

In 2005, we won a Federal licensing settlement that directed \$279 million from local hydropower proceeds to redevelop Buffalo's waterfront, a transformation that has attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment.

Access to cheap, clean hydropower convinced Yahoo to locate its data and call center in Niagara County, again creating hundreds of jobs.

Meanwhile, the Steel Winds project has built 14 wind turbines along Lake Erie in Lackawanna, creating enough electricity to power 15,000 homes. Along the Buffalo River, the largest solar panel manufacturer in the Western Hemisphere is under construction, which will create 3,500 jobs in the solar industry.

At the turn of the 20th century, Buffalo led on energy innovation and thrived because of it. By embracing its past, Buffalo has reclaimed its future.

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, a third Planned Parenthood video was released regarding the selling of aborted baby body parts and organs.

The fact that this is going on is just vile. Our Constitution protects the right to life, and it is unforgivable for any organization to engage in this kind of trafficking.

To make matters worse, Planned Parenthood receives taxpayer dollars that ultimately help support these vile acts.

I fully support the House investigation into Planned Parenthood, and I am proud to support legislation that would stop all Federal funding for Planned Parenthood until these investigations are over.

That said, I believe Washington should follow Texas' lead and permanently defund Planned Parenthood.

All life is sacred, and I will continue to do all I can to protect the lives of the unborn.

□ 1215

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, July 30, marks the 50th anniversary of Lyndon Johnson's signing of the Social Security Act Amendments of 1965 into law and of creating Medicare and Medicaid in order to meet the healthcare needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, and working families.

Today, 55 million Americans receive Medicare benefits, and 69 million Americans rely on the healthcare safety net that Medicaid provides. One in

three American children receives his health insurance coverage through Medicaid. In Rhode Island's First District, which I am proud to represent, more than 92,000 individuals receive Medicare benefits, and almost 100,000 receive Medicaid coverage.

Mr. Speaker, health care is a necessity of life, and access to quality health care should be a right for everyone and never a privilege of the few. Over the last half century, Medicare and Medicaid have provided millions of Americans with access to quality, affordable health care. It is critical that we strengthen these essential programs, enhance benefits, and make sure that all Americans can live with healthcare security and dignity.

IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, The Washington Post reports that the President knew of two secret side deals in the agreement with Iran but failed to inform Congress. More troubling, The Washington Post reports that, while the President and the Secretary of State know the agreements exist, neither has seen them.

These agreements, which are between Iran and the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, govern the inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities. In its article, The Washington Post quotes the Deputy Director of the U.N. agency as saying, "No American is ever going to get to see them," in speaking of these side agreements.

Mr. Speaker, no one believes we can deal with Iran with a gentlemanly handshake, so the linchpin to any agreement is inspections. Why on Earth would the President make an agreement that includes secret deals between Iran and the U.N. agency which is doing the inspections that no American, including him, will ever see?

It is beyond my comprehension. Congress needs to reject this bad deal.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

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

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday marked the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This historic piece of legislation prohibits discrimination against those with disabilities, giving them greater access and protections; but the ADA does more than just open doors—it recognizes every individual's ability to succeed.

Yesterday, I met with Sarah Goldman, a young woman with cerebral palsy who is earning her master's degree at Florida State University. She visited my office to advocate on behalf

of ADA protections. As Sarah said, we have made great progress in the last 25 years, but there is still so much more work to be done.

I urge the House to listen to Sarah's words and continue the fight to make sure all Americans are empowered to achieve their own American dreams.

FAREWELL TRIBUTE TO JOSH ZARKA

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell and good luck to Josh Zarka, who for the past 4 years has been the Minister for Congressional Affairs at the Embassy of Israel here in Washington, D.C.

Since 1991, Josh has had a long and distinguished career with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representing the Jewish State in Israel and, indeed, around the world.

During his time here in D.C., Josh has been a major influence in strengthening the U.S.-Israel relationship; and there is no doubt that his tireless work to promote and strengthen the ties between our two countries has contributed greatly to the safety and security of Israel, of its citizens, and of us here in the United States.

Josh can be proud of the work that he has done here; yet I know that what he values the most is his family—his wife, Esther, and their four children. I wish Josh and his family much success, especially as they prepare for his daughter, Adi's, upcoming wedding.

We will miss you, Josh. Stay in touch.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago, hundreds of courageous, unarmed men and women marched from Selma to Montgomery to call for the right to vote. They were met with violence, prejudice, and hate; but these brave men and women continued their push for equality. Because of their sacrifice and determination, the historic Voting Rights Act was passed.

For over 40 years, the Voting Rights Act was one of our best tools to combat historic discrimination. It provided critical voter protections to ensure that Americans of all backgrounds had equal access to the ballot box; but with the Supreme Court's Shelby County decision 2 years ago, key provisions were gutted from this act that must be restored.

