

food from local farmers, they have begun to ask where their flowers come from as well.

So, this month, I ask my fellow consumers to ask themselves an important question before their next flower purchase: What better way to celebrate a wedding, offer condolences, or show your appreciation than with flowers that are not only beautiful but also meaningful in their connection to the places where they grow and the people who grow them.

AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER
MONTH

During the month of July, every State is in the season of harvesting a wide variety of beautiful flowers and blooms. This makes July the perfect month to celebrate America's flower farms in all 50 States and, specifically, Holland America Flower Gardens, located in my district.

Holland America Flower Gardens in Woodland, Washington, is owned and operated by four generations of Dobbe family members. Their expertise in flower bulbs allows for the harvesting of several specialty crops, such as lilies, freesias, peonies, and tulips. Most important, all of their vibrant cut flowers are American grown.

As a cosponsor of H. Res. 413, I support the designation of July as American Grown Flower Month and support America's flower farmers that range in size and economic production, but make up an ever-growing floriculture industry. Flowers grown in the United States create almost \$42 million in economic impact daily and support hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States.

In addition to the important economic impact, this industry also has a huge cultural impact.

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, as we enter the heart of hurricane season, it is important to understand hurricane storm surge.

The *Bluebonnet Belle* was designed and built in 1944. It flew more than 75 missions during World War II to carry cargo, passengers, and evacuate casualties.

The Highland Lakes Squadron Commemorative Air Force purchased the *Belle* in 2002 where it then made its way to Burnet, Texas, and has called the Lone Star State home ever since.

As recently as last year, this aircraft was used to transport food and supplies to the good people of Texas who suffered from Hurricane Harvey. It logged 13.6 flight hours going back and forth, which is incredible for a plane of this age.

Unfortunately, on Saturday, June 21, as the plane headed for the Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin, it crashed upon takeoff before catching fire and eventually exploding.

By the grace of God, all 13 crew members and passengers aboard the aircraft survived and are now in good spirits and safe.

I am thankful for the first responders who tended the aircrew and to those who helped contain the fire. I am sad to say that the *Bluebonnet Belle* will not be able to be restored. It is a huge loss for Burnet and for Texas 25. We will always remember this plane and all it accomplished across the United States and the world. It was a treasure that cannot be replaced.

In God we trust.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the House Cut Flower Caucus, I rise today in recognition of July as American Grown Flower Month.

Every year, U.S. consumers spend billions of dollars on cut flowers, but I think most would be surprised to hear that just 20 percent of these flowers are grown in the United States. The vast majority are imported from Colombia and other countries in South America and Africa.

The U.S.-grown flower industry has shrunk considerably in the last 30 years, but recently it has had a resurgence. As consumers have bought more

There was no objection.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my good friend, R.D. Kinsey, on becoming the first African American to be elected as commander of the American Legion Department of Arkansas.

Kinsey is a Vietnam-era veteran of the Air Force and a retired Federal civil service employee. He is the founding member of American Legion Post 74 and has been the post commander every year since that founding in 2004. He decided to step down this spring to seek the State commander's position.

He previously served as the vice chairman of the National Legislative Council of Arkansas and held numerous appointments on the National Legislative Commission. He is a member of the City of Sherwood Civil Service Commission and is the founding president of the Sherwood Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

I am proud of my friend, Commander R.D. Kinsey, who has proven his devotion to community and our State and veterans. He will be a great leader for Arkansas' American Legion.

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the House's attention to ongoing human rights abuses in Pakistan, particularly in the province of Sindh. For years, political activists and religious minorities in Sindh have faced daily threats of forced conversion, disappearances by security forces, and murder.

Hundreds of Sindhis remain unaccounted for and others have been held away from their families for months or years to create a climate of fear and repression. There is also a disturbingly high incidence of terrorist violence against religious minorities, which Pakistani security forces have been unable or unwilling to prevent.

I call upon the administration to prioritize these issues with Pakistan.

Storm surge is the abnormal rise in water caused by hurricanes and the deadliest part of the storm. For large storms, mathematical models can predict a storm surge up to 48 hours before landfall. However, a 48-hour window is not sufficient for emergency management to make decisions on an evacuation order needed to save lives.

I recently met a young woman named Cindi-Ann Findley who has been working on solutions to this problem as she completes her undergraduate studies. With a National Science Foundation grant, Cindi-Ann is spending the summer exploring the sensitivities that lead to errors in forecasts by simulating previous storms using a detailed operational model. She hopes to find the characteristics that cause the largest storm surge errors.

Her work illustrates just one way that mathematics can be used to approach real-world problems and save lives.

