

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, last month's trade deficit hit another record, \$20 billion. One month, \$20 billion. If it keeps up, \$240 billion a year, a quarter of a trillion dollars.

Japan and China are now taking \$10 billion a month out of our economy. Beam me up. It is not going to stop because of our current Tax Code that rewards imports. I say it is time to throw out income taxes, throw out the IRS, and pass the national retail sales tax program. It will reward our exports.

Let us tell it like it is. Our Tax Code stinks so bad, if we sprayed it with Chanel No. 5, it would still smell like the Environmental Protection Agency.

I yield back 400,000 jobs lost last month due to our trade deficit.

LIFE 101 ORGAN DONATION PROGRAM

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, every 18 minutes a new name is added to the list of those who wait for an organ transplant. With the current supply of donors, unfortunately, someone dies every 2 hours and 24 minutes because an organ was not available. These are the grim statistics.

The University of Miami Organ Procurement Organization and the Transplant Foundation of South Florida, however, are doing something to improve these dismal numbers. They have undertaken a donor education program designed to target young audiences, helping them to understand at an early age the need for organ donations and the benefits of transplants.

This program, entitled "Life 101," has been presented at 58 high schools, reaching over 50,000 local area students in Miami-Dade and Broward County in South Florida.

This Friday, "Life 101" will be unveiling its new web site dedicated to providing an exciting and informative forum for students to learn more about organ donations. I encourage America's youth to visit their web site beginning Friday and learn how they can make the difference in the lives of others.

ORANGE COUNTY ONION FARMERS AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, in May of last year, New York's Hudson Valley farmers were hard hit by a severe hail-storm that devastated their crops. Particularly impacted were our onion growers.

Already facing difficulties due to a prior storm, our Orange County onion growers found themselves confronted by a new hardship. Their hardship was compounded by a failed Federal Government crop insurance program.

Most of our farmers who had no significant yields as a result of this storm were forced to zero out their crops. And when they applied for crop insurance, they found a cumbersome, poorly managed system that provided absolutely no relief.

Following last year's disaster, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1999, appropriating \$5.9 billion for emergency assistance. To date, our farmers have not received one penny of these funds, while payments were made shortly after its enactment to dairy, to cotton, to wheat and hog farmers.

The Agriculture Department has not responded to our farmers' needs. Following this storm, starting in February, Secretary Glickman instituted a sign-up period for disaster funding, stating that the delay was due to working out a proper formula.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Secretary Glickman to release these funds immediately to prevent any further delay so that our growers may be able to continue their farming.

THANKS TO OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, just 3 days ago, I was in the war-torn region of Kosovo along with many of our colleagues from the House and Senate.

And, as a veteran of two wars, I know the great sacrifice that our U.S. military men and women are making for our country and for world peace. And I am thankful that I was able to travel to the Kosovo region to personally thank these brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen for their service to our great Nation.

I want to take this opportunity to reinforce my commitment to them in what may very well be the most trying time in their life. I thank them and America thanks them for having the courage to carry out this selfless duty to our country.

From both the Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, I am personally and gravely aware of the enormous challenges that these brave men and women face. Having been deployed far away from my family for countless weeks and months, I can relate to the myriad of emotions that these troops and their families must be experiencing during this very traumatic time in the world.

Our prayers and our full support are with them. May God speed and bring each of them home safely and as soon as possible.

STATE OF MONTANA WANTS TO BE PART OF ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

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

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, every day it seems that we get some good economic news: Unemployment is down, incomes are up, the stock market at a new high. But in parts of America that are not doing so well, my colleague from North Dakota often comes to the floor and talks about the increase, the record number of farm bankruptcies in his home State.

My home State of Montana now ranks last in the Nation with average income. Why has rural America been left out of this economic prosperity? Well, it is because our economy relies on agriculture and timber and mining and oil and gas, commodities, and it is because this administration has failed to pursue fair trade policies.

This administration has pursued extreme environmental policies that lock up our public land and our natural resources, and this administration has neglected the importance of international markets.

Mr. Speaker, we do not want to be left out. We want to be part of this prosperous economy, but we need common sense. We need a common sense agriculture policy. We need a common sense environmental policy. We need a common sense trade policy.

Mr. Speaker, bring us into this new economic prosperity.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today Senator TIM HUTCHINSON and I introduced the Dollars to the Classroom Act, to benefit schoolchildren and teachers all across this country in our public schools by directing that Federal funding for elementary and secondary education goes directly to classrooms and to teachers where the learning process actually takes place, by restricting how much money can be spent on bureaucracy.

By requiring that 95 cents of every Federal dollar gets into the classroom, the children and teachers of this Nation will see an additional \$870 million out of existing appropriations. That is \$10,000 per school, translating into \$450 for every single classroom in America.

I have with me a check that the Senate and House Members signed earlier today in the amount of \$870 million. We presented this directly to the children.

My colleagues have an opportunity to help bring needed change. Join me and the 127 cosponsors in sponsoring and introducing the Dollars to the Classroom Act today.

