

State owe a tremendous debt to Commissioner Merrill. She has been an excellent steward of the Agriculture Department, guiding our state through the economic recession of 2008 and a devastating drought in 2016—two of the greatest challenges our agriculture community has faced. She has been a tireless supporter and advocate for farmers, producers, and foresters in New Hampshire. From dairy and produce to ornamental horticulture and maple syrup, ours is an incredibly diverse state for agriculture and she has represented everyone so well.

Lorraine's service as commissioner was only the latest in a remarkable career of service both to agriculture and her community. She has been a teacher, author, founding member of the New Hampshire Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, director of the New England Dairy and Food Council, and chair of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency State Committee. She continues to own and run a dairy farm with her family in Stratham, New Hampshire, where they have been honored by the American Farmland Trust for their leadership in conservation and environmental management best practices.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Lorraine for her many years of dedicated service to the Granite State. Her achievements will continue to benefit our state and agricultural industry. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Lorraine on her retirement and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

HONORING VALLEY SCREEN ON RECEIVING THE INDIANA GOVERNOR'S HALF-CENTURY BUSINESS AWARD

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valley Screen of Mishawaka on receiving the Indiana Governor's Half-Century Business Award.

The Half-Century Business Award is a special recognition of a local company's service to its employees, our community, and the State of Indiana. Fifty years of growth and success is an incredible accomplishment, and I applaud the entire Valley Screen team for staying at the cutting edge of innovation in a highly competitive world.

Valley Screen employs more than 60 people in our community and provides quality services to some of northern Indiana's key industries. This local business is an exceptional example of the high-quality customer service, business ingenuity, and potential for growth that American entrepreneurs and workers strive to achieve. I am grateful for the good jobs Valley Screen continues to provide the hardworking Hoosiers in our community.

I also want to thank Karen Barnett, Valley Screen's president and CEO, for her exceptional leadership and for providing so much of the vision, perseverance, and innovation that has contributed to the success of this business in Indiana and beyond. For the past 20 years, she has played a crucial role in building our state's positive business climate. I am confident that with leaders like Karen, Indiana's economy can continue to flourish.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Indiana's 2nd District, I want to thank Valley Screen and all its hardworking employees, past and present, for their commitment to innovation and service to the Hoosier community for 50 years. Congratulations to Valley Screen on a half-century of excellence. I am excited to see what the future holds for you and your customers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 25, 2017, I missed Roll Call votes 582 through 584 on the Rule providing for Consideration of the Senate Amendment to H. Con. Res. 71—Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on Roll Call vote 582 on the motion on ordering the previous question on the rule; Nay on Roll Call vote 583 on agreeing to H. Res. 580; and Yea on Roll Call vote 584 on the journal vote.

IN HONOR OF DANIEL CURRY

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Daniel T. Curry, a constituent of mine who tragically passed away on September 6, 2017. Daniel was born in Green County in my district and later moved to my hometown of Bowling Green, where he was the director of the Kentucky Legal Aid Benefits Counseling Program.

Daniel was a friend to everyone. As director of the Benefits Counseling Program, he helped countless Kentuckians receive their federal and state benefits. He worked with my office on several occasions, assisting with many casework inquiries that my office received. There was no constituent he would not try to help. In addition to his work at the Kentucky Legal Aid Benefits Counseling Program, he served as an adjunct professor at Western Kentucky University, served as a docent for Riverview at Hobson Grove, presented at the Bowling Green-Warren County Bar Association, was an advocate for elder abuse prevention, and participated in community theater.

Daniel touched many lives in Bowling Green and the surrounding counties. I send my prayers to Daniel's family and community during this time.

HIZBALLAH INTERNATIONAL FINANCING PREVENTION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2017

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3329, the Hizballah Inter-

national Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017. This is an important piece of legislation strengthening economic and financial sanctions on Hizballah and its enablers, and I am pleased to support it.

Hizballah is an organization based in Lebanon that plays a major role in regional tensions in the Middle East. Based on existing intelligence, it is believed that Hizballah is simply being used as a proxy by foreign governments to fight against Israel and other western influences in the area. In order to prevent the situation from escalating, the first step is to prevent the group from being able to fund further military actions. H.R. 3329 would direct the President to apply sanctions that would freeze Hizballah's assets, prevent fundraising, and prevent financial institutions from working with the group. Furthermore, this legislation would extend financial sanctions to any foreign entity that provides funding to the group. The bill would also authorize the proper congressional committees to create reports on Hizballah's racketeering and international narcotics trafficking.

This legislation requires the President to report valuable information to Congress regarding the relationships among Iran, other foreign countries, and the Hizballah organization. Opening up this line of communication will help Congress better decide how to apply future sanctions against these state sponsors of terrorism.

With as many military bases as Georgia accommodates, I understand how conflict affects not only our nation, but also the young men and women who will be thrust into a needless international conflict. It is important that we take the necessary steps to prevent an escalation to prevent losing American lives in any conflict, which is why I support H.R. 3329.

HONORING MR. DAVID HARDT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Deputy Fire Chief David Hardt upon his retirement from the Watertown Fire Department in Watertown, Connecticut after 32 years of service. Deputy Chief Hardt has been an instrumental leader in our state's firefighting community, and his legacy will contribute to the work of future generations of firefighters.

