

of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the first treaty between the United States and Thailand.

In fact, the historic agreement is distinguished as the first treaty between the United States and any Asian country.

Since its establishment, the relationship and cooperation between our two nations has thrived, providing benefits to both of our economies and national security.

That is why earlier this month I introduced the bipartisan resolution reaffirming our gratitude for our partnership and our continued commitment to building our friendship.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the historic treaty of 1833, let us also reaffirm our efforts to strengthen our strategic partnerships, promote democracy, and secure our interests in Asia and around the world.

JUSTICE FOR BLACK FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, the history of farming and agriculture in the United States is unquestionably one-sided. Black farmers have lost over \$300 million worth of farmland in the last century due to a history of widespread discrimination, which has further exacerbated the wealth gap in America.

According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, there are 3,222 Black farmers in my home State of Louisiana. Nationally, Black farmers only represent 1.4 percent of more than 3 million farmers. Since the 1920s, the number of Black farmers has dropped from nearly a million to roughly around 50,000. Today, they own just around half of a percent of our farmland.

The Justice for Black Farmers Act confronts our history and will establish a brighter future for the underserved by reforming the USDA, providing debt relief, and creating a land grant program to encourage new generations of Black farmers. This bill seeks to correct persistent injustices and restore the land base that Black farmers have lost unjustly.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative ADAMS and Senator BOOKER for their leadership on this issue.

MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart, a heavy heart because our country consistently turns a cheek, turns and looks away at the violence, the mass shootings that seem to be reported every day in the news.

It is simply not enough for my colleagues to come to the floor and offer condolences and well-wishing and prayer. While all those things are wonderful, in 2023 the people deserve action.

Our young people that are visiting with us deserve to be in a classroom that is safe. Our friends who worship in

churches and synagogues deserve to be able to worship in peace. People who walk their dogs or jog along the park should be able to do so without fear of a mass shooting. People should be able to go to a concert or a party and enjoy relative safety.

In this month alone: March 27, Tennessee, mass shooting; March 27, Wisconsin, mass shooting; March 26, Pennsylvania, mass shooting; March 26, Minnesota, mass shooting; March 26, Arkansas, mass shooting; March 26, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 25, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 25, New York, mass shooting; March 25, North Carolina, mass shooting; March 25, Illinois, mass shooting; March 24, Louisiana, mass shooting; March 23, Maryland, mass shooting; March 21, New Jersey, mass shooting; March 21, South Carolina, mass shooting; March 20, Wisconsin, mass shooting; March 18, Ohio, mass shooting; March 18, Illinois, mass shooting; March 18, Texas, mass shooting; March 15, Oregon, mass shooting; March 14, Alabama, mass shooting; March 13, Texas, mass shooting; March 12, Texas, mass shooting; March 11, New York, mass shooting; March 11, Washington, mass shooting; and March 10, Florida, mass shooting.

That is just this month alone. Let that sink in. At what point do we put people over profit? At what point do we challenge the gun makers to say: Listen, we are not talking about taking away your constitutional right to bear arms. We are talking about sensible gun control that will save these young people that are visiting us today, that will save these visitors that come to see their government at work.

This is not Republican or Democrat. This is about the survival of our communities. This is about the survival of our young people. This is about providing resources to make sure our communities are safe. Stop it. Stop protecting NRA and their profits and start protecting our children and their lives.

HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today on this important day to commemorate those who served in Vietnam. I want to call attention to one servicemember, Colonel Marshall McRee, who passed from us just 4 years ago.

Colonel McRee started his life in North Carolina poor. He chose a college because they offered a football scholarship and clothing that he could not afford.

President Kennedy called him up to rush to Florida as a young officer in the wake of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Colonel McRee went on to serve for 30 years. He did two tours in Vietnam. In early 1965, he served first as an adviser but then in the fierceness of battles in

1967 and 1968, in the Battle of Caisson, supporting the Marine Corps from his artillery position, supporting marines on long-range patrols during the day, and defending his perimeter all night.

