

Nebraska, and new barracks in Mead, Nebraska.

General Bohac and the Nebraska National Guard's disaster response capabilities were tested most notably when a state of emergency was declared following a "bomb cyclone" that hit the state in March of 2019, causing severe blizzard conditions in the western panhandle with extreme thunderstorms and historic flooding in the east. More than 450 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen executed 113 flood-related missions, the most significant disaster response operation in state history. In the wake of the 2019 historic floods, he successfully advocated for more than \$43 million in funding to rapidly reconstruct the decimated facilities at Camp Ashland in record time, while also rebuilding the levee to be more robust and resilient to future floods.

On the heels of this historic disaster, the Nebraska National Guard was called upon to assist with the COVID-19 pandemic and response. The National Guard partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center in providing Camp Ashland facilities as an initial housing location for 57 Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China. Further, Major General Bohac worked with the Governor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and other state agencies to set up a State Emergency Operations Center to coordinate and manage COVID-19 emergency actions in Nebraska, directing Soldiers, Airmen, and Emergency Management civilians in response planning, mobile testing teams, personal protective equipment distribution, food bank support, and housing accommodations.

I thank General Bohac for his many years of sacrifice and service to our Nation and the state of Nebraska. We owe him a debt of gratitude we can never repay for his impactful leadership and achievements that will be felt for many future generations.

INTRODUCTION OF AN ACT TO EXPAND THE MISSION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE TO INCLUDE ACTIVE USE OF SYSTEM UNITS LOCATED IN URBAN AREAS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would expand the mission of the National Park Service (NPS) to include active use of National Park System units located in urban areas. The idea for this bill came from a new report authored by George Washington University's Sumner M. Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness that examined strategies to create a more equitable and activated park system in the District of Columbia.

As the report notes, NPS parks in D.C. are "inconsistently managed and inequitably maintained" and "do not meet the needs of people who both live near and experience the park system as a part of their daily lives." Efforts to activate and improve local parks have been hindered by limitations on NPS's statutory authority. NPS's primary mission is to preserve spaces for the enjoyment of future genera-

tions. This noble mission was crafted for the purpose of wilderness preservation, allowing nature to remain untouched by time. However, in addition to grand national parks, NPS also owns neighborhood parks in urban areas. For example, more than 20 percent of D.C. land consists of parkland, and NPS owns nearly 90 percent of it, over two-thirds of which is local, neighborhood parks, smaller than one acre. These parks could benefit from improvements that prioritize community engagement, including trails, playgrounds and benches. However, NPS's mission is limited to preserving land as it currently exists. This mission is ill-suited to address the unique and immediate needs of urban neighborhood parks.

This bill would expand the mission of NPS to include the promotion of active use of its parks located in urban areas. Active use prioritizes current enjoyment by people and improves quality of life, including playgrounds, pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure, sports and recreation facilities, community events, programming and concessions. This expanded mission would only apply to parks located in areas that have been defined and designated as "urban" in the most recent decennial census by the Secretary of Commerce, and would not impact wilderness areas.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CONGRATULATING NHC KINGS- PORT FOR 2022 NHC CENTER OF THE YEAR

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend NHC Kingsport on their outstanding achievements in healthcare and their recent recognition as the 2022 NHC Center of the Year.

Located in Kingsport, Tennessee, NHC Kingsport is a vital 60-bed healthcare center that has steadfastly served the Tri-Cities and surrounding communities for many years. Their commitment to quality patient care and family support is a testament to the positive impact that dedicated healthcare professionals can make in the lives of those they serve.

Under the proficient leadership of Administrator Debbie Hubbard and Director of Nursing Eva Grapperhaus, NHC Kingsport has flourished. Ms. Hubbard and Ms. Grapperhaus have held their respective positions since the center's opening in 2014. Notably, Ms. Hubbard was also recognized as the 2019 NHC Administrator of the Year.

NHC Kingsport is distinguished as a CMS 5-Star Center, a prestigious rating that signifies it ranks within the top 10 percent of all skilled nursing centers. Additionally, in 2022, NHC Kingsport was recognized as an NHC 5-Star Center of Excellence, boasting an exemplary Consumer View score of 96.82 percent, a Patient Care Component of 96.75 percent, a pressure ulcer rate of only 0.59 percent, and a net patient satisfaction score of 68 percent.

