

This isn't the bill that I would have written, but it is a compromise that I am very happy to vote for. Let's hope that Speaker RYAN has learned from this experience and will work with us on health care, on transportation, and other priorities moving forward.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR JOHN JACOBSON

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of a true American hero, a dedicated veteran, and a successful businessman.

Major John Jacobson enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940 and fought in World War II, where he served as quartermaster to General George Patton.

After his military career, he moved to Kansas and built a Fortune 500 company and became a leader in the meatpacking industry.

After retiring and moving to coastal Alabama in 1999, Major Jacobson became a local celebrity. Mr. Jack, as he was affectionately known, spent much of his time working with local veterans organizations where he would speak with school groups about World War II and the sacrifice our veterans make.

Sadly, he recently passed away at the age of 106, making him one of the country's oldest World War II veterans.

Mr. Speaker, all you need to know about Major Jacobson is that he lived his life by a simple motto: Another day to live is another day to serve.

To his family, thank you for sharing Mr. Jack with all of us. He made our community, the United States, and the world a better place.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 69th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. Like our own country, our friend and ally has a deep commitment to meeting human needs around the world.

Throughout its history, Israel has been a leader in humanitarian assistance. Israel established the very first field hospital in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010 and rebuilt villages ravaged by cyclones in Fiji. Israel sent over 100 tons of supplies to aid Indonesia and Sri Lanka after the 2004 tsunami, and dispatched doctors to Greece to care for refugees fleeing the horrors of war in Syria.

When Israeli soldiers reported wounded Syrians arriving at their border, medics from the Israeli military were dispatched and over 3,000 Syrians were treated by Israeli doctors.

Today, as we celebrate Israel's proud history and the bond between our na-

tions, we are reminded of the importance of looking beyond our own borders and our proud shared history of welcoming those fleeing persecution from all around the globe. We renew our shared commitment to helping those in need in every corner of the world.

COMMUNITY BANKS: THE HUB OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, community banks are an integral part of Main Street America, making up over 50 percent of banks and rural communities like the ones I represent. They are indeed the hub of economic activity for west Texas. They employ nearly 20,000 folks in my district and provide vital services to families, small businesses, and ag producers.

Why in the world do we want to hamstring them with onerous and unnecessary regulations that make it harder for them to serve their communities?

That is exactly what I believe we have done with Dodd-Frank.

Each day that goes by, another community bank goes out of business. As many of my colleagues have pointed out, Dodd-Frank didn't end too big to fail, but it did create too small to succeed.

Dodd-Frank didn't protect consumers. It created new layers of bureaucracy, paperwork, confusion, and limited services for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that Congress act on this opportunity to pass the CHOICE Act before it is too late for our community banks and for our rural communities to choose between relationship banking and transactional banking.

COMBATING OPIOID CRISIS

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Speaker, Police Chief William Taylor of my hometown of Lowell, Massachusetts, said:

“Each day two to three people overdose from opioids in Lowell. . . . The introduction of illicit fentanyl has been the game changer. . . .”

In 2015, Massachusetts ranked second nationally per capita in deaths from synthetic opioids like fentanyl, which can be up to 50 times stronger than heroin. But Massachusetts is far from alone. Between 2014 and 2015, nationwide deaths involving synthetic opioids tragically rose 72 percent.

That is why I partnered with Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK to introduce the INTERDICT Act, which would provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with enhanced chemical screening devices and scientific support to detect and intercept synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

I thank Representative FITZPATRICK and our Senate counterparts for their

partnership, and I urge all our colleagues to support the INTERDICT Act.

To effectively combat the nationwide opioid crisis requires a comprehensive, cooperative, fully funded effort. The INTERDICT Act would be a powerful tool in eliminating synthetic opioids from the equation.

KAPPA DAY ON THE HILL

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, more than ever before, we need leaders from across the Nation to raise our voices, elevate our awareness, and come to Washington, as stated in the First Amendment, to petition the government for a redress of our grievances.

Now, more than ever, we need the people most affected by the decisions that are being made in this hallowed place, the people's House, and at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to make sure that this representative government is indeed being held accountable for both its actions and inactions.

On this special day, I am proud of my brothers in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, and I am honored to welcome them back to Washington for their annual visit.

I stand with my brothers to ensure that we never forget how our decisions on issues like health care, education, housing, jobs, voting rights, and even the use of military force are more than just political or policy judgments. They have life-and-death consequences for real people in the communities that we represent and across this great country as well.

I thank my Kappa brothers for their steadfast friendship, support, and devotion to advancing freedom and equality for every American.

KAPPAS ON THE HILL

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, during the annual James “Biff” Carter Kappas on the Capitol Hill Legislative Policy Conference. I knew Biff Carter personally.

Each year, Kappas from all over the country flock to Capitol Hill to raise awareness around the key issues that are affecting our communities. These men are leaders in religious, business, legal, academia, and community service institutions, as well as others.

