

MCKINLEY, in sponsoring legislation to provide resources to help our veterans pursue higher education and gain the skills and training they need to succeed in STEM careers.

The ability to analyze, communicate, and motivate, honed while in the military, makes veterans ideal candidates for the STEM fields. And with growth and demand for STEM experts expected to outpace other professions in the next two decades, this legislation will help meet the need for a highly skilled workforce, enabling us to better compete in the global economy while also creating new employment opportunities for our Nation's heroes.

So I urge my colleagues to join Mr. MCKINLEY and me in supporting the GI Bill STEM Extension Act.

“WE THE PEOPLE” INITIATIVE

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge participation in my new initiative, “We the People.”

Imagine a Congress that functions effectively. Imagine a Congress that hears from you daily and, as a result, devises legislation and legislative solutions based on your individual needs and from your own experiences. This is my view of an effective government, and it is why I have launched the “We the People” initiative this week.

Because of your ideas and your feedback, we have been able to pass two pieces of legislation this year. Let's continue to build on that success and continue to make Washington work for the Granite State.

I know we have much left to accomplish. So I want to hear from you. From now on, my office will be accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can email me directly your legislative solutions and ideas to wethepeople@mail.house.gov or you can call me or text me directly at 603-250-6850.

From your suggestions, I will better be able to tailor legislation to meet your needs. My office remains yours. So please spread the word about the “We the People” initiative.

U.S. MUST CONSIDER ITS ISLAND TERRITORIES

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago the President announced resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

While we celebrate the implications of a renewed relationship both for Cuban and American citizens, the citizens of my own home district do so with guarded welcome.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. territories of the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and

our geographic proximity to Cuba makes us a direct economic competitor. All indicators point to massive growth in Cuba's tourism industry.

While the U.S. Virgin Islands continues to be a premier tourist destination particularly for Americans, with more than 2.7 million tourists in 2014 alone, Cuba is shaping to be a formidable competitor.

Prior to resumption of relations, a report from the Caribbean Tourism Organization showed just over 3 million visitors to Cuba in 2014 compared to 2.7 for the Virgin Islands and 3 million in Puerto Rico.

However, in the first quarter of 2015, the Cuban Government has already reported more than 1.4 million tourist visits, a number that more than doubles the amount reported for the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico during this same time.

Mr. Speaker, the United States must consider its own island territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the advancement of diplomatic relations with Cuba. Investments must come to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

I wish all of our French citizens a happy Bastille Day.

HELPING BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION SCHOOLS

(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, we should always strive as a country to make sure that the promises we make are kept. Unfortunately, when it comes to the students at our Bureau of Indian Education schools, our promise to them is falling far short.

Students at these schools in Minnesota and around the country have endured deplorable conditions, including leaking roofs, schools with no heat, and other problems that make it difficult, if not impossible, to learn.

However, momentum is gaining to right this wrong. Some of us in the Minnesota delegation, including my colleagues JOHN KLINE and BETTY MCCOLLUM, have highlighted the need for critical repairs and construction for these schools.

The issue is not just financial, though. Washington, including the executive branch, needs to ensure that red tape is not keeping these students from getting an acceptable learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for us to take action and focus on making sure that these students have a safe school setting where they can learn, grow, and excel.

NEVADA FAA 2015 WORLD CHAMPION LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give honor to Payton Dahmer,

Kaylee Farmer, Cara Comstock, and Skyler Scotten for earning the title of the 2015 World Championship FFA Livestock Judging Team.

These members of the Nevada FAA chapter, along with their coach, Tanya St. John, practiced for countless hours, traveling all across the State and Nation to evaluate the quality of classes of cattle, swine, sheep, and goats as well as demonstrate the reasoning behind their placements in the oral presentation.

At the national competition, the team placed first overall, with all four competitors placing in the top ten individually. Winning nationals qualified them for the International Livestock Judging Competition in Scotland, where they again placed first in the team judging event.

While it was a long and challenging journey to earn this title, I would like to commend the 2015 World Champion FFA Livestock Judging Team for their dedication, perseverance, and poise they displayed in this competition. I am proud of how they represented themselves, their families, and our country.

I want to congratulate Payton, Kaylee, Cara, and Skyler for this amazing achievement. You are the future agriculture leaders this country needs.

□ 1230

WESTERN WATER AND AMERICAN FOOD SECURITY ACT OF 2015

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

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about California's water crisis. Later this week, we will be debating a bill, the Western Water and American Food Security Act of 2015, which was born out of many conversations with the Senate and with the administration.

Over the years, we have discussed how dry California is. Now, we can't prevent Mother Nature from creating a drought, but we can plan and store water for those dry years. It has happened for centuries. The problem is it just hasn't been happening in the last several decades in California, which means over 1 million acres of farmland will go fallow.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a California issue. This is an issue that will affect the entire United States food supply. We need to make sure we are capturing water.

While Members want to continue to debate climate change, shouldn't we all agree that hydroelectricity, the cleanest electricity out there, is good for our environment? The trees that I grow as an almond farmer are good for the environment. If you want to reduce carbon, let's plant more trees.

If we want to have safety and security in our communities that have forestland, then shouldn't we clear the

brush and make sure that we don't have a fuel supply again, creating a better environment with a healthy forest?

There are things that we should do to create a healthy California and a healthy country. This water bill is one of those solutions.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FARENTHOLD). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2722) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the fight against breast cancer, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2722

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. Today, about 1 in 8, or 12 percent of, women in the United States will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. This is an increase from 1 in 11, or 9 percent of, women in 1975.