Marshall McRee earned three Bronze Stars with a V for valor for his service to our country. He returned to a Nation that was ungrateful, and he returned to a Nation that spit upon him when he returned.

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There are those in our highest levels of government today who are among those who protested against our veterans before, more recently, it became popular to support the veterans.

I want to add that Marshall McRee did not stand alone. His wife of over 50 years, Patricia McRee, was part of the fabric of the Army community that when the telegrams would bring news of loss, she was part of the fabric of women who came and supported young women who were now widows with children who were now fatherless. That was the Army and the fabric that they provided.

I am proud to talk about Colonel and Mrs. McRee because they have a beautiful daughter who happens to be my wife. I am very proud to be a part of their family, and I am proud to stand up and talk about the Vietnam veterans who deserve our respect.

REDUCING ENERGY PRICES

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1 to lower energy costs for New York's 27th Congressional District.

As an expert in energy and a nuclear submarine officer in the Navy, I understand firsthand the importance of reliable energy for American families, businesses, and national security.

I stand here in support of H.R. 1 for the men and women of New York's 22nd District.

A constituent of mine, Steve Turner, shown right here behind me, is a Marine Corps veteran with cancer who is unable to pay his electric bills. Five days a week of treatment and soaring energy prices have brought this hero to his breaking point.

This is unacceptable. I can't cure Steve's cancer, but I will be damned if I let Steve continue to suffer the indignity of soaring energy costs taking food off his table.

H.R. 1 takes critical steps to promote American energy independence and will lower costs for people like Steve and the rest of central New York and the Mohawk Valley.

Burdensome regulations and radical policies are hurting working and middle-class Americans through no fault of their own—taking their jobs and putting our country last. Let's streamline the process by reinvigorating oil and natural gas production, renewables, and nuclear energy dominance. The Lower Energy Costs Act is a common-sense solution to our Nation's energy challenges.

Madam Speaker, Steve and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WALL STREET PUSHES BACK ON REGULATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, back in 2017, I took a public stand against Wall Street and its efforts to roll back the financial regulations put in place after the 2008 financial crisis. I opposed S. 2155, a deregulatory bill that ultimately passed into law.

Then, in 2017 and 2018, I was running for Congress for the first time in a politically divided district. Standing against Wall Street wasn't a safe position to take. In fact, that is why too many Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike ended up supporting S. 2155. It was seen as safer to be pro-business.

Every real capitalist knows there is nothing pro-business about a bank failure. That is why, in 2010, Congress passed strong regulations to keep our economy stable, our banks viable, and our businesses growing. Just 8 years later, in 2018, Washington, D.C., reversed course and passed S. 2155 at Wall Street's behest.

How did we get from this deregulation to the recent Silicon Valley Bank failure, the biggest bank failure in over a decade?

In short, S. 2155 made it lawful for Silicon Valley Bank to leave itself vulnerable when depositors wanted their money back faster than the bank could pay it out.

When you walk into a bank, Madam Speaker, and you deposit \$100, the bank takes most of that \$100 and invests it. They buy securities and bonds. They don't just have your \$100 sitting around. However, the bank is supposed to hang on to a big enough portion of that deposit so that if you want your money back, they can give it to you. It is straightforward when a couple of people come in and want their money, but sometimes a lot of people want all of their money all at once.

Why wasn't Silicon Valley Bank prepared for that scenario?

The bank's recent failure is a deregulation problem. Title IV of S. 2155 raised the asset threshold at which a bank is considered and regulated as a systemically important bank. What we saw in Silicon Valley Bank and other similarly sized banks is a result of Congress' own actions in 2018 when they were removed from these enhanced liquidity requirement stress testing and other safety and soundness rules.

Because of these lax regulations, when push came to shove, Silicon Valley Bank hadn't kept enough liquid assets to pay out the dollars being drawn out. If Dodd-Frank were still applied to banks of that size, then Silicon Valley Bank wouldn't have been able to put its own profits over the stability of our banking system and our economy.

