

HONORING TARAVELLA HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the members of the J.P. Taravella High School Marching Band and their director, Neil Jenkins.

Taravella was selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee as the only high school marching band from the State of Florida to participate in the 2009 Inaugural Parade, and these students from Coral Springs made us all proud. Their journey was possible because business owners and citizens from across our community came together and they raised \$150,000 to make the trip.

I hope that being in Washington D.C. for this historic inauguration was as meaningful to these young musicians as it was for me. I know they will carry memories of this extraordinary event with them for the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to these fine students, their parents, teachers and chaperones for being part of the 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade.

MOUNT AIRY GRANITE BEARS FOOTBALL TAKE STATEWIDE TITLE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last month the Granite Bears of Mount Airy, North Carolina, notched one final win in their perfect 2008 season. The Bears won a decisive victory over Williamston in a North Carolina 1-A State high school football championship game on December 13.

The Bears 37-14 championship victory was reminiscent of their triumphant 2008 season, in which they allowed only 80 points in their first 15 games. In the playoffs Mount Airy dominated every opponent they faced, scoring 261 points to their opponents' meager 26 points.

Coach Kelly Holder and the whole Mount Airy team, led by quarterback Aaron Wheeler, made the Mount Airy community glow with pride when they capped their perfect season with the State title. And with 16 seniors filling the team's roster, the State championship is a crowning achievement for a team of young men who have played together for so many years.

I congratulate the players, coaches, parents, teachers and fans for a perfect season and State championship. The Mount Airy Bears deserve to be celebrated for making this community proud in their 2008 season.

KNOXVILLE UTILITIES BOARD, BRIGHT LIGHT OF CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, with news reports that 68,000 jobs were shed just today, a bright light of corporate responsibility is emerging from my district in Tennessee, which should be applauded and hopefully be an example that is followed around the Nation.

The Knoxville Utilities Board announced that it will not follow through with previously planned electric and water rate increases due to the current economic situation. Oftentimes, the national news reports only stories about businesses behaving badly. But business is not the enemy. KUB employs many people in my district and supplies vital public services. KUB announced that it will hold off on all utility rate increases as long as possible, and they will instead follow through with new cost management measures in order to help out its customers during this hard time. True success in the business world comes when you not just not watch out for your bottom line, but for your employees and customers.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to commend the staff at KUB and its board of commissioners for acting in the best interests of the people they serve and the Nation. I encourage other businesses to follow their lead as we navigate through this economic downturn.

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SPEECH IN OPPOSITION TO FEDERAL WAIVER ON EMISSIONS

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge the President not to waive the Federal law on emission standards that is currently protecting Californians from Governor Schwarzenegger's crusade to save our planet by destroying our economy. Putting aside the highly questionable junk science behind the Governor's proposal, the net effect would add up to \$5,000 to the price of a new car.

Automobile sales normally account for one-fifth of California's sales taxes, which have already fallen by \$1½ billion over the past 12 months. Ironically, the Governor's also asking the President to bail out California's growing budget deficit at the same time.

So I would respectfully suggest to the President that California's economic folly is not something that he should be copying.

BURGESS QUESTIONS SENATE CONFIRMATION OF GEITHNER

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we heard this evening the unwelcome news

that the Senate, the other body, had confirmed the nominee for Secretary of the Treasury. I cannot tell you how disappointed I am that the Senate saw fit to do that. This is going to be a distraction at a time when our Nation's financial state deserves close attention. How can we ask our citizens to pay their taxes if we appoint tax evaders to head the Department of Treasury?

I think it would have been appropriate to resist the temptation to be impulsive and instead take the time to make sure that the candidate we put to this high office is someone with more than just a solid resume. Make sure it is someone who will make a personal commitment to upholding the law.

Tax evasion, be it by design or inattention, trivializes other citizens' duty to pay their taxes, and it makes the tax burden of proof even that much greater for those who do bother to follow the law.

We have called this a time of change in our Nation, but this decision is another illustration of the perception that Washington is a place where the well-connected are given special privileges. At a time where Americans are losing faith in Congress, it is imperative that we convey it's not okay to appoint leaders who break the law. It's time to bring credibility and integrity back to this government.

AIR FORCE ONE—MADE IN FRANCE

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the name Air Force One really says it all, doesn't it? It's the number one plane—the most sophisticated and advanced piece of aviation technology, designed specifically for our Commander in Chief, the President of the United States. It's a national symbol.

Since the inception of Air Force One, it has been made in, of all places, America. Now it seems that the Pentagon thinks it would be better for a foreign company to build the next flying White House—a French company at that. Well, excusez moi, but that just ought not to be.

Mr. Speaker, if anything should be made in America, it ought to be the most important military aircraft we have. The Pentagon wants to let the French, the French-based Airbus, to have a crack at it. But, au contraire, mon frere.

I have filed the Air Force One Built in America Act to ensure that Air Force One is made in America by Americans. Outsourcing Air Force One is not an option. It's un-American. If the Pentagon has their way, au revoir, American jobs and national security. What's next? Are we going to replace the American apple pie with crepes?

And that's just the way it is.