for many who are suffering from debilitating diseases or caring for a family member with one, their ability to pursue life, liberty, and happiness is interrupted.

Mr. Speaker, the reason entitlement spending is so vast in this country is because we have diseases and conditions requiring countless dollars.

We are America, the greatest country in the world. We have big ideas, and we want to provide the best future for our children and our grandchildren.

The 21st Century Cures Act is just one of those big ideas that will produce numerous benefits for everyone. And for fiscal conservatives like myself, we should appreciate this bill and its passage with overwhelming support.

In our healthcare system, we diagnose disease, we treat symptoms, and we have thousands of new seniors on Medicare every day that we must take care of. The passage of this 21st Century Cures Act is a definitive way to take care of every American family.

Today we waged war on disease.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

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

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise in support of the urgent need to reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank.

I spent the better part of 20 years of my life in export trading, and I know what a great benefit it has been to the small business community and the banking community.

What happens is a small-town bank wants to provide financial support for local business people to export their goods and their products, but they don't know if a sales contract in Timbuktu or Abu Dhabi or Lagos or wherever is a legitimate contract. So they have to rely on some kind of expertise.

So that is why the local banks, that is why the local business community, supports the Ex-Im Bank, because they do that. And they do it for a fee.

Ironically enough, the Ex-Im Bank has generated almost \$7 billion in profits over the last couple of decades, helping us with our deficit reduction and helping our small- and medium-sized companies to export their goods and services.

I ask all my colleagues to take a look at their district and see how many small businesses benefit from that and join me in support.

There are only a couple of ways to generate wealth, and exporting your goods is one of them.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Wayzata High School boys golf team on winning this year's Minnesota State championship.

After finishing in the runner-up position for the last two seasons, Wayzata broke through and won the State title by three strokes this year. It was a well-balanced performance by the entire team that allowed them to take the championship.

While many think of golf as an individual sport, it took strong performances from each and every golfer to bring home the State title. The game of golf, Mr. Speaker, can be very humbling, and it takes focus, mental toughness, and skill to compete at a very high level.

I commend these student athletes on their commitment and dedication not only to golf, but to their family obligations and their studies as well. The time commitments required to be a top high school athlete are not easy. And their friends, families, and communities are very proud.

Congratulations again to the Wayzata High School boys golf team.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as you can see by this chart, the Federal gas user fee, at only \$97 a year, buys drivers \$515 in costs per driver because of bad roads.

Just released data also shows that up to 73 percent of the bridges in some States are deficient. Can you think of any other necessity, except the \$97 gas user fee, that has not increased in 22 years? We are getting what we paid for in the hidden costs of bad roads and bridges.

The congressional response has been so disproportionate to the needs of the States that we are told that another short-term extension—that would be the 34th—12 legislative days from now could yield a veto.

The States say that these short-term extensions are useless. Only the next 2 weeks to get a long-term authorization is pushing it. Given the state of our bridges and roads, we have no alternative.

END OF THE MANHUNT

(Ms. STEFANIK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, as Americans across the country know, my district was the unfortunate home of a recent manhunt that captured the attention of our country.

For more than 3 weeks, two killers remained at large in our north country community after escaping from Clinton Correctional Facility. During this time period, hundreds and hundreds of brave law enforcement officers worked diligently to find these escaped convicts and protect our community.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank these brave law enforcement officers who risked their safety to protect the families in our neighborhoods, and I rise to thank our local communities for their patience and support during this difficult time.

Going forward, we must find answers as to how this prison break occurred and do what is needed to stop this from ever happening again. But, for now, our north country community can sleep safer, knowing these two killers are no longer at large.

CHANGE IS NOT BAD

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to again note what a historic day this was, with the passage of the 21st Century Cures Act, which opens the opportunity for billions of dollars to be invested in the Nation's clinics and laboratories to make America healthy and make America better.

This bill is from the Energy and Commerce Committee. I am very proud to be one of its cosponsors. And I would like to say back to my constituents in Texas, the Texas Medical Center, and all of the research that is being done: Here is an opportunity to work on those unique and special diseases impacting children with lupus and other diseases. That is why change is not bad.

Additionally, I join with the arguments in my district for changing the names of high schools that are not reflective of the Nation today, those named after confederate generals. The names of these high schools are not reflective of a unifying America.

Frankly, I believe that the school board should address this question and teach the children that that is the past history that was not a positive history and that we should reflect positively on unifying America and carrying the American flag.

Lastly, again, I say on the floor what a very special day, the solemnity in the way the rebel flag was finally put to rest, put to rest, and taken to a relic museum, where it belongs. And we can stand here under this shining American

flag saying that we, too, are Americans.

□ 1145

KEEP PATENT SYSTEM STRONG

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

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, when patent trolls use U.S. patents to game the system for illegitimate financial gain, it is much like counterfeiting because these are official U.S. documents. What would we do if we found a counterfeiter? Would we go after the counterfeiter, or would we devalue our currency to discourage counterfeiters?

Well, that sounds ridiculous. That would wreck our economy just to go after counterfeiters by devaluing the currency. But that is what the Innovation Act, H.R. 9, does to patents. It devalues all patents, and it is going to wreck our economy if we pass it.

Patents are the currency of invention. If you want invention to be strong in this country, you need to keep the patent system strong.

I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 9.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the overwhelming passage of the 21st Century Cures Act.

Across central New York, I heard from advocates and individuals suffering from diseases like Alzheimer's, ovarian cancer, multiple sclerosis, and epilepsy, to name a few. That is not just something I heard from my colleagues. Those diseases have stricken those in my family as well.

We owe it to the people and their families to support medical research so that individuals in our communities can live longer, healthier lives.

Today's legislation allows researchers and scientists to move forward in their efforts to produce lifesaving treatments, therapies, and cures for our loved ones. It will reduce medical uncertainty in the development of new medicine and remove barriers to increase research collaboration.

I dream of a time in a not too distant future when I can tell my children that what we did here on the floor of the House today saved lives and prevented them and their children from enduring some of the diseases that we have had to endure in our lifetime.

21ST CENTURY CURES ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, moments ago with my support, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6, the 21st Century Cures Act.