Mr. Speaker, I have committed my life to public service for over 52 years. I have been honored to serve my constituents in this esteemed body. But one of my proudest moments in public service is when I committed myself to a life of honorable achievement in

every field of human endeavor—the day I joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Today I am proud as I see brothers in their red blazers walk these hallowed Halls, bringing their professional expertise and wisdom gained through experience and passion for their communities to Washington, D.C., the Nation, and the world.

REMEMBERING FORMER BOULDER CITY MAYOR ROBERT STANLEY FERRARO

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

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and commemorate the life of Robert Stanley Ferraro, a pillar in our community and one of the longest serving public officials in Nevada history who passed away last week at the age of 81.

Robert Ferraro served on the Boulder City Council for 31 years and was Boulder City's first elected mayor, and successfully stood for election nine times. He knocked on every voter's door and provided leadership to one of the most unique communities in our State.

Bob led the effort to maintain Boulder City's character as a special community and to be the clean, green Boulder City that many of my constituents call home and thousands visit each year.

He was named Nevada Public Official of the Year in 1986, Community Leader of the Year in 2001, and led a life that was a true American success story coming from humble beginnings to being one of the great civic leaders of our State.

Bob will be greatly missed, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF REVEREND DR. NORMAN LEE ROBINSON

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend Dr. N.L. Robinson, the longtime pastor of Mount Olive Baptist Church who passed away last Friday.

Reverend Robinson proudly served our Nation in the Army during World War II and was honorably discharged on November 25, 1945. It was during his time of service that he found spiritual enlightenment in Jesus Christ and his passion to serve the community.

After leaving the Army, Reverend Robinson worked for the Dallas Housing Authority from 1946 until he retired in 1976.

A graduate of the Southern Bible Institute of Dallas, Dr. Robinson began his ministry at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Grand Prairie in 1962, and he was also the pastor very

briefly at the Lucille Baptist Church in Palmer, Texas, before jointing Mount Olive in 1966.

Under his guidance, Mount Olive grew to become a 12,000-member church. I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that everybody, from the workers that built the cars at the General Motors plant in Arlington to one of the past mayors of Arlington, has been a member at that church throughout time.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Reverend N.L. Robinson, whose spiritual leadership touched so many lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington community.

□ 1230

SMALL BUSINESSES ARE THE ECONOMIC ENGINES OF OUR ECONOMY

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, small businesses are the economic engines of our economy.

There are over 800,000 small businesses in North Carolina, generating \$800 million annually, accounting for half of all private sector employment in our State, and regularly creating more than 20,000 jobs a year.

We have seen a 38 percent increase in minority-owned businesses in the last decade, and across the U.S., 85 million people rely on 25 million small businesses for employment.

As vice ranking member of the Small Business Committee and ranking member on the Investigations, Oversight and Regulations Subcommittee, I recognize the impact that small businesses have on our communities. Lawmakers must continue to encourage innovation and support legislation that allows local companies to grow.

I am proud to introduce the Score Act of 2017 during the 54th annual National Small Business Week, legislation that authorizes the SCORE program, connecting experienced businessowners with budding entrepreneurs for advice and mentorship, and it ensures its funding for at least 3 years.

Small businesses make the American Dream possible, and I am committed to standing up and speaking out on their behalf.

KAPPAS DAY ON THE HILL

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

Mr. McEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to recognize my brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, during the annual James "Biff" Carter Kappas on Capitol Hill Legislative Policy Conference.

Each year, my brothers come to Capitol Hill with their crimson blazers to raise awareness around the key issues that affect our communities.

I had the privilege of joining this noble clan of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, right here in Washington, D.C., at American University, where we chartered the Kappa Chi chapter of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. It was in the fall of 1980 that I was allowed to cross the burning sands and commit myself to a life of honorable achievement in every field of human endeavor.

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud because now, more than ever, we need the leaders in our communities to raise their voices, raise awareness, and come to Washington, D.C., as advocates on behalf of their communities, as it says in the First Amendment, "to petition the government for a redress of their grievances."

I am proud of the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, for coming to Congress today, as they do each spring.

DISCRIMINATION IS WRONG

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to help bring forth the Equality Act, with 194 original cosponsors on both sides of the aisle. The principle behind the Equality Act is simple: discrimination is wrong, no matter what form it takes, no matter who it targets.

This is a principle that Americans overwhelmingly choose to embrace and live by. We see it in the way we treat our LGBT employees, friends, neighbors, and family. It is apparent in the outpouring of joy and celebration we witnessed at the Supreme Court's historic marriage equality ruling 2 years ago.

But sadly, our laws have not yet caught up with our values. It is still legal in a majority of States to fire somebody just because they are gay. That is not just a theoretical concern. It means real harm and real hardship for countless Americans.

For LGBT Americans who are fired or turned away from a doctor's office or told they are not wanted in their neighborhood, many of them have nowhere to go for legal recourse. We are better than that as a nation. It is time we showed that.

We are a nation that prides ourselves on our commitment to equality under the law. So I call upon this Congress to pass the Equality Act and put an end to legal discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Americans once and for all.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce: