

HONORING MIKE HARPER ON HIS 88TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Mike Harper, on his 88th birthday. Mr. Harper served as the CEO of ConAgra, an agricultural giant and Fortune 500 company headquartered in the heart of my district.

In 1975, Mike came to Omaha to take the helm at ConAgra and presided over a massive expansion of business in Nebraska. By 1987, though, Nebraska was emerging from the farm crisis and feared the loss of significant corporate presence. Mike personally spearheaded the effort to reform State taxes and regulations that made corporate investment burdensome.

Between 1975, when Mike took over as CEO of ConAgra, and 1987, the profits of ConAgra soared, as did the fortunes of business in Nebraska. Thanks to Mike's leadership in business and politics, Nebraska now has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. My district in particular enjoys a well-balanced economy, including manufacturing, agriculture, and a wide array of services.

On this day, I wish to rise to applaud this giant of the agriculture industry and a major contributor to the expansion and preservation of Nebraska's local economy.

Happy birthday to Mike Harper.

HONORING NAPPANEE MAYOR LARRY THOMPSON ON HIS RE- TIREMENT

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Nappanee Mayor Larry Thompson on his retirement. A devoted husband and proud father, Mayor Thompson has dedicated his life to serving his community. He and his wife, Linda, grew up in the Nappanee area and, along with his two children, run their family funeral home business.

Since his election in 1995, he has been instrumental in making Nappanee one of the most vibrant cities in the State of Indiana. He helped establish the Boys and Girls Club of Nappanee and created the West Industrial Park.

In the aftermath of an F3 tornado that struck Nappanee in 2007, Thompson led a coalition of community leaders to help rebuild the parts of the city that had been destroyed or damaged.

In addition to his work in the public sector, Mayor Thompson is an active member of the community, involved with Kiwanis and the American Red Cross. He has dedicated his life to public service.

God bless you, Larry, in your retirement.

REPUBLICAN CALENDAR OF CHAOS

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

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, House Republicans are giving us a fall calendar of chaos. We have 5 legislative days before they shut the government down.

Madam Speaker, this is a bad rerun of bad policy. Two years ago, people said they would never shut it down, and they did it. When they shut it down, it cost the economy \$24 billion, and 120,000 jobs were lost; and they are going to do it again in 5 days.

That is not the only deadline, Madam Speaker, in this calendar of chaos. They have missed a deadline for the highway trust fund, costing more jobs. We are careening towards another fiscal cliff with the debt ceiling. They missed the deadline for the Export-Import Bank, which cost a bunch of jobs, 500 lost jobs, as a result of this calendar of chaos.

And there is more. Madam Speaker, the American people, everyday Americans, do not deserve this Republican calendar of chaos.

FEDERAL WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER RECOGNITION ACT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this year, 8½ million acres so far have been consumed due to wildfire. This is approaching the record that we don't want to break of 10 million that happened in 2006.

Recently, the Forest Service in this year's wildland fire season has spent \$243 million just in the last week of August alone. We have 30,000 American firefighters deployed, as well as hundreds from Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. Despite this dedication, the current Federal firefighters are given erroneous job titles, such as wildland technician or forestry technician.

H.R. 3363, the Federal Wildland Firefighter Recognition Act, would give them the proper title of wildland firefighters and allows those who risk their lives to be recognized properly and given the respect they deserve. Let's pass H.R. 3363 to give them their proper title.

STOP PUTTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AT RISK

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Madam Speaker, we have less than 5 legislative days here in Washington before the end of this fiscal year, but instead of funding the government, House majority leadership is focused on defunding Planned Parenthood.

For nearly a century, Planned Parenthood has been one of the Nation's leading providers of high quality, affordable health care for women. It has fundamentally changed attitudes towards women's reproductive freedom, which has been essential to women's health and given women more control over their health care decisions.

One in five women has relied on a Planned Parenthood health center for care in her lifetime. They are often one of the few affordable places for women to turn when they are searching for care. Cutting Federal funds to Planned Parenthood means taking away money for cervical cancer screenings, breast care screenings, and other types of necessary care.

Madam Speaker, I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to come to the table and negotiate a way to fund the government and to stop these political games that put women's health at risk.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHE JEANNIN AND HIS FAMILY ON BECOMING U.S. CITIZENS

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

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Citizenship Day, observed yesterday, September 17, to recognize all who have become citizens of our great Nation.

The 10th Congressional District in Illinois is a place where thousands of immigrants have started and grown their businesses, raised their families, and achieved the American Dream.

Madam Speaker, I believe America is a place where goals can be accomplished and the doors of opportunity are always open for those who work hard.

Earlier this week, I had the privilege of attending a Naturalization Oath Ceremony for some very good friends, the Jeannin family in Chicago. It was a ceremony in Judge Sam Der-Yeghayan's chambers, and Christophe, Natalie, Audrey, and Alex all raised their right hand to swear allegiance to the United States of America.

Madam Speaker, Christophe came to the United States with his family in the late seventies. His mother and father—Gerard and Madeline—and his sisters—Dominique, Sophie, and Ann—were all here and were contributing members of our community. They have all since left, but Christophe has remained.

Madam Speaker, the Jeannin family is just one example of immigrants who have made a tremendous impact in our community. We are stronger and a more diverse community because of immigrants that call our Nation home.

I want to congratulate Christophe, Natalie, Audrey, Alex, and all of the citizens this week that have become United States citizens. Congratulations.