

The Export-Import Bank was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt by Executive order on February 2, 1934, “to aid in financing and to facilitate exports and imports and the exchange of commodities between the United States and other Nations.” Its mission and work are equally as important now as they were back then.

EXIM contributes to our Nation’s economic growth by supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs for America’s exporters and the workers that make up the supply chains for our exports across the country.

Congress first authorized the EXIM Bank as an independent Agency in 1945, and we have continued to support the Bank’s work under its charter ever since. In 2019, Congress recognized the critical role EXIM plays by passing a historic, 7-year reauthorization with bipartisan support. I contributed to that reauthorization legislation as the ranking member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and now, as the chair of that committee, we have continued to support the Bank’s work that creates jobs in Ohio and around the Nation.

Under the leadership of Chair Reta Jo Lewis, the first Black woman to lead EXIM, First Vice President Judith Pryor, Board Member Spencer Bachus, and Board Member Owen Herrnstadt, the Export-Import Bank has expanded financing for American exporters. During the last fiscal year, EXIM approved \$8.7 billion in transactions, \$3.5 billion more than the previous fiscal year. These transactions supported more than 40,000 jobs across our Nation, including many in Ohio.

Small business authorizations in fiscal year 2023 totaled \$2.0 billion with 1,339 transactions authorized for the direct benefit of small business exporters.

EXIM also supports American workers in strategic industries. In the 2019 EXIM reauthorization bill, I helped establish the China & Transformational Exports Program, C-TEP. Congress directed EXIM to use the C-TEP program to prioritize financing for American exports in 10 critical areas, such as artificial intelligence, renewable energy and energy storage, wireless communications, and semiconductors. EXIM financing will help American manufacturers and exporters compete against Chinese exports that receive enormous financing from the Chinese Government, and the C-TEP program will help American companies unlock a new generation of jobs and economic growth.

EXIM supports secure and resilient supply chains. EXIM launched its first domestic financing initiative called “Make More in America.” By providing new financing for American companies that manufacture goods for export and new financing for their suppliers, we can bring more jobs back to our shores and strengthen our supply chains.

I have visited businesses in Ohio that depend on the Export-Import Bank to sell their products around the world,

companies like NeoGraf Solutions in Lakewood, which manufactures graphite-based products used in cars, buses, and batteries, and Crown Battery in Fremont, which designs, manufactures, and distributes batteries, chargers, and accessories for various industries. Both companies rely on EXIM to help them compete in international markets. And in Southwest Ohio, the birthplace of aviation, GE Aerospace’s engines are sold in jets around the world with the help of EXIM financing.

For decades, Ohio lived with the consequences of bad trade and tax policy that encouraged corporations to send production overseas in search of ever-lower wages. The Export-Import Bank is critical to bringing those supply chains back home by supporting Ohio manufacturers that want to expand production and exports. EXIM’s job is to grow American businesses in the face of competition—often unfair competition—from countries like China.

The Export Import Bank will certainly face challenges in the future. EXIM must continue to manage risks associated with providing financing to projects worldwide, and both the Bank and Congress will need to further examine EXIM’s role in monitoring and assessing the impacts of financing to balance the Bank’s mission of supporting U.S. jobs through exports with environmental, security, and other policy considerations. EXIM can face these challenges and expand its support of American manufacturing.

I also want to note for all Senators that, since 1992, EXIM has generated more than \$8 billion of revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

I applaud the work being done by EXIM’s dedicated workforce as they continue to help U.S. companies and U.S. workers not only compete, but win across the global economy.

I congratulate the Agency on its 90th anniversary and look forward to EXIM’s future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO JERRY MARKS

• Mr. DAINES. Madam President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Gerald “Jerry” W. Marks of Missoula County for his service to his community during his tenure as the county’s longest serving employee.

Growing up on a farm near Townsend, MT, Jerry went on to lead an accomplished life from his time in the U.S. Army serving overseas in Vietnam, to receiving quality education based in agriculture and public service from Montana State University and the University of Montana. His studies served him well as he began his long career as Missoula County’s Agriculture Extension Agent in 1969. To provide some context, Jerry has been serving his community longer than we have had a man on the moon.

