

HONORING MAJOR JUSTIN FITCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. DUFFY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to remember Major Justin Fitch.

A son of Hayward, Wisconsin, and a decorated Army officer, colon cancer took Justin's life far too soon, but not before he made an incredible mark on his community and his fellow veterans.

While serving in Iraq in 2007, Justin suffered thoughts of suicide. He actually went so far as to put an M-4 rifle in his mouth. But, thank God, he never pulled the trigger.

When he returned home, he claimed victory over his suicidal thoughts, but another battle was just beginning for Justin. He was diagnosed with colon cancer. He waged a 3-year battle fighting that disease. Despite a grim prognosis, he used his attention to shed light on a mounting issue that he knew all too well. At the time, on average, 22 veterans were committing suicide a day. That is about 8,000 a year.

Justin knew that something had to be done. And so in between his chemotherapy treatments and surgeries, he took part in long ruck marches. He teamed up with veteran prevention organizations and freely gave out his number to any soldier who approached him who also had thoughts of suicide. Major Fitch, fighting the battle of his life with cancer, was also giving his time to help save other veterans who were suffering with suicidal thoughts.

Major Fitch passed away in his hometown of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, on October 3. He was 33 years old. His personal battle may be over, but his fight marches on. As Justin would say: "It's okay to seek help. You can get help. Look at me."

And so, to Major Fitch, on behalf of a grateful Nation, we are thankful for your service and your sacrifice and your commitment to our veterans. May God bless you.

GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION KRISTALLNACHT EVENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, this Monday, November 9, marks the 77th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass.

The Greater Miami Jewish Federation will be commemorating this tragic and horrible event with a community rally on Sunday, November 15, at 4 p.m., at the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach.

Kristallnacht marked the beginning of one of humanity's darkest periods: the Holocaust. It serves as a solemn reminder of what can happen when people allow anti-Semitism, incitement to violence, and hatred to carry on unabated.

□ 1045

What happened on Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass? 267 synagogues

were destroyed. 7,500 Jewish-opened businesses were looted and were vandalized. Up to 30,000 Jews were arrested. Almost 100 Jews were killed, not to mention the untold number of violent attacks that took place that night.

And the brutality and inhumanity only got worse from there, as Nazis would go on to murder 6 million Jews over the next few years because they were members of the Jewish faith.

I plan on joining the Greater Miami Jewish Federation on Sunday, November 15, to stand united with our community to vow never again.

HONORING THE DEPRESSION AND BIPOLAR SUPPORT ALLIANCE OF KENDALL AND CORAL GABLES

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Kendall and Coral Gables for supporting individuals who are suffering from these diseases in South Florida.

The stigma that surrounds depression and bipolar disorder is not only unfair, but it discourages people from seeking the help that they so desperately need.

In the United States alone, depression impacts 21 million adults. It costs \$23 billion in lost work productivity. Depression impacts our families, our coworkers, our neighbors, our friends.

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Kendall and Coral Gables is a unique, peer-directed organization that pairs those afflicted with depression with role models who have been down that road before to help them regain stability and focus.

I want to thank everyone involved with the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Kendall and Coral Gables for being valuable members of our community and for the important and inspiring work that each staff member and professional does.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You for Your ongoing presence and sustaining grace in us all, and Your concern for our Nation. Continue to bless and inspire the men and

women who serve in the people's House.

May they be encouraged by any movement that has occurred, and may the hopes and prayers of the American people, and indeed the world, for healthy and productive legislation be met with results inspired by Your spirit.

Forgive our failures, our lack of faith. May the good intentions of all acting in this Chamber be rewarded by solutions to our struggles that benefit our Nation.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS COMMENDATION CEREMONY

(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, as Veterans Day approaches, it is my privilege to announce that, on Saturday, November 14, I will be hosting my annual Congressional Veterans Commendation Ceremony.

At this special event, 12 Collin County veterans will be recognized for their wartime sacrifices and peacetime community involvement. These veterans were nominated by their peers and chosen by a selection board. Their stories will be passed on to future generations.

The event starts around 1 p.m., and our keynote speaker is Major Heather Penney. She is one of two Air Force pilots who took to the skies on September 11, 2001, on orders to take down Flight 93 with her own aircraft before the terrorism reached Washington, D.C.

I encourage folks to come out and show all our veterans how much we care in a tangible and personal way. I

hope to see you all there. God bless America.

EX-IM BANK REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the House finally came to its senses and overwhelmingly passed the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. I am encouraged to see that it has been included in the long-term highway bill we will be considering this week.