Their consistency in excellence is demonstrated by NHC Kingsport being ranked among the top 10 in the NHC Center of the Year rankings for the past six years. More-

over, they have received numerous NHC Honor Club and Legends Awards, further solidifying their standing as a paragon in the healthcare industry.

National HealthCare Corporation, based in Murfreesboro, TN, operates 68 healthcare centers and nearly 8,500 beds across the Nation. Their comprehensive services include assisted living, home care, hospice, mental health, pharmacy, insurance, and management services.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating NHC Kingsport for their unwavering dedication to providing the highest level of care to their patients. Their achievements are not only a credit to the city of Kingsport, but a shining example for healthcare centers throughout our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING STOP PENTAGON PRICE GOUGING ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the "Stop Pentagon Price Gouging Act" with Representative DELUZIO (D-PA-17) as the original cosponsor. I thank U.S. Senators ELIZABETH WARREN (D-MA) and MIKE BRAUN (R-IN) for sponsoring the companion bill. These important reforms will protect taxpayers from being overcharged for goods procured by the Department of Defense.

Our bicameral, bipartisan bill would close loopholes in current acquisition laws, tie financial incentives for contractors to performance, and provide the Department of Defense (DoD) with the information necessary to prevent future rip-offs. Our bill would make several key reforms to achieve those goals.

First, our bill would ensure competitive and transparent pricing by closing a loophole and ensuring that defense contractors provide the federal government cost or pricing information in all cases where there isn't adequate price competition that results in at least 2 competitive bids. Second, the bill would restore market dynamics and ensure that commercial goods are those actually sold to customers other than just the federal government, revising the definition of commercial item for federal procurement by the Department of Defense. Third, the bill would ensure payment is tied to performance by creating a new pilot program for progress payments, which will help to tie payments to performance by providing contractors the opportunity to receive advance payments only when they meet certain conditions such as providing timely responses, disclosing important data, and meeting small business subcontractor goals. Lastly, the bill would ensure that our defense dollars are being spent to provide our armed forces with the resources they need and not to line the pockets of defense contractor executives, requiring disclosures from defense contractors mirroring those already required by publicly traded companies.

Taken together, this bill will be an important step in tackling price gouging, overbilling, or outright fraud by defense contractors. As a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee, I know how much we pay for parts to keep military equipment ready. We know

that taxpayers are routinely overcharged due to loopholes in current law and federal procurement regulations. We cannot allow taxpayer money to be wasted to inflate the bottom lines of multinational defense contractors. Our service members need the tools to properly negotiate prices. This is just common sense, and that's why we are reintroducing this bill today.

Mr. Speaker, Representative DELUZIO and I look forward to working across the aisle to advance these key reforms in the "Stop Pentagon Price Gouging Act." I encourage all members to join us in cosponsoring this commonsense bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MUENSTER STATE BANK

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Muenster State Bank on their 100th Anniversary, celebrating their opening to serve North Texans on July 2, 1923.

Early in 1923, a group of local leaders from the small German Catholic community of Muenster, Texas decided that if the town of less than 450 residents was going to continue to grow and prosper, a bank was necessary. This group, made up of businessmen and farmers, met in J.W. Meurer's hardware store to request that J.W. take on a leadership role in the formation of this new bank. The group was apprehensive that the required funds could be raised to supply the necessary capital and deposits, considering that the previous private bank had already failed twice. Assured that adequate stock could be sold, the group prevailed upon Mr. Meurer to continue in his leadership role and to take charge of the organization and operation of the bank. They looked for additional assistance and discovered through interviews that experienced bankers could be found but were unaffordable for this new bank venture.

Mr. Meurer knew his brother-in-law, J.M. Weinzapfel, had the business acumen required and was available, but at the time lived over 60 miles away in Windthorst, Texas. Upon being offered the job, Mr. Weinzapfel moved to Muenster to assist with the necessary paperwork to secure a charter and future operations. The original 21 stockholders in the bank successfully raised \$19,250.00 in total capital to obtain the State Charter and on Friday, June 29, 1923, the State of Texas granted them Bank Charter No. 1400. On the following Monday of July 2, 1923, the bank opened for business, providing Mr. Weinzapfel the foundation and community from which he would devote the remainder of his business life.