Jerry built programs and partnerships centered around agriculture, hor-

ticulture, and community development. During his tenure, Jerry increased the enrollment and community participation in 4-H by 30 percent, helped establish the Extension Forestry Program in 1983, and developed the County Weed Control Program in 1985. Jerry’s most recent project, which took decades to finish, was the completion of the Gerald W. Marks Exploration Center and Rocky Mountain Gardens located on the Missoula County Fairgrounds, which fittingly bears his name.

Jerry and his wife of 51 years, Sharon, have two children and four grandchildren. Hailing from South Dakota, Sharon also grew up on a farm and had a career as an extension agent. The Marks enjoy sewing arts, growing plants, creative cooking, and supporting Missoula’s arts community. After 55 years of service to his community, Jerry is set to retire March 1, 2024, and I have no doubt he will keep busy with his many hobbies and friends throughout Missoula County.

It is my distinct honor to recognize Jerry Marks for his life of service to the Missoula community. His favorite quote epitomizes his life’s work. “Do not fear the head winds, for they will make your program stronger.” Thanks for your tireless work, Jerry, you make Montana proud and are one of the reasons it remains The Last Best Place.●

#### REMEMBERING CHARLES “LEFTY” DRIESSELL

• Mr. Kaine. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the life of longtime basketball coach Charles “Lefty” Driesell, who sadly passed away on February 17, 2024, at the age of 92, in Virginia Beach.

Driesell was born on Christmas Day, 1931, in Norfolk, VA. He started down the coaching path early in life, earning a varsity letter for the Granby High School basketball team in fourth grade for his service as a manager for the team. Driesell later became a star player for the team. While a senior in high school, he led his team to the Virginia State championship and was named tournament MVP.

After high school, Driesell accepted a scholarship to Duke University, where he played center and eventually graduated with a degree in education. Soon after college, he returned to Granby as the junior varsity coach and then later accepted a job as the varsity coach at nearby Newport News High School, where he won another State championship.

In 1960, Driesell joined the college coaching ranks, accepting the head coach position at Davidson University. Over the course of nine seasons, he accumulated 176 wins and made three NCAA tournaments.

Following Davidson, Driesell coached 17 years at the University of Maryland. While there, he won 348 games, made the NCAA tournament eight times, won the Atlantic Coast Conference—

ACC—twice, and won the 1972 National Invitation Tournament—NIT—championship. Driesell's teams at Maryland were consistently among the highest ranked in the Nation, and the team was one of the powerhouse programs of his era.

After Maryland, Driesell became the head coach of James Madison University, where he won another 159 games. His teams had the best record in the Colonial Athletic Association—CAA—for five straight seasons. Driesell finished his coaching career at Georgia State, winning 100 games. This made him the first coach to win 100 or more games at four different Division I schools.

In 2018, Driesell was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, and Davidson, Maryland, Southern Conference, and Virginia Sports Halls of Fame.

Driesell's impact on the game of basketball goes well beyond his 786 career wins. He also brought more fans to the game with innovations like Midnight Madness. On the first day college teams were allowed to practice for the season, Driesell invited fans to join the team for a 12:03 a.m. run. This became an annual tradition, where thousands of fans would show up to celebrate the start of a new season with the team. Soon, other schools picked up on the practice, and these events have become a widespread and cherished part of college basketball.

Driesell's impact was felt by the many assistant coaches and staff he worked with over his 40 years of coaching, the hundreds of student athletes he coached, and the countless fans who found joy in the game of basketball watching Lefty Driesell-coached teams.●

#### RECOGNIZING RIVER BEND BISTRO & WINE BAR

● Mr. KAINE. Madam President, it is my honor to recognize the River Bend Bistro for 10 years of outstanding service. I would like to congratulate Caroline and Bill Ross and all the staff of River Bend Bistro on their success and wish them many more years of success.

Chef and co-owner Caroline Ross, a graduate of Fort Hunt High School, has been in the food industry since she was 18 and is a veteran of several other regional mainstay restaurants. In 1990, she was awarded a scholarship from Les Dames d'Escoffier to gain culinary skills in Paris. Co-owner Bill Ross has been a businessman in Alexandria for decades before he and Caroline teamed up to create River Bend Bistro, and he also continues to operate a Potomac River sightseeing business.

River Bend Bistro strives to use local and seasonal ingredients, including fresh ingredients from local farmers. Caroline has had relationships with its meat and seafood suppliers going back years before this particular restaurant.

