

Maduro secures these lifeline loans by promising to repay the Russians with future oil exports. But amid Venezuela's economic crisis, Maduro, not surprisingly, fell behind on those payments, reports indicate, beginning in 2017. News reports suggest that the Russian state oil company Rosneft lent the Venezuelan state oil company billions of dollars, partly as a prepayment for its crude oil.

Those oily tentacles are another reason why the Russia-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act is so vital. This bill would also require the President to give Congress an assessment of the security risks posed by any potential Russian acquisition of the U.S. energy infrastructure holdings of CITGO, which is owned by Venezuela. By monitoring the CITGO acquisition risks, we monitor one of Maduro's vital veins of sustenance.

Finally, what this bill would also do is allow the United States to use the diplomatic tools of travel to discourage further Russian-Venezuelan military entanglements. It would block travel to the United States by anyone who is acting or has acted on behalf of the Russian Government in direct support of the Venezuelan security forces.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, except in rare circumstances, this bill would allow for a ban and immediate revocation of visas from anyone working on behalf of the Russian Government to directly bolster the Venezuelan security forces.

Right now, the people of Venezuela are enduring an unimaginable onslaught of hunger, preventable medical dangers, and dire escalating economic pain. We cannot stand idly by while Putin assists Maduro in carrying out this inhumane and barbaric tragedy.

The Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will make it harder for the Kremlin to outfit Maduro with weapons of oppression. This bill will also allow the United States to monitor and minimize the threat that Russia poses to the entire region.

Restoring democracy to Venezuela will not happen overnight. No single action alone could bring it about. But combined with the strong humanitarian aid and military export bills my colleagues have crafted that have passed on the floor tonight, the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act will provide part of the comprehensive solution this all-encompassing tragedy needs.

The Venezuelan people, including my friends and neighbors back home, desperately need this relief.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard real stories of neighbors and friends standing in front of me, describing the Maduro regime's confiscation of their businesses, just coming in one day and taking over everything. They have wrought devas-

tation across that land. Venezuela was once a vibrant, rich, successful democracy that he has driven into the ground for his own enrichment.

We can help bring this to an end through bills like the Russian-Venezuelan Threat Mitigation Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for their support of this critical legislation.

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would once again like to thank my colleagues for the three bipartisan bills on Venezuela that have been considered by this House today.

This is one issue where all Members of Congress, regardless of party or background, should stand together with the people of Venezuela and support interim President Guaido's efforts to bring free and fair elections to the country.

The criminal socialist dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro has driven Venezuela to ruin. He is clinging to power by repressing the people of Venezuela while surrounding himself with foreign forces from Cuba and Russia.

Millions of Venezuelans have fled the dangerous and deteriorating circumstances at home, as Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ mentioned about Weston. We also know about other places in west Miami where the Venezuelans, fortunately, are adding value to our economy now.

They have created burdens and instability far beyond Venezuela's border. The average Venezuelan has lost 20 kilos in the last 2 years. These people are starving to death under a repression that hasn't been seen since Ceausescu's Romania or Stalin's Russia.

Congress should support the administration's efforts to bring democracy and prosperity back to Venezuela, and these bills demonstrate our support for the values of freedom and liberty that the Venezuelan people desire and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support H.R. 1477, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for authoring this important legislation and for her leadership on behalf of the Venezuelan people.

As we all know, Vladimir Putin is seeking to expand Russia's nefarious influence in many parts of the world, always against democracy, always in opposition to the idea that ordinary people have the right to stand up for human rights and against corruption, including in Venezuela.

This is the struggle of our time. This legislation makes it clear that we stand united with our allies in Latin America and across the world in rejecting the Kremlin's support for the corrupt Maduro regime.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1477, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF TUBERCULOSIS SURVIVOR KATE O'BRIEN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great work of tuberculosis survivor Kate O'Brien.

Kate visited my office in Newark earlier this month, along with the staff from the Global Tuberculosis Institute of Rutgers University. She shared with me her inspiring story about surviving TB and the need for global and domestic TB funding.

Tuberculosis is a curable, airborne infection that kills more people worldwide than any other infectious disease. It is the leading killer of people with HIV worldwide.

Tuberculosis is also a problem here in the United States. In 2016, the disease was reported in each of the 50 States, with more than 9,000 cases reported across the country that year.

Though it is curable, TB has a huge economic impact. In my State of New Jersey, TB costs the economy \$5.7 million a year.

We have made tremendous progress to combat TB here in the United States. Because of the work of advocates and survivors like Kate O'Brien, we can raise awareness about tuberculosis, increase funding for research and treatment, and save lives at home and abroad.

#### HONORING ARMY SPECIALIST ROSS MCGINNIS ON NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is National Medal of Honor Day, when this Nation recalls the sacrifice and heroics of all Medal of Honor recipients.

Over 150 years ago, on March 25, 1863, the first Medals of Honor were presented. In 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day. The Medal of Honor is the highest military honor our Nation can bestow.

In 2016, I was able to recognize one of Pennsylvania's very own Medal of

Honor recipients, the late Army Specialist Ross McGinnis. The post office in Knox, Clarion County, is named for Specialist McGinnis, who died in December 2006 in Iraq.

