

Rwanda, and Sudan. Yet another genocide was committed after Sudan, this one against Christians, Yazidis, and other religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS. The survival of these ancient communities depends on humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery assistance from the United States and other countries.

Last June this house unanimously passed H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act, so that our aid reaches the genocide survivors and perpetrators are held accountable. The Senate has still not been given the opportunity to vote on this urgently needed legislation. I again call for the Senate to pass H.R. 390 now and send it to the President for his signature. This legislation will significantly strengthen the ongoing efforts of his Administration to directly help Christian and Yazidi genocide survivors at risk of extinction.

Another critical piece of legislation for which I voted in support was the Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act, H.R. 5480.

Chairman ROYCE's Women's Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act expands, and improves upon, our previous microenterprise legislation. By way of background, the Committee on Foreign Affairs has a long history in this field, dating back at least to former chairman Ben Gilman's Microenterprise for Self-Reliance and International Anti-Corruption Act of 2000. I myself introduced the Microenterprise Results and Accountability Act of 2004, and a bill that amended the 2000 legislation, both of which became law.

In keeping with a deeper understanding of how to combat poverty and maintaining a needed focus on women, Chairman ROYCE's bill broadens the scope from microenterprise to include small and medium enterprises. While it is important to make sure that the very poor are not being neglected, small and medium enterprises help power development and thereby empower the poor. Thus I encouraged all to support H.R. 5480 and the House voted to pass the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I also supported H.R. 5105, the BUILD Act.

I thank my friend and colleague, Mr. TED YOHO of Florida, for offering this critical and visionary legislation. This legislation will modernize development finance to benefit the developing world, consistent with U.S. policy objectives.

To cite one critical component, the BUILD Act serves to counteract China's strategy in Africa, which uses development finance as a means to serve China's ends, even if that means propping up brutal dictators.

I thank Chairman ED ROYCE for his leadership in guiding this legislation through the Foreign Affairs Committee, and for his responsiveness to concerns I had relayed, relating to China.

In particular, I appreciate changes made to the initial draft of this bill concerning the denominating of future loans in foreign currencies.

While the International Development Finance Corporation that this legislation would create needs to have flexibility, including issuing loans in foreign currencies, we must remember it is also the long-term geostrategic goal of China, Russia, and certain other countries to replace the dollar as the world's reserve currency.

I therefore appreciate Chairman ROYCE's amended text, which adds, "Foreign currency denominated loans and guaranties should only be provided if the Board determines there is a substantive policy rationale for such loans and guaranties."

Beyond this, however, there should be a clear policy statement on the importance and overall strategic interest in retaining the dollar as the world's reserve currency. Indeed, earlier this year, China met with central bankers from 14 African nations to discuss the viability of using China's yuan as the reserve currency for the region.

This nonetheless underscores the urgency for creating an International Development Finance Corporation, which the BUILD Act accomplishes, while underscoring the need for policy guidance that loans in foreign currencies not be used to undermine reserve dollar dominance.

I further voiced support of H.R. 4819, the DELTA Act, introduced by my friend and colleague Mr. JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, of which I was a cosponsor.

There is much in this bill to recommend it—from prioritizing anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking efforts in the greater Okavango River Basin, to helping preserve the majestic elephant and other endangered species, to providing sustainable livelihoods for local communities.

One other aspect of this bill which I highlighted was that it enables us to partner with, and coordinate efforts with, the countries of Botswana, Namibia and Angola.

Botswana and Namibia in particular are two countries which are often overlooked, but which have made great strides in recent years towards becoming responsible partners. Both are, in the context of Africa, good places in which to do business, and should be commended for their efforts in improving governance. Their partnership in the greater Okavango initiative underscores this trend.

Angola is a nation which, after decades of civil war followed by strongman rule, is beginning to tackle corruption under new President João Lourenço. While it remains to be seen how far and how quickly Angola can go toward becoming a reliable partner and a country in which to do business, its inclusion as a DELTA Act partner country is a sign of confidence in the future.

I urged my colleagues to support the DELTA Act, and it also passed the House yesterday.