JOSH REDDICK AND MIRACLE FIELD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Houston Astro's right fielder and a constituent of the First Congressional District of Georgia, Mr. Josh Reddick, for his contribution to his hometown: the Josh Reddick Stadium.

Mr. Reddick is a highly successful Major League Baseball player with a World Series title and two Defensive Player of the Year Awards.

But I am proud of Mr. Reddick for continuing to make his community a top priority and helping to improve the quality of life for children with special needs.

Last year, he donated \$1 million to build the state-of-the-art Josh Reddick Baseball Stadium in Effingham County, which is accessible for all children, including those with special needs.

On Saturday, July 21, the stadium officially opened, ready for play.

Thank you, Mr. Reddick, for your gift to Effingham County and for your desire to help all children enjoy the game of baseball. Good luck during the rest of this season in the majors.

HONORING DANA BOWMAN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, John Quincy Adams once said:

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.

Special Forces Sergeant Dana Bowman is the epitome of that leader, continuously inspiring those around him. Indeed, he is a retired sergeant first

class with the U.S. Army Special Forces and a member of the elite parachute team, the Golden Knights.

On February 6, 1994, while training and descending at 300 miles per hour from the plane that dropped him, he collided midair with his teammate, Sergeant Jose Aguillon. The result of that horrendous collision was the unfortunate death of Sergeant Aguillon and the severing of both of Sergeant Bowman's legs, one above the knee and the other below.

Nine months following this deeply tragic event, he became the first double amputee to reenlist in the United States Army.

I witnessed his fortitude firsthand this past week at the 2018 opening of the national Civilian Marksmanship Program in Port Clinton, Ohio. On July 9, at Camp Perry, during the beginning of the shooting matches for this year, Sergeant Bowman began the program by parachuting from very high with a gigantic American flag that he helped unfurl as he landed on Earth. After a few short minutes, Sergeant Bowman landed perfectly right behind the podium. What a sight to behold.

I say to my fellow countrymen, truly, this man embraces the words, "Land of the free, home of the brave," and teaches us all how to rise above adversity and reach beyond whatever limitations life may deliver to any of us.

Godspeed, Sergeant Bowman. You make us proud to be Americans.

GLENVILLE STATE COLLEGE TUITION

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glenville State College in Glenville, West Virginia.

With an enrollment of 1,641 students, Glenville State has emerged as a pivotal institution of higher education in central West Virginia.

Under the leadership of its president, Tracey Pellett, they stand out for their efforts to reduce the cost of tuition, thereby giving more students access to an affordable education.

When we meet with students, their number one concern is the amount of debt that they are accumulating. That is understandable.

Since 1987, nationwide tuition rates have grown more than 213 percent. But since 2016, while most colleges have hiked their tuition, Glenville has frozen their rates and even cut the cost of summer courses by 25 percent.

For the upcoming school year, the school plans on reducing tuition by a full 2 percent. This could be a template for other universities and colleges across the country to follow.

I applaud Glenville State College for its dedication to ensuring that every student can access a quality, affordable education.

WEEKEND VOTING

(Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, sadly, voter turnout in the United States ranks as one of the lowest among developed democratic countries.

We know that low voter turnout results in frustration, apathy, and a democracy that is not truly representative of the public.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, there is one relatively easy way that we can address this and improve voter turnout, and that is to switch to weekend voting. Weekend voting is a proven method that increases accessibility, engagement, and turnout.

The reason why we vote on Tuesday in the United States is because of a law that has existed ever since 1845. It was because we didn't want to vote on the Sabbath; it took a day to travel to the county seat; and people needed to get back home in time for market day on Wednesday. Clearly, society has changed a great deal in the last 173 years.

That is why I introduced the Louise Slaughter Weekend Voting Act to officially change election day to the first weekend after the first Friday in November. Weekend voting makes sense, and our representative democracy should demand it.

LOWER PREMIUM PLANS AND HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have advocated for a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare. But as we have learned of the failures of ObamaCare, Federal Government mandates do not work for the American people. They demand choice.

Part of the House Republican's Better Way agenda is to restore the doctor-patient relationship and put patients back in control of their healthcare decisions. That is what we have done today.

I congratulate my colleagues on passage of H.R. 6311. H.R. 6311, the Increasing Access to Lower Premium Plans and Expanding Health Savings Accounts Act, will provide more choice by expanding health savings accounts to help people plan and save for their healthcare needs, while also assessing lower cost healthcare plans.

Instead of paying high premiums, Americans can save their hard-earned money in tax-favored health savings accounts. It also delays ObamaCare's tax on health insurers for an additional 2 years, providing relief from the premium increase caused by the tax itself.

Simply put, our current healthcare system is failing the American people,