Deputy Chief Hardt first volunteered for the department in 1985, and in 1997, he became the Deputy Chief. Throughout his long tenure, his leadership skills and experience have been tremendous assets to the town. Deputy Chief Hardt has been willing to take on additional duties when necessary and to step up to oversee the department's work in the Chief's absence.

The Watertown Fire Department and surrounding communities have benefitted greatly from Deputy Chief Hardt's work over the past decades. His work was critical to the opening of the Cheshire Fire School to train future generations of firefighters. Never one to shy away from helping out his neighbors, Deputy Chief Hardt also served as a dispatcher for Naugatuck firefighters and as a fire marshal in Bethlehem and Morris. His dedication to helping others is an inspiration to all of us and

show us how we can look for ways to serve our community and country.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Chief Hardt has been a true community servant in our Watertown for over three impressive decades of service. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today, and I wish him a restful retirement with plenty of time to spend with his family and friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, due to a family medical emergency, I had to return to my district in the early afternoon of Wednesday October 25.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 585, NAY on Roll Call No. 586, NAY on Roll Call No. 587, and YEA on Roll Call No. 588.

RECOGNIZING PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA'S 45TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to recognize a critical organization that supports residents of Illinois' 18th Congressional District, Prevent Child Abuse America, as they celebrate their 45th anniversary.

In 1972, Donna J. Stone founded Prevent Child Abuse America in Chicago, Illinois. Over the years, Prevent Child Abuse America has been a leader in promoting healthy development of children through prevention of child abuse. While the organization has expanded to chapters in all 50 states, the mission of Prevent Child Abuse America has continued to remain the same.

Prevent Child Abuse America is committed to preventing the neglect and abuse of children across our nation. Their Healthy Families America program makes services easily accessible to children across our country and allows Prevent Child Abuse America to reach nearly 100,000 families each year. With their state headquarters located in Springfield, Illinois, I am grateful for the services they provide to families in the 18th District and across Illinois.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Prevent Child Abuse America on their 45th Anniversary, and I wish them much success as they continue to provide essential services to families, in Illinois and across our country, for years to come.

IRAN BALLISTIC MISSILES AND INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act. This legislation confirms the United States's mission to prevent Iran its developing their nuclear-capable ballistic missile program.

H.R. 1698 requires the President to impose sanctions on the Iranian government, foreign actors or people who supply technology and material to contribute to the Iranian ballistic missile program, and any party who contributes weapons or related material to Iran. This legislation also directs the President to investigate violations of these sanctions either by Iran or foreign entities and report all violations to Congress. In taking these actions, H.R. 1698 recognizes the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 from 2015 and commits to enforcing it by authorizing investigations of all ballistic missile tests to see if they are in violation of the resolution.

The investigations that this bill authorizes will help us better understand and identify the banks, companies, governments and other foreign entities that contribute in some way to the development of the Iranian ballistic missile program. It is crucially important that we take steps to recognize these key actors and punish them with sanctions. It is for these reasons that I am pleased to support this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Number 581, on October 24, regarding the question of passage of H.R. 3898, the Otto Warmbier North Korea Nuclear Sanctions Act. Had I voted, I would have voted "yes."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, on roll call 580, I was unavoidably detained as a result of a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On roll call 588, I was unavoidably detained as a result of a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

URGING EUROPEAN UNION TO DESIGNATE HIZBALLAH AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 359, legislation urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase international pressure on the organization.

Hizballah has demonstrated its commitment as an organization to promoting fear, violence, and terror worldwide for decades through the murder of global citizens. Its 1983 attack on the U.S. Marine Compound in Beirut was the most deadly single-day attack on the United States Marine Corps since the battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. Our nation has condemned Hizballah as a terrorist organization and leveraged significant financial sanctions against it, but we believe more can be accomplished through international cooperation with our friends at the European Union.

With this resolution, we urge the European Union to condemn Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization, rather than condemning its military wing alone, and ask them to stand with us to fight terrorism internationally. With increased financial pressure and more active international policing, together we can end Hizballah's terrorist activities and create a more peaceful and safer world. Cooperation between the European Union and the United States is crucial in the fight against transnational terrorism, and it is for this reason that I support this resolution.

IN HONOR OF PATRICIA CLARK FOR HER FEDERAL SERVICE

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2017

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Clark as she retires after more than five decades of service to the Federal Aviation Administration at the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center in Nashua. The people of the Granite State and throughout New England owe a debt of gratitude to Patty for ensuring the safety of pilots and fliers, as well as continuing the efficiency of our transportation system. Further, it should be noted that Patty has maintained perfect attendance throughout her decades of service, never using vacation leave or a sick day.

In 2013, during my first term in the U.S. House of Representatives, I was honored to have introduced legislation, H.R. 1092, that became law renaming the Nashua facility the "Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center." Renaming this facility after Patty was the very least that could be done to honor her accomplishments to the air traffic control industry here in New England. I am honored to be able to recognize Patty once again on the occasion of her retirement from federal service.