

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 MUESTER 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

on the core principles that have guided their business for 30 years. As we celebrate Corporate Image's 30th anniversary, we should take a moment to reflect on the contributions this company has made to the business community.

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Jon Lundberg and his entire team at Corporate Image. Their hard work, expertise, and commitment to excellence have been key to their success, and they have certainly set an example for other businesses to follow. Their willingness to embrace new ideas and tech-

nologies will ensure that they remain a leader in the marketing industry and continue to thrive for years to come.

I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Corporate Image team on their 30th anniversary. I wish them continued success in all their future endeavors.