TOM LEYDEN, TEXAS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring special

attention to an outstanding individual who is making a real difference in the lives of children in my district. He is Principal Tom Leyden of the Plano Independent School District in Plano, Texas.

Tom Leyden was recently named the Texas principal of the year by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals. This honor qualifies Mr. Leyden for eligibility as the National Principal of the Year, which will be announced in October.

Tom Leyden is a shining reminder of what a difference our local officials can make in the lives of our children. I am proud to represent Tom Leyden, and I plan to do everything I can to make sure we help all the Tom Leydens of America by keeping the Federal Government out of their way and putting education back in the hands of local principals, parents, and teachers.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY BILL

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

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for too long, our educational system has been handcuffed by the misguided ideas of Federal bureaucrats. For too long our children have been used as pawns in this political game.

The time for that to end is now. It is time for us to stop the partisanship, to stop the bickering, and roll up our sleeves and get to work. We cannot, as a Nation, allow our children to become adults without the tools to succeed. The key to unlocking the powers of first-rate education is the freedom to make choices, giving parents the power to choose their children's education.

Let us pass the Education Flexibility bill, which was announced just moments ago by the chairman of the committee. It will be on the floor this week. Let us pass the bill to allow the States to move past bureaucratic rules that actually inhibit success and bring new and innovative solutions to their classrooms.

This bill will expand education flexibility to all 50 States. It will empower every school district to move past the bureaucracy and do what they believe is best to help their students learn. Let us return education decision-making to those who know what is best for America's students. We will find them in each student's community, not in Washington.

SUPPORT DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the opportunity to join the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) at a press conference for the Dollars to the Classroom Act. And also present were students from around the country and teachers and administrators speaking in support of the bill.

Unfortunately, as the system is set up now, as little as 65 cents on the dollar makes it to the classroom. That is wrong. Many children are being short-changed. Congress must downsize bureaucracy to ensure students get the best possible education.

What the Dollars to the Classroom Act would do is to mandate that at least 95 percent of Federal education dollars end up where it is needed most. Teachers, and most importantly our children, will be direct beneficiaries of the spending, and not the bureaucrats. And under this legislation each school would receive an increase of \$10,000.

Cole Allen is an 8th grader. He is from Pennsylvania. He spoke at today's conference about the need for more money in the classroom. He said his geography book is titled "World Geography Today," but it should be called "World Geography 13 Years Ago."

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Mr. Speaker, we need the money in the schools for the books.

HONORING EMILY GREGOR OF THE BUCKEYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

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

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues know of my strong support for trails throughout this beautiful Nation. No trail is more dear to my heart though than the Buckeye Trail in the great State of Ohio. Today I would like to pay tribute to Emily Gregor, an icon of the Buckeye Trail. Emily Gregor's devotion to the preservation of the trail as a long-time member of the Buckeye Trail Association spans the entire 40 years of its existence. She has served as its historian and legislative coordinator and is its president for 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, I often tell people that the greatest legacy we can leave is not what we put in our will, but what we put in our communities. On the 40th anniversary of the Buckeye Trail Association, I today would like to commend Emily Gregor for the legacy she has given and continues to give to the people of Ohio through the Buckeye Trail. Her tireless commitment to the trail will be cherished for generations to come as they explore the wonders of nature in the great State of Ohio.

OUR SERVICEMEN HAVE OUR TOTAL, UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT

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

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, there is a 20-year-old airman out there who is working incredible hours, 7 days a week, all for a cause that he trusts is just.

He puts his faith in his government, in officers above him and in the people

of the United States that he will only be put in harm's way for noble and worthy reasons.

That 20-year-old is stationed in Aviano, Italy, and elsewhere across the globe. He does not have time to read the New York Times or to watch CNN to see how the war is going because he is too busy doing his job, making sure that the planes being flown in actual combat missions are as safe and effective as humanly possible. He is unaware of the debates going on in Congress about the wisdom of our policy in the Balkans. He cares little for politics, but he does expect his political leaders to put one concern above all others, do whatever it takes to see that our mission is successful.

We are only Americans now, and that 20-year-old airman and all of his fellow servicemen have our total, unqualified, full support. May God bring him home safely.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

AUTHORIZING AWARDING OF GOLD MEDAL TO ROSA PARKS

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 573) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 573

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, the first child of James and Leona (Edwards) McCauley.

(2) Rosa Parks is honored as the "first lady of civil rights" and the "mother of the freedom movement"; her quiet dignity ignited the most significant social movement in the history of the United States.

(3) Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, and her stand for equal rights became legendary.

(4) News of Rosa Parks' arrest resulted in 42,000 African Americans boycotting Montgomery buses for 381 days beginning on December 5, 1955, until the bus segregation laws were changed on December 21, 1956.

(5) The United States Supreme Court ruled on November 13, 1956, that the Montgomery segregation law was unconstitutional, and on December 20, 1956, Montgomery officials were ordered to desegregate buses.