Let's not give banks that choice again. When Silicon Valley Bank collapsed, Senator ELIZABETH WARREN and I partnered on legislation to restore

the regulations that were directly implemented as a result of lessons learned during the 2008 financial crisis, not on the politics of the moment or the political power of the bank lobby.

Our new bill, the Secure Viable Banking Act, the SVB Act, would repeal title IV of S. 2155. It would restore Dodd-Frank regulations as they are applied to banks the same size as Silicon Valley Bank.

Banking failures are bad. We should all be able to come together and agree that systemically significant banks need regulations to limit the risks of failure and to reduce the harmful consequences when a bank does fail.

Let's agree to let Silicon Valley Bank be our last hard lesson. Let's not swing regulations back and forth with the political tides and whims of lobbyists. Let's, instead, keep rules in place that deliver a well-regulated, stable, and growing economy.

My SVB Act would do that.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support the bill that creates a banking system that works for all of us, not just one that boosts banks' bottom lines.

CELEBRATING EDUCATION AND SHARING DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLINARO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize April 2 as Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson Education and Sharing Day.

April 2 is the Rebbe's birthday, and Rabbi Schneerson believed that education was not just about acquiring knowledge but also about developing a strong moral compass. He saw education as a tool for building a healthy and prosperous society, one that values compassion, justice, and kindness.

His vision has inspired countless individuals around the world to pursue excellence in education and to better serve their communities.

Through his tireless efforts, the Rebbe established over 5,500 educational and social institutions across the United States and in more than 100 countries. These institutions have empowered young people to reach their full potential and make a positive impact on society.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in celebrating Education and Sharing Day by reflecting on the Rebbe's legacy and commitment to education.

RECOGNIZING AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

Mr. MOLINARO. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Autism Awareness Day, a day that promotes understanding and acceptance of individuals on the autism spectrum.

Autism is a complex neurological disorder that affects millions of individuals across the United States. It is also a spectrum disorder, which means each person's challenges can vary significantly.

As the father of four children, one of whom lives on the autism spectrum, this is deeply personal to me. April 2 is my daughter Abigail's birthday.

Happy birthday to her.

Before coming to Congress, I founded the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative in my home State to break down barriers and open opportunities for individuals with physical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities.

In Congress, we are working in a bipartisan way to expand on this effort. I started by introducing the Think Differently Database Act, which creates a comprehensive website of resources for individuals with disabilities.

This is just the beginning. We must do more to increase funding for autism research, expand access to early intervention services, and support families through education and outreach programs. These efforts will promote greater inclusivity and understanding and help every person of every ability reach their fullest potential.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Autism Awareness Day and continue supporting this critical work of breaking down barriers and creating opportunities for everyone of every ability.

CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILEY. Madam Speaker, currently, California businesses are facing a significant tax increase, thanks in part to a high-ranking State official who allowed the tax dollars they had already paid to be stolen. It is an incompetence tax, a price private citizens are being forced to pay for their government's failures.

I would like to take a moment to explain how this happened, but I will lead with the punch line: The State official who squandered these funds, allowing a fraud of historic proportions, is somehow now up for a major promotion.

President Biden has nominated Julie Su, former head of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, to be the next U.S. Secretary of Labor.

The predicament that small businesses in California now find themselves in—facing double taxation to compensate for the government's singular negligence—is another example of why this nomination is so ill-considered. It is a warning as to what all Americans have in store if Julie Su is confirmed.

Stepping back, the California Unemployment Insurance Fund is the source for paying out unemployment insurance claims honored by California's unemployment office, known as the EDD.

The fund is ordinarily maintained through a tax levied on California businesses. New employers are assigned a 3.4 percent UI rate for 2 to 3 years. After that, a business' contribution tax varies. It is somewhere between 1.5 and 6.2 percent for the current year.