(2) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women. The chance of dying from breast cancer is about 1 in 36. Thanks to earlier detection, increased awareness, and improved treatment, death rates from breast cancer have decreased since about 1989.

(3) There is a strong interest among the American public to do more to tackle this disease. The National Cancer Institute estimates \$16.5 billion is spent in the United States each year on breast cancer treatment. Assuming that incidence and survival rates follow recent trends, it is estimated that \$17.2 billion will be spent on breast cancer care in the United States in 2014.

(4) Finding a cure for breast cancer is a goal of the United States Government.

(5) The National Institutes of Health dedicated an estimated \$674 million for breast cancer research in Fiscal Year 2014. In Fiscal Year 2014, the Department of Defense's Breast Cancer Research Program received \$120 million.

(6) While the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense program on Breast Cancer research remain the largest funders of breast cancer research in the United States, in 2013, the National Cancer Institute funding was reduced by nearly \$66 million since 2011. The funding level for the Department of Defense Breast Cancer Re-

search Program has remained consistent since 2012, however this amount represents a 20-percent decrease from 2011 funding levels.

(7) Additional private sector support for breast cancer research will help us find cures for breast cancer even faster.

(8) It is estimated that in the United States 231,840 women will be diagnosed with and 40,290 women will die of cancer of the breast in 2015. This means that every 13 minutes a woman dies of breast cancer in the United States.

(9) However, due to disease type and lack of adequate care, African-American women have the highest death rates of all racial and ethnic groups overall and are at least 44 percent more likely to die of breast cancer as compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

(10) Breast cancer used to be considered a disease of aging but recent trends show that more aggressive forms of the disease have been increasingly diagnosed in younger women.

(11) Breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among nearly every racial and ethnic group, including African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latina women.

(12) Clinical advances, resulting from research, have led to increased survival from breast cancer. Since 1990, death rates from breast cancer have dropped over 34 percent.

(13) Among men in the United States it is estimated that there will be 2,350 new cases of invasive breast cancer and 440 breast cancer deaths in 2015.

(14) At this time there are more than 3.1 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

(15) It is estimated that breast cancer costs \$12.5 billion in lost productivity. Such productivity losses will increase with projected growth rate and aging of the U.S. population if cancer mortality rates stay constant in the future.

(16) There is a better chance of survival and there are more treatment options with early stage detection through mammograms and clinical breast exams.

(17) Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women worldwide, with an estimated 1.7 million new cases of breast cancer among women worldwide in 2012.

(18) Breast Cancer Research Foundation (BCRF) is considered one of the most efficient cancer research charities.

(19) Of every dollar donated to BCRF, \$0.91 goes to research and awareness programs—88 cents towards research and 3 cents towards awareness.

(20) Founded in 1993, the BCRF has raised more than \$500 million to fuel discoveries in tumor biology, genetics, prevention, treatment, survivorship and metastasis, making BCRF one of the largest private funders of breast cancer research in the world. For 2014–2015, BCRF committed \$58.6 million in research, including \$11.6 million to the international Evelyn H. Lauder Founder's Fund focused on metastasis, to support the work of more than 220 researchers at leading medical institutions across six continents (25 states and 14 countries).

(21) Susan G. Komen (Komen) is the largest non-government funder of breast cancer research, funding research that spans the breast cancer continuum from basic biology to treatment to survivorship.

(22) Over the past 5 years, more than 80 cents of every dollar spent by Komen has gone directly to its mission to save lives and end breast cancer by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.

(23) Since its inception in 1982, Komen has invested more than \$2.6 billion towards its mission, including more than \$847 million in over 2400 research grants and 450 clinical

trials in 48 states and 21 different countries. Recent funding has focused on research to stem metastatic and aggressive disease, find scientifically sound preventive strategies, and investigate environmental links to breast cancer development.

(24) Today, BCRF and Susan G. Komen continue their work to advance research and support programs for patients and their families.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall mint and issue the following coins:

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 gold coins, which shall—

(A) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and
(B) be made of "pink gold" which contains not less than 75 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 400,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;
(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and
(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;
(B) have a diameter of 1.205 inches; and
(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGN OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The design of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the fight against breast cancer.

(2) DESIGNATION AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act there shall be—

(A) a designation of the face value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year "2018"; and
(C) inscriptions of the words "Liberty", "In God We Trust", "United States of America", and "E Pluribus Unum".

(b) SELECTION.—The design for the coins minted under this Act shall be selected by the Secretary based on the winning design from a juried, compensated design competition described under subsection (c).

(c) DESIGN COMPETITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall hold a competition and provide compensation for its winner to design the obverse and reverse of the coins minted under this Act. The competition shall be judged by an expert jury chaired by the Secretary and consisting of 3 members from the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee who shall be elected by such Committee and 3 members from the Commission of Fine Arts who shall be elected by such Commission.

(2) PROPOSALS.—As part of the competition described in this subsection, the Secretary may accept proposals from artists, engravers of the United States Mint, and members of the general public, and any designs submitted for the design review process described herein shall be anonymized until a final selection is made.

(3) ACCOMPANYING DESIGNS; PREFERENCE FOR PHYSICAL DESIGNS.—The Secretary shall encourage 3-dimensional designs to be submitted as part of the proposals, and the jury shall give a preference for proposals that are accompanied by a 3-dimensional physical design instead of, or in addition to, an electronic design.