

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, my home State, the mining industry—the coal industry, in particular—is a vital contributor to the State's economy, with direct, indirect, and induced impacts that are responsible for family-sustaining jobs and billions in economic output. In 2011, Pennsylvania produced more than 67 million tons of coal from close to 500 mines, making it the fourth-largest producer of coal and the second-largest producer of electricity among all the States.

Today, coal is used to generate more electricity than any other resource in Pennsylvania, being responsible for 44 percent of the State's electricity generation.

On National Miners Day, we commemorate the work and sacrifice of miners, past and present, and recognize the contributions they make to our economy, the Nation's energy security, and our shared prosperity.

THE AMOS HOUSE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the work of Amos House and its mission to end hunger and homelessness in my home State of Rhode Island. Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, it is a good reminder of how important it is to remember those who are less fortunate and to give back to the communities we live in.

Led by Eileen Hayes, Amos House and its dedicated staff give back to Rhode Island every single day and provide life-giving services to those most in need. Since its founding in 1976, Amos House has grown from a small soup kitchen to a vibrant and essential multiservice center. This week I was proud to help break ground on a new project that will give Amos House a new home and help this wonderful organization further its important work.

Amos House serves hundreds of meals daily to the hungry, provides shelter for homeless men and women, substance abuse counseling, job training, and money management classes. I salute Amos House, Eileen, and her hard-working staff for the important contributions they make to those most in need in my home State of Rhode Island.

CELEBRATING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE RALPH REGULA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Representative Ralph Regula.

Ralph Straus Regula was born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Regula served in the United States Navy; worked as a schoolteacher and a

principal in Stark County schools; and served in the Ohio State House, Senate, and on the Ohio State Board of Education. In 1973, Mr. Regula was elected to Congress and served 18 consecutive terms, until his retirement in 2009.

During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Regula served as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, where he worked across party lines to improve educational opportunities, workforce training programs, and health care. He was a passionate advocate for research and the advancement of science.

Congressman Regula billed himself a “regular” guy. He was the son of a dairy farmer and part of a high school graduating class of only 25, where he developed a strong work ethic and love of community. Ralph loved serving here because he cared about people and helping improve the quality of their lives. In this House, he was a pragmatic leader willing to find solutions to tough problems.

I have personally known Ralph for over three decades and have many fond memories meeting with him both here and back in Ohio as my Congressman. Like many others, I have learned so much from Congressman Ralph Regula over the years. To that, I say thank you.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great life and career of Mr. Ralph Regula, wishing him a very happy 90th birthday.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Care Act. One year after implementing the health care exchanges, the number of uninsured in this country has decreased dramatically. North Carolina had one of the top five highest enrollments; and in my congressional district alone, the number of uninsured has declined by 14 percent, not to mention the incredible impact this legislation has had on the lives of working families.

Through the Affordable Care Act, 208,000 individuals in my congressional district now have access to health insurance. Young adults and college students can now stay on their parents' plans until age 26, which resulted in nearly 10,000 young adults retaining health insurance in my congressional district. Additionally, seniors in my district have received Medicare part D prescription drug discounts worth \$11.1 million, and being a woman is no longer considered a preexisting condition.

The Affordable Care Act has had a dramatic effect on unemployment, creating 9.6 million private sector jobs. My congressional district's unemployment rate is 13.9 percent. So, for me,

this is not only about health, but jobs and our economy.

These tangible benefits cannot be ignored. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to end talks of repeal and, instead, work with Democrats to strengthen the law to provide even greater access to health insurance. States like North Carolina must reconsider their decision to reject the Medicaid expansion. This purely political decision has had real effects, leaving half a million North Carolinians uninsured. As legislators, we should make the lives of our constituents better; and, Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is making the lives of our citizens better.

So I urge folks in my congressional district and around the country to take advantage of the open enrollment period and get insured. There are 77 new insurers offering coverage in 2015, and the deadline to sign up is February 15, 2015. Let's continue the progress that the Affordable Care Act has made and get more people covered.

AIR REFUELING GROUP RAINCROSS AWARD

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

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 931st Air Refueling Group—McCormick Air Force Base's reserve unit—on receiving the Raincross Trophy, which recognizes it as the best unit in the 4th Air Force.

I have spent a lot of time with the fantastic airmen out of McCormick, and I am not surprised, but I am extremely pleased to see that they have been granted this outstanding award. It is only fitting that the 931st has been selected as the first reserve unit in the Air Force to fly and maintain America's new KC-46 tankers. McCormick-based tankers flew nearly half of all missions of Air Mobility Command's total KC-135 flying hours over the past year, and many of this unit's soldiers and airmen were deployed in support of operations all around the world.

This award is a wonderful recognition of the hard work of Colonel Mark Larson, Chief Master Sergeant Kathleen E. Lowman, and all the men and women of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

I know I speak for all Kansans in saying we are proud of the 931st and the entire McCormick family. November Kilo Alpha Whiskey Tango Golf.