In the early years growth was slow. Nonetheless, the bank has generated an annual profit since inception, and has paid dividends in all but 2 years. Over the past century, through good and bad economic times, periods of war, and uncertainty such as 2 robberies and 1 attempted robbery, the officers and staff persevered, ensuring continued growth and prosperity along with the community it served. As a combination of a century's

dedication and hard work by bank staff members and the loyalty and confidence customers have placed in the institution, Muenster State Bank has grown to \$213 million in total assets as of the end of 2022, generating \$3.5 million in net income and paying out \$2.1 million in shareholder distributions.

Recently, Muenster State Bank's current president, Robert Weinzapfel, read the following communication to today's shareholders that then bank president, J.M. Weinzapfel, had written in 1942. Despite being written 81 years ago, it still rings true today.

"The bank organized and opened July 2nd, 1923 and never failed to pay a regular dividend each year since then. The Officers and Directors have been faithful to their trust and were influential in the promotion and development of many enterprising and successful business institutions in Muenster.

Our record of unusual service rendered to our patrons city, community, state and nation is reflected in the bank's growth. With resources now near 1/2 million dollars, we believe that the plan to increase the capital is in keeping with the sound and conservative policy that has characterized the bank throughout its history.

The achievements enumerated are an expressed tribute and reflect in memory to the untiring efforts and fidelity of the original officers, directors, stockholders and patrons that are still with us and those who have passed on to their reward."

As a part of our independent banking system, Muenster State Bank is a special part of our U.S. community banking system that is committed to supporting and investing to serve their local communities. I join the Muenster State Bank Stakeholders in looking back on the past century of community service, celebrating their accomplishments, and looking forward to the trust, community, and financial security they will continue to provide into their next century of operations.

REFLECTING ON PRIDE MONTH
2023

HON. HALEY M. STEVENS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, last month, I joined my Equality Caucus colleagues in recognizing Pride Month—an opportunity to honor the LGBTQ+ community, celebrate the developments we have made, and acknowledge the work that has yet to be done.

We have made remarkable progress towards full equality since LGBTQ+ patrons fought back against discrimination and police harassment at the Stonewall Inn in June of 1969.

Acceptance of this community has reached important heights, marriage equality is the law of the land, and the Supreme Court has made clear that workers cannot be fired because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Since entering Congress, I have had the distinct privilege of voting to pass the Equality Act to prohibit discrimination, the NO HATE Act to respond to hate crimes, the Global Respect Act to deny visas to those who commit human rights abuses against LGBTQ+ folks, and much more.

As a lifelong friend of the LGBTQ+ community and a Member of Congress committed to the pursuit of global tolerance, I know we still have so much work to do.

Hundreds of anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in the states in recent legislative sessions, and many have been signed into law. Many of these laws target young people, and especially trans and nonbinary youth.

Furthermore, I have been disgusted and infuriated by comments that I have heard from some of my colleagues across the aisle on the House Education and Workforce Committee during recent activity—those who wish to delegitimize the gender identities of our youth and strip LGBTQ+ students of their rights, resources, and humanity.

Our kids are suffering, and I will not stand for it.

To everyone in this beautiful community: know that I see you, I love you, and we have a big circle over here on Capitol Hill that will never let intolerance—even and especially in the highest levels of government—go unchallenged.

Too many of our LGBTQ+ family, friends, coworkers, and loved ones face discrimination every day, all across the nation. Continuing to pass pro-equality legislation sends a powerful message to members of the LGBTQ+ community that they are not second-class citizens.

Every human deserves to live as their most authentic self, and every American requires equal treatment under the law.

You deserve to feel safe when on public transportation, in the workplace, in the doctor's office, and in the classroom. No exceptions.

Going forward from this year's pride month, I will continue the fight to ensure that LGBTQ+ Americans are safe, secure, and free from discrimination.

CONGRATULATING CORPORATE
IMAGE ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Tennessee business as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team at Corporate Image in Bristol, Tennessee.

For three decades, Corporate Image has been a leading provider of public and media relations services to businesses on the local, regional, and national levels. They have assisted countless companies establish and grow their brand identity, develop effective communications strategies, and increase their visibility. The company's commitment to quality has earned it a reputation as a trusted partner for businesses looking to enhance their reputation and achieve long-term communications success. The team at Corporate Image has steadily delivered exceptional results, and their dedication to their clients has been unwavering.

Corporate Image has consistently demonstrated its ability to adapt to the ever-changing needs of businesses in today's environment. They have embraced new technologies and innovation, while also maintaining a focus