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Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend young Kenzal Thomas, a Casey Middle School student in Mt. Vernon, IL, for his honesty. Recently after finding a dollar in the bathroom of a Mt. Vernon restaurant, Kenzal began asking everyone in the restaurant if they had lost the bill—including City Councilman Dave Keen.

As a result, Councilman Keen, along with other city officials, honored Kenzal with a framed certificate touting his integrity.

It is a pleasure for me to join in recognizing Kenzal. His honesty is a trait for which we can all be proud of and look to as an example of doing what is right.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monumental Baptist Church. For 100 years, Monumental has been a sanctuary for young African-Americans access to a quality education.


Today, Monumental Baptist Church is 100 years old. I ask my colleagues to honor the church and its congregation for their century of dedication to God.

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, today I express my strong support for the elimination of the death tax. When a person dies in this country, an outrageous tax of 37 to 55 percent is levied against the deceased’s estate. The last thing that a family in mourning should have to worry about is losing the family business or farm—a life’s work—to satisfy the IRS.

Only in America can one be given a certificate at birth, a license at marriage, and a bill at death. This tax is contrary to the freedom and free-market principles on which this nation was founded.

There is no question that Americans deserve to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. It is our duty to provide responsible, targeted tax relief in this time of budgetary surplus. Since my first day in Congress, we have debated what to do with the surplus. Some have said tax cuts. I have strongly supported paying down the debt by 2013 or earlier. But if we pass responsible, targeted tax cuts, we can accomplish both. It is essential for Congress to repeal the unfair death tax so that family businesses and family farms can be passed down from generation to generation.

Owning a family business is the culmination of the American Dream. Let’s restore the dream and repeal the death tax. We owe it to America’s families, small business owners and farmers.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4444, the PNTR (Permanent Normal Trade Relations) to People’s Republic of China.

International trade is critical to our nation’s continued economic expansion. Over 1 million jobs in the United States can be attributed to exports. The simple fact that 96% of the world’s consumers live outside of our borders is irrefutable evidence that in order to grow our economy, we must grow our exports.

In the WTO agreement, the U.S. has won unprecedented concessions from the Chinese that break down barriers to our goods, services, technology products, automobiles and financial services. Our farmers, who have been economically hurting in order to sell their agricultural products in China like never before. In Florida, our citrus and fertilizer industry will benefit immensely.