NATIONAL 3-D PRINTING DAY

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my resolution to establish December 3 as National 3-D Printing Day. As an entrepreneur, myself, who built a manufacturing company from the ground

up, I know firsthand how invaluable this technology is. Advances in 3-D printing are creating unprecedented opportunities for entrepreneurs and manufacturers to develop new products and bring their ideas to life.

When I think of the long hours that my brother and I spent in the machine shop building parts for our first prototype, parts that could now be built quickly and easily with 3-D printing, it makes me envious of today's startups.

From biotechnology to food production to advanced manufacturing, 3-D printing is creating endless opportunities for innovation. Additionally, 3-D printing technology is a great teaching tool for students. There is nothing like the look of awe on students' faces as they watch a 3-D printer build something that they designed, something that started out as their idea that they can now hold in their hand. It is also a great way of teaching them the value of coordinate geometry.

So it is critical that we continue to develop this technology and recognize the importance in the modern economy and in inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in STEM and advanced manufacturing.

Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing December 3 as National 3-D Printing Day.

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RECOGNIZING TOM BERTRAND AS THE 2015 ILLINOIS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tom Bertrand as the 2015 Illinois Superintendent of the Year. For the last 13 years, Mr. Bertrand has served as superintendent of the Rochester Community Unit District in Rochester, Illinois. In his time with Rochester, he has served the school district as a teacher, coach, principal, and assistant superintendent before taking on his current role.

His dedication to the students and his many accomplishments in his time with the Rochester district make him a deserving recipient of this award. He has developed a nationally recognized anti-bullying program and has worked to improve the use of technology in the school district by both students and faculty.

I am proud to represent Mr. Bertrand and the Rochester school district. His commitment to his students is something to be recognized. I thank him for his service to the district and his dedication to public education.

Mr. Bertrand, congratulations on being named the 2015 Illinois Superintendent of the Year.

EXPANDING EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, as a country, we have a responsibility to help our veterans transition back from active military duty by giving them the tools they need to succeed in civilian life.

Sadly, far too many of the men and women who have sacrificed so much on our behalf return home to find they must struggle to get housing, secure employment, and provide for themselves and their families. We can and must do better. That is why I am proud to partner with my Republican colleague, DAVID MCKINLEY, to introduce legislation that honors our commitment by providing resources to help veterans pursue higher education and gain the skills and training they need to succeed in STEM careers.

The ability to analyze, communicate, and motivate—honed during their military training—makes veterans ideal candidates in the fields related to science, technology, math, and engineering. With growth in the STEM fields for jobs that are expected to outpace other professions in the next two decades, this legislation will help to meet the demands for the high-skilled workforce that we need to be competitive in the global economy.

So I would urge my colleagues to join Mr. MCKINLEY and me in upholding our promise to our Nation's heroes and support the GI Bill STEM Extension Act of 2014.

SUPPORTING ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH

(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, like many Americans, I am all too familiar with Alzheimer's, having lost my mom to complications from this dreadful disease nearly 4 years ago.

The Alzheimer's Association reports that over 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, including nearly half a million in my home State of Florida.

Alzheimer's not only impacts seniors and their families, it is costing our Nation billions of dollars every year, with only a fraction of 1 percent of these costs spent on research toward better treatment options and potential cures. Our seniors, their loved ones, and their caregivers deserve better. American taxpayers deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to go to alz.org and learn more about Alzheimer's and how new research can help make a big difference in improving the lives of patients, their families, and America's budget.

ISRAEL

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about my concern for the safety and security of Israel, the Middle East, and the U.S.

Negotiations for Iran to end its pursuit of a nuclear weapon were recently extended without assurances that Iran would slow or abandon this program. This delay tactic also allows Iran to escape many economic sanctions. This should be of grave concern to Americans who care about the regional security of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, I respect the administration's goals and intent during these negotiations, but I urge that we continue to utilize all methods of influence throughout negotiations. We must fully use diplomacy, legal sanctions, and economic pressure to move toward a peaceful and secure situation in this critically important region to the world and our country.

THE THREAT OF A NUCLEAR IRAN

(Mrs. HARTZLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express concern over the state of our negotiations with Iran and the threat of Iranian nuclear capability.

I am disappointed and extremely concerned with the extension of negotiations over Iran's nuclear program and the continued relaxing of economic sanctions against Tehran. Every day that we ease sanctions or fail to apply new ones is another day Iran races toward a nuclear weapons capability.

Iran currently has 10,000 operational centrifuges, each working hard toward a nuclear Iran. As the administration continues to cede ground in this area of negotiations, we must remember that Iran has threatened America and called for the total annihilation of our ally, Israel. The instability and unrest in this region would only be compounded should Iran achieve its goals.

Sanctions brought Iran to the negotiating table in the first place, and these sanctions must be strengthened to convince them to stop their treacherous quest for nuclear weapons. I believe Congress must put renewed pressure on Iran. The Senate needs to pass the Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act before going home. We cannot allow Iran to hold the world hostage with nuclear weapons. Now is the time to act.

NAHASDA

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

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, this body reauthorized the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, a true