While on patrol in eastern Baghdad on December 4, 2006, an unidentified insurgent positioned on a nearby rooftop threw a grenade into a Humvee carrying McGinnis and other troops. Specialist McGinnis threw his body on top of the grenade, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers.

He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a grateful Nation, I salute all our Medal of Honor recipients.

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#### HONORING ROBERT McDANIEL

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, last week the city of Fort Worth said good-bye to its last surviving member of the World War II Tuskegee Airmen, Robert T. McDaniel.

Born in Fort Worth, Mr. McDaniel was a proud graduate of Fort Worth ISD, where he excelled as a student. In 1940, he finished as class president and valedictorian at the venerable I.M. Terrell High School.

At a time when the military was still segregated and Black men were not welcomed in the service, Mr. McDaniel became a member of the first class of African American bombardiers in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He was part of a group of skilled Black airmen who flew combat aircraft in World War II.

After serving his country, Mr. McDaniel returned to Fort Worth to teach at I.M. Terrell and later became a principal and a counselor. In this role, he worked to inspire a generation of leaders in Fort Worth's Black community that is countless.

As many of his friends will tell you, Mr. McDaniel never boasted about his military service, and only a few people knew about his service to the Nation as a Tuskegee Airman.

I know that we are going to miss Mr. McDaniel.

I also wanted to touch on the fact that I will never forget when his wife, Hester, died. They were married for 55 years, and they were an institution in the Black community in Fort Worth. Everybody knew them. They were just a lovely couple. He was so sad when she passed away. They were always at each other's side.

While we will miss Mr. McDaniel, we know that he is happy to be reunited with his wife, Hester McDaniel.

My deepest condolences go out to his family and his friends as we reflect on the trails that he blazed and his deep commitment to our country.

#### RECOGNIZING BEN DAVIS

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the Boy Scout motto is "Be Prepared." All Scouts say it, but very few live it. A young Scout from Sugar Land, Texas, lived it. His name is Ben Davis.

On July 2, 2018, Ben hears faint cries. He is horrified when he finds the source: an 87-year-old neighbor lying in her yard. She had fallen doing yard work. She had been lying in the hot Texas July sun for hours. She was dying.

Being a prepared Boy Scout, Ben knew exactly what to do: go into the woman's house, call 911. And that is exactly what Ben did. Ben stayed with his neighbor until help arrived.

Ben Davis is the best in Sugar Land, in Fort Bend County, in Texas, and in America. He is a prepared Boy Scout hero.

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of Women's History Month, where we recognize women who are living today, making a difference in America.

I want to recognize a Detroit woman, Adrienne Bennett, who was the first Black female master plumber in the United States of America. She had already broken barriers and made history, and her impact only continues to soar in her position as the CEO of her own company.

This month and every month, we must stand up and lift up women all across this country, ensuring our laws and policies empower and protect all women.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as co-chair of the Women's Caucus and join women all over this country as we step up and ensure that this country, for the girls and young women coming behind us, is one of respect, one of equality, and one of opportunities.

#### HONORING NATIONAL YOUNG FARMERS AWARD

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, Jessica and Brandon Batten of Johnston County, North Carolina, have received the distinct honor of being selected as the 2019 National Outstanding Young Farmers of the Year. No couple is more deserving of this award than Jessica and Brandon.

Brandon has been farming his entire life. He is a sixth-generation farmer and the third generation of his family's operation Triple B Farms, Incorporated, where he and his family

produce tobacco, wheat, rye, soybeans, corn, and hay, along with beef cattle. His wife, Jessica, is an environmental engineer, providing innovative conservation plans to help increase farm productivity.

Not only are the Battens helping to produce our food supply, they are also very active members of their community. Brandon is a first responder for Strickland's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, and both are active in their church.

During a time when North Carolina's farm families have been facing a great deal of uncertainty, Brandon has been a strong advocate for his occupation through various farm organizations as well as the promotion of research and technological advancements in agriculture to help the industry remain strong.

Mr. Speaker, these are two great young Americans who deserve to have their hard work and efforts rewarded, and I congratulate them on being selected for this very distinguished recognition.

#### WHEN WOMEN SUCCEED, AMERICA SUCCEEDS

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I come today to the floor to salute women, living legends, women who are focused and determined and hopeful and empowered—not just one, but a roll call from my district:

Karen Morrison, Ohio Health; Trudy Bartley, The Ohio State University; Stephanie Hightower, the Urban League; Kathy Espy, Mount Carmel; Yvette McGee Brown, Jones Day law firm; the Women's Fund; the YWCA, with Christie Angel; Go Red for Women; Delta Sigma Theta; The Links, Incorporated; the Matriarch; Barbara Benham, Huntington Bank; Dawn Tyler Lee, the mayor's office; Emilia Sykes, Ohio House Democratic leader;

Our judges, African American women elected to the courts: Jaiza Page, Laurel Beatty Blunt, Monica Hawkins, Kimberly Browne, Terri Jamison. And the list goes on and on: Jennifer Brunner, judge; and, yes, the Ohio Supreme Court, Melody Stewart.

Today I stand here and I say thank you to Jo Ann Davidson, the first female Speaker in Ohio; Colleen Marshall, reporting it every day on the news; and so many more.

Today I join women on this floor because we salute women. Women make a difference. But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we know when women succeed, America succeeds.

#### MOTORCYCLE PROFILING

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Motorcycle