CONGRESSIONAL TRIBUTE FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF FLEET READINESS CENTER-EAST IN HONOR OF THEIR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize a vital strategic asset for Marine aviation. Fleet Readiness Center-East (FRC-East) has been generating combat air power for America's Marines and naval forces for 75 years. The organizational history begins December 16, 1943, when it opened as the Assembly and Repair Department at Marine

Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina to perform aircraft maintenance for the air station and nearby airfields.

After distinguished and commendable service in the final years of World War II, the facility's name changed to the Overhaul and Repair Department. With the advent of the jet age, the depot continued to expand to meet the needs of combat aviation during the Korean War.

In the mid-1960s, the Depot specialized in Navy and Marine Corps rework and had become a vital source in supporting fleet operations during the Vietnam War. In 1967, the facility was organizationally detached from Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point and placed under Navy management as a naval air rework facility. In 1968, the facility ranked as the second largest industrial plant in North Carolina.

The late 1970s saw significant changes and modernization for the facility. It was during this period that the facility attained the highest degree of productivity in its history. The Depot received numerous awards for excellence in productivity and cost reduction.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Depot received many upgrades to improve productivity, support and expand the aviation capabilities to keep current with new technology and workload. In November 1987, a team departed for the third time in history to Antarctica to repair an aircraft that had crashed nearly 16 years earlier. The facility was then renamed the Naval Aviation Depot.

The Depot provided assistance to the fleet in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Iraq with field team deployments to various locations for engines, components, aircraft, ground support equipment and squadron support. Since this time, FRC-East supported the War in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Global War on Terrorism.

Today, FRC-East has grown to become the largest industrial employer east of Interstate 95 with 119 buildings and 2.1 million square feet, spanning over 147 acres valued at \$1.36 billion. The workforce includes more than 3,900 employees, which provide aircraft, engine and component maintenance, engineering and logistics support for U.S. forces and 24 foreign nations.

On this 75th anniversary year, I would like to thank the outstanding employees of FRC-East for their continued outstanding service and support to our nation, our allies, and its Eastern North Carolina community. I wish FRC-East continued success for its next 75 years of support to our warfighters.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF ED KIRKWOOD

HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents from Butler, Pennsylvania, Mr. Ed Kirkwood. This Friday, July 20th, Ed will be retiring following over 34 years of commendable public service.

Ed has proudly served as the Butler Township Manager for the last 10 years. In this role, Ed oversaw the day-to-day operations of

Butler Township while spearheading various projects and serving as the administrative officer of the township. Prior to this position, Ed spent over 18 years managing the City of Lower Burrell—Where he made a positive and lasting impact that can still be felt today.

Throughout his tenure, Ed has displayed an admirable work ethic and a sincere desire to make a difference. His stewardship of Butler Township has resulted not only in continued prosperity of its businesses and residents, but also transformed the overall professional environment. Local officials have a direct impact on residents through a number of capacities, which Ed realized and cherished. Regardless of the situation or circumstances, Ed always remained resilient and kept the township on the right path—Focusing on the best interests of the people he felt privileged to represent.

Though he made a career for himself in public service, Ed still managed to give back to his community as a volunteer. He has participated on a number of boards and served as a member of numerous committees, continuously striving to make a difference and better the lives of others. Ed participated in the committees that were formed to rewrite and modernize both the First and Third Class Township Codes, which eventually granted cities legal authority to operate in an efficient manner.

In addition, Ed was the Director of the “U-Comp Board” which was developed to assist municipalities and authorities across the state with unemployment solutions and assistance. Ed served on the Little League Board of Directors for nearly 20 years and volunteered as a mentor for individuals who committed first time offenses.

Ed’s decades of service prove him to be a leader in every sense of the word. I am grateful to represent such a service-minded individual who has been both honorable and effective. Under his management, Butler Township has flourished while residents and business have been enriched.

Ed is the epitome of a devoted public servant and his strong leadership has provided a solid vision for Butler Township. His unique people skills, thoughtfulness and integrity have resulted in many years of professional and invaluable service for which he will be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ed Kirkwood for his lifelong dedication to public service and for all of the work he has done to better the community. Furthermore, I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ed on his well-earned retirement and wishing him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING COLONEL ROGER
DONLON

HON. JOHN J. FASO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Roger Donlon for his exemplary service to our nation. A native of Saugerties, New York, Mr. Donlon bravely served our country in the U.S. Army for thirty years. Though his humility, fierce loyalty, and steadfast patriotism, Mr. Donlon has redefined

bravery and showed us that our freedoms have not come without many sacrifices.