As we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, I urge my Republican colleagues to restore dignity to our electoral process and ensure that this is a democracy of

the people and by the people. Allow us to vote on meaningful legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

RECOGNIZING AN UNSUNG HERO

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an everyday hero from southern Illinois today—U.S. mail carrier Don Fix, who has worked his route in Belleville, Illinois, for over 20 years.

In May, Don felt something was wrong when he noticed mail piled high at a home in Swansea. Don knew both residents were elderly and had difficulty getting around, so he checked around to the back door and called out their names. He heard Mr. David Nelson yell back that he and his wife had fallen. Don immediately called the paramedics, who arrived on the scene and took the couple to the hospital.

I honor Don Fix's quick and caring action as he is more than just a neighborhood mailman. Don delivers more than just the mail to the residents he cares about—he also delivers compassion.

BRING GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO HOUSE FLOOR FOR A VOTE

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

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, in Connecticut, we know all too well the devastation caused by gun violence. We will never stop mourning the lives of the 26 people who were ripped from us by the horrific shootings in Newtown, but just as tragic are the deaths that don't make national headlines.

Mr. Speaker, we have a serious problem with gun violence in this country from which no person, no community is protected. This year alone, in the capital city of Hartford, gun violence has claimed 19 lives. Yet, today, this House is scheduled to adjourn for the next 5 weeks, refusing to bring this urgent public health matter to the House floor, refusing to address gun violence, which is hurting America.

I have joined with colleagues from across the aisle to propose a bipartisan bill to expand background checks to all commercial gun sales—legislation that, if enacted, would have prevented several of the most recent mass shootings.

I urge the leadership of this House to spend August thinking about the 30,000 Americans we lose each year to gun violence and to bring this urgent matter to the full House for a vote when we reconvene in September.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOLDIER ACT

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

Mr. NUGENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a simple solution to a straightforward problem.

Eleven years after retiring from the military, one of my constituents received a bill for \$1,500 for an alleged overpayment by the Department of Defense. This is more than a decade later, and the first she is hearing about it is in a letter, demanding payment. Moreover, the servicemember is expected to track down and find whatever receipts or documents may be relevant from 11 years ago.

This isn't an isolated case. This is happening to veterans across this Nation. Often, these bills are the result of DOD accounting or system errors. Certainly, if there were an error, whether it be the fault of the servicemember or of the DOD, steps should be taken to remedy that; but the government should not wait a decade before sending the first letter.

I am introducing a bill today that would place a statute of limitations on DOD's authority to initiate the collection process. This does not prevent the DOD from collecting debts; it simply says it must do it in a timely fashion. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the SOLDIER Act.

BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS TO GROW U.S. ECONOMY

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, when we return from our recess, we need to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank. Ex-Im has helped Nebraska businesses grow and export U.S.-made products overseas. In fact, last year, my district exported over \$60 million of Nebraska manufactured goods all over the world. Growing U.S. exports mean growing jobs at home.

Secondly, we need to come together and pass a long-term transportation bill. According to a recent report, nearly a quarter of Nebraska's bridges are structurally unsound. Beyond safety, investments in infrastructure can create immediate jobs and long-term economic growth.

Lastly, we need to pass a responsible, comprehensive immigration reform bill. This would pull hard-working people out of the shadows, work to attract the best, talented people across the globe, and make our businesses more competitive in the world economy.

Upon our return, Mr. Speaker, let's commit ourselves to bipartisan solutions to these issues.

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I stand here profoundly disappointed that the House will leave town today without taking a vote on my legislation to defund Planned Parenthood.

Over the past 2 weeks, we have all seen the gruesome videos showing the heartless depravity of this organization. We have issued statements; we have made passionate floor speeches; and we have pledged action. Now our constituents would like to know when we are going to follow through on that promise.

Today, I am reminded of the words of Dietrich Bonhoeffer: "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral obligation to defund Planned Parenthood, and we must do it now—not when politicians and pundits think it is most politically expedient.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in recognition of the upcoming 50th anniversary of the signing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Our Nation took an important step forward 50 years ago when, on August 6, 1965, President Johnson signed into law this landmark legislation. It was a moment that brave men and women, like our colleague JOHN LEWIS, marched for and were willing to die for as they dared to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

Unfortunately, 2 years ago, the Supreme Court struck down section 4, and preclearance and Federal protections for vulnerable communities went away. When the Supreme Court struck down section 4, it did not say that protections were not needed. Rather, it issued a challenge to us here in this House to come up with a modern day formula. I see that as a challenge for all of us in this great House—to come up with a modern day formula to provide protections for vulnerable communities.

On this 50th anniversary of the landmark Voting Rights Act, let us answer this call to action. It is a call worthy of all of our attention. On this recess, let us remark about how wonderful it was that we all came together on March 7, 1965, in order to do what was right. I ask all of you to please consider restoring the Voting Rights Act of 1965. It is important for all Americans.

□ 1230

MOTORCYCLES MEAN FREEDOM

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming Sturgis motorcycle rally, which will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Since the rally's inception in 1938, Sturgis has grown from a single race to