We know the Ex-Im Bank helps American businesses gain access to critical markets overseas and is a vital piece of our export strategy. But thanks to the vocal minority, the Bank's charter expired for the first time in its history on July 1.

This doesn't just hurt the likes of Boeing or GE. It hurts small businesses, many of which are minority- and women-owned.

Last year nearly 90 percent of the Ex-Im transactions directly supported small businesses without costing taxpayers a penny. That is why I urge all 313 Members who voted for Ex-Im reauthorization to oppose any attempts in the highway bill that significantly weaken or eliminate the Bank.

Now is the time for supporters to stop standing on the sidelines and start standing up for American workers and exporters.

NOVEMBER IS DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Diabetes Caucus to recognize November as Diabetes Awareness Month.

Approximately 29 million Americans suffer from diabetes. This disease is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States.

It is critically important that we help educate people to understand their risk factors and that we educate people on how to prevent the disease by living healthier lives.

Although there are many treatments for diabetes, there is no cure. I was proud to help introduce the 21st Century Cures Act, which provides critical funding to the National Institutes of Health so that they can continue their innovative research into diabetes and other diseases. Mr. Speaker, we spend \$330 billion each and every year treating diabetes. We need to find a cure.

I am also proud to be a cosponsor of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, which will help seniors manage obesity, one of the leading causes of type 2 diabetes. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and advocates across the country to continue helping patients fight this disease.

VETERANS AND CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, next Wednesday is Veterans Day, and we will recognize and thank the millions of men and women who have put their lives on the line for our freedom.

One way to honor those who have served is to make certain that our veterans—and all Americans—are protected from predatory payday lenders, who leave them saddled with insurmountable debt. That is why I am speaking out today to urge the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to pass strong rules that protect veterans and all Americans from these harmful practices.

In Oregon and around the country, predatory lenders prey on consumers who have fallen on hard times. When consumers cannot pay back the loans, with fees and interest rates that can dwarf the amount of the underlying loan, they find themselves in financial ruin.

The CFPB must act quickly to develop rules to protect veterans and all Americans.

THANK YOU TO THE FRANKLIN FAMILY

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank an incredible American family in my district. The Franklin family of Richland Parish made a generous donation to our Nation's heroes. The family has given 50 acres of land to develop the Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

George Franklin, the patriarch of the family, was a veteran himself, a member of the Greatest Generation. In World War II, George served in the Eighth Air Force, European Theater. He was a tail gunner. He flew over 35 missions in a B-17. He earned six air medals, four battle stars, and a Presidential citation.

The Franklin family represents a true American commitment to serve, and this gift from their family to the veterans is yet just another example of that service. The cemetery will officially open next week—on time—with the first internment on Veterans Day.

The Franklin family has given so much to Louisiana. I commend them for this honorable contribution to those who gave so much for us.

CHILD ABUSE IN MILITARY FAMILIES

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, Talia Williams was just 5 years old when she was beaten to death by her own father

after suffering months of abuse at home. Despite multiple reports to officials at the Army base in Hawaii where Talia and her father lived, the system failed to protect her.

Talia's tragic story is just one of over 29,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in military homes over the last decade. This is a problem that demands better protections for our children in military families who are being abused and better support for military families facing the stresses of war, multiple deployments, and economic hardship.

I have introduced Talia's Law today, joined by Representative MARK TAKAI, which requires military officials to immediately report suspected cases of abuse to State child protective services. We owe it to our servicemembers, their families, and thousands of children like Talia to disrupt the status quo and stop another decade of preventable child abuse.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWNAN-COWETA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I come today to honor the Newnan-Coweta Chamber of Commerce on being named the Nation's Chamber of the Year by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

The members, volunteers, leaders, and friends of this chamber are what makes this organization so successful and, in turn, allow our small businesses to continue to be successful.

Because of this partnership, Coweta County is fortunate to have many businessowners who have achieved the American Dream by opening their own business.

Our businesses are also examples of how investing in our local community and economy can have great impact throughout the area. And I mean not just the store owners, but the loyal customers who buy and source local goods and services. Healthy small businesses mean a healthy local economy and stable jobs for our community.

I thank the Newnan-Coweta Chamber for providing guidance, advocacy, and encouragement to our businesses as we fight our way out of a struggling economy and back onto a path for prosperity.

So, again, congratulations to the Newnan-Coweta Chamber on being the number one chamber of commerce as named by the ACCE's Chamber of the Year, and I wish you the best for continued success.

U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

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