In May 1964, Mr. Donlon was sent to Vietnam as Captain of the U.S. Army 7th Special Forces Team A-726 assigned to defend Camp Nam Dong. In the early hours of July 6, 1964, a Viet Cong battalion unleashed a surprise attack on Camp Nam Dong. Throughout the five-hour battle, Mr. Donlon remained focused and determined, swiftly repositioning himself around the camp, directing counterfire, giving his men encouragement, and even providing care to the wounded despite his own injuries. His valiant efforts in the face of Viet Cong aggression made Mr. Donlon the first person to receive the Medal of Honor, the military’s highest decoration, in the Vietnam War.

Although Mr. Donlon’s formal service in the U.S. Army has ended, his service to our country continues today. Through his active involvement with the Medal of Honor Foundation’s Medal of Honor Character Development Program, the Westmoreland Scholar Foundation, as well as regularly talking to students and servicemen and women, Mr. Donlon is an important role model for our communities, our military, and the next generation of soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Colonel Roger Donlon on his lifetime of hard work and dedicated service to the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House Chamber Roll Call votes 331 through 335 on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted “Nay” on Roll Call votes 331 and 332, and “Yea” on Roll Call votes 333, 334, and 335.

TRIBUTE TO IOWA SELECT FARMS AND THE DEB AND JEFF HANSEN FOUNDATION

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation for being honored by the Army National Guard for their outstanding support of Army Guard Soldiers across the state of Iowa.

Iowa Select Farms has been honoring Iowa’s soldiers for 12 years now by distributing pork and pork products to all military families during the holidays. Lieutenant General Timothy J. Kadavy, director of the Army National Guard, noted the “positive impact” that employers such as the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation have on Soldiers’ lives and thanked those “who do so much for the men and women who serve in the Army National Guard.”

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation today. I know that my

colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in applauding their ongoing support of our military members.

HONORING CHIEF IRA LEWIS

HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Chief Ira Lewis (USCG, retired) of Harker’s Island, North Carolina, and recognize his turning 100 years old on August 2, 2018. On Saturday, August 18, 2018, the Town of Harker’s Island and the surrounding community will formally honor Chief Lewis as their oldest living citizen. The celebration will include a United States Coast Guard reunion, parade, and recognition ceremony.

Ira Lewis was born on Harker’s Island on August 2, 1918. At the age of 16, he had to make the difficult decision to leave school early in order to support his family. Having four brothers that served either in the Coast Guard or Navy, Ira followed suit and joined the United States Coast Guard in 1938, serving diligently until his retirement on August 1, 1959. From his enlistment through March 1957, Chief Lewis’ assignments included Stations Bellport, Ditch Plans, Forge River, Rockaway Atlantic Beach, Smith’s Point, Napeague and Moriches Lifeboat Station. From March 1957 until his retirement on August 1, 1959, Chief Lewis served as the lighthouse keeper at Montauk Lighthouse, Long Island, N.Y.

After retirement, Chief Lewis returned home to Harker’s Island, North Carolina and began to build his family home with his own hands. This home would house his wife, Maggie; son, Phil; and daughter, Ann. After completing his home, Chief Lewis went to work at the commissary aboard Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point for eleven years. Upon completing his career at the commissary, he started a commercial fishing business, where he piloted two vessels, and persevered through that often challenging career for twenty-three years.

As the commercial industry began to decline, Chief Lewis looked for a new path, and decided to give back to his community. He went on to serve with several boards and community improvement teams. Of note was the Carteret County Harbor Committee, which helped secure funding to upgrade harbors for commercial fishers. Chief Lewis also worked with a team to initiate the Veterans’ Memorial Project, which now stands on the grounds of the Harker’s Island Elementary School.

As a result of his years of service, Chief Lewis was awarded the prestigious and exclusive Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2013 by the Governor of North Carolina. This award is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. That same year, he was honored with a United States Coast Guard Medallion in recognition of his 95th birthday. A revered man, the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum of Harker’s Island also hosts a permanent Life Saving Service and United States Coast Guard display in honor of Chief Lewis’ many contributions during his career.

Chief Lewis has given his life to public service through his career with the United States