Many employees have been with them since the beginning. And thanks to hard work and ingenuity, as well as assistance from the Paycheck Protection Program from the CARES Act, they were able to navigate through pandemic lockdowns.

Whenever people sit down at River Bend Bistro, they will not just be experiencing outstanding food and drink; they will be supporting a small business with deep roots in the community and a deep commitment to excellence.

I wish Caroline and Bill Ross and their staff continued success and growth for many more years.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. KIM KRULL

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to thank Dr. Kim Krull for her many years of service to the State of Kansas and Butler Community College—BCC—as well as honor her for all she accomplished throughout her career.

A passionate educator dedicated to serving Kansans, Dr. Krull began her professional career teaching math, biology, and chemistry at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture—UNL-NCTA. Following 18 years of service to UNL-NCTA, Dr. Krull decided to head south across the Nebraska-Kansas State line to Cloud County Community College, where she served as vice president of academic affairs for 8 years.

In 2013, Dr. Krull finally made the jump to my alma mater, Butler Community College, where she took over one of Kansas's largest community colleges as president. Dr. Krull hit the ground running, expanding BCC's online course catalog and prudently cutting programs no longer cost-effective. These two decisions, made early in Dr. Krull's tenure, remade BCC as a premier junior college destination in the State of Kansas, setting the stage for her and the school's subsequent successes.

In the years following, BCC accomplished much under Dr. Krull's guidance. In terms of campus restoration, Dr. Krull was able to fundraise \$3.3 million to renovate the student union and was pivotal in expanding college operations in nearby Andover. Thanks to Dr. Krull's efforts, BCC remodeled its building within the Andover school district to be more accommodating to students, as well as opened the Redler Institute of Culinary Arts, a \$6.2 million facility dedicated to providing for the next generation of BCC culinary and hospitality graduates.

But Dr. Krull's signature accomplishments during her time at BCC center around her support of the student body. While president, Dr. Krull added programs in Diesel Technology, Construction Technology, and expanded online offerings in partnerships with various Kansas colleges and universities. Doing this and increasing BCC student retention rates, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, is a testament to Dr. Krull's work ethic and service to her student body.

For her efforts, Dr. Krull was the recipient of many awards, both for herself and on behalf of BCC. In 2021, the Wichita Business Journal named Dr. Krull an Executive of the Year, and in the year following, BCC was named an Aspen Top 150 institution. After these and many more successes, the Higher Learning Commission designated BCC in 2023 as a highly mature institution, one of the highest functioning colleges related to teaching and student assessment.

It was on this high note that Dr. Krull announced her retirement, and she will officially step down from Butler Community College on June 30, 2024, after decades of service in higher education. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Kim Krull, as well as thank her for all her work on behalf of the State of Kansas and my alma mater, Butler Community College. "Go Grizzlies!"●

#### TRIBUTE TO CLINTON MCKINNEY

● Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to honor and recognize the remarkable life and extraordinary service of Staff Sergeant Clinton McKinney, a true hero and distinguished World War II veteran. SSG McKinney's unwavering courage, sacrifice, and dedication to our Nation embody the spirit of the greatest generation.

SSG McKinney celebrated his 100th birthday on January 21, 2024. The occasion was marked by heartfelt tributes from his family and the Idaho community. It is a testament to SSG McKinney's enduring legacy and his profound impact on all who have the privilege of knowing him.

SSG McKinney fearlessly began his service in March 1943. He served with Company M of the 103rd Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge, a historic battle and turning point for World War II in the winter of 1944. SSG McKinney and company faced extreme conditions of bitter cold and isolation but never failed to demonstrate steadfast resolve and resilience. Sadly, 39 of his fellow infantrymen were lost in the battle, and SSG McKinney was taken prisoner. SSG McKinney escaped not once, but twice, only to be recaptured each time. His sheer determination and resourcefulness led to a successful third attempt with two other soldiers.

For his exceptional bravery and selflessness, SSG McKinney was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, and multiple Purple Hearts, recognizing his immense contribution to the Allied cause and his dedication to duty.

Following the war, he returned home to his beloved wife Louise and devoted himself to public service by establishing a firefighting department in Washington State. His commitment to the safety and well-being of his fellow citizens extends far beyond his military service.

I am privileged to reflect on the extraordinary life of SSG McKinney,