

a statement that I will be submitting for the RECORD, a statement that speaks to the tragic circumstances that occurred in Orlando, Florida. I will be submitting this for the RECORD because I want the RECORD to show that I, along with many of my friends, took a stand.

By the way, many of my friends who are taking a stand are Republicans. Many of my friends who are taking a stand are conservatives, and many of my friends who are taking a stand are persons of goodwill who happen to be Muslims.

By the way, the Muslim community in Houston, Texas, took a stand at the iftar that I attended. The Honorable M. J. Khan, former city council member, was loud and clear. He explained that the Muslim community respects the LGBTQ community, supports that community, and wants to fight for the community to have justice.

Also, I would add that Saeed Sheikh Muhammad was there. He too made similar commentary. So there are persons across the spectrum who are supporting the LGBTQ community. I respect all of these persons, and I appreciate them for what they are doing. I want my statement to reflect that there are those of us who came together and said to the LGBTQ community: You are not alone.

Mr. Speaker, you have been more than generous. I greatly appreciate it. I want to thank my colleague who appeared. I want to thank the many colleagues who could not appear because of circumstances associated with an event that is taking place tonight. But I know that their hearts are here, and I know that they will do what they can at an appropriate time to make sure that the LGBTQ community understands and knows that the community is not alone.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KNIGHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farm Credit's 100th anniversary of supporting our rural communities and providing reliable credit to those in the agricultural industry throughout our country.

Throughout this Congress, as the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit, I have worked with Farm Credit extensively. These interactions have reaffirmed what I already knew: the Farm Credit system is made up of dedicated Americans who understand the needs and champion the values of rural America.

I am honored to represent Georgia's Eighth Congressional District, most of which is farmland. A good portion of my constituents are farmers themselves or have family and friends who farm. Georgia's Eighth District is home to roughly 15 percent of Farm Credit borrowers in the State of Georgia. I myself come from an agricultural background, as both sets of my grandparents were farmers.

Farm Credit has met the credit needs of many of my constituents and maintains an active presence in south and middle Georgia, where we are leaders in Georgia's agricultural production. For a century, Farm Credit has been providing our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities with the capital they need to build and grow successfully.

The centennial anniversary coincides with a time when our agricultural industry is facing significant economic challenges. In the past few years, our farmers and rural communities have been faced with lower commodity prices, increased input costs, and unstable and inconsistent international markets, all of which are placing strains on our food producers and those who provide essential services to our agricultural industry. This not only affects the producers and manufacturers, but it also has a tremendous effect on the communities in which they live and work.

A strong agricultural economy is essential to the health and vitality of the communities I represent in 24 counties across south and middle Georgia. During times like this, farmers in rural communities depend on Farm Credit, whose mission is focused on helping rural communities and agriculture grow and thrive.

For example, in my home State of Georgia, young, beginning, and small farmers make up 72 percent of AgFirst Farm Credit's customers. While these customers represent the future of the agricultural industry, they have entered into the industry at a difficult economic time.

Our Nation's farmers, young and old, embody the American ideals of hard work and dedication, and their commitment to providing the food and fiber for a growing nation and needy world remain steadfast. Alongside them, Farm Credit's commitment to our agricultural future remains just as important as it was 100 years ago.

Farm Credit is a critical provider of credit, not only to producers but also to the communities they live in. They are dedicated to supporting rural com-

munities' critical infrastructure needs such as access to clean water, efficient energy, sufficient healthcare facilities, and modern telecommunication services. Access to these essential services is critical to a thriving rural America. The future of our rural communities and the agricultural industry depends on a modern infrastructure, which requires access to affordable and reliable financing.

Additionally, I want to thank my colleagues who are here today to offer a few words and to celebrate Farm Credit's centennial. Rural communities in Georgia's Eighth Congressional District as well as the districts across this country are stronger when their infrastructure needs are efficiently and effectively met, and Farm Credit is providing the capital with which this can be achieved.

I want to say a special thank-you to my cohost for tonight's Special Order, the ranking member of the Commodity Exchange, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee, my friend from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT).

□ 1830

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SCOTT, whom I affectionately refer to as my cousin from Georgia, and my good, dear friend in addition to that.

This is a remarkable 100-year observance of a truly remarkable organization that provided a great need at a great time. Imagine where we were 100 years ago. In 1916, the world teetering on World War I, boll weevil, a lot of things happening. Just a matter of, perhaps, 50 years, the South recovering from the Civil War. Great devastation.

Enter into this picture of great need comes Farm Credit. When we celebrate this 100-year anniversary, we have to celebrate it right. We have to let people know the importance, and why this organization came into existence. And I say, Mr. Speaker, that particularly in the South, we might not have really made it as quickly in terms of our recovery as we did if it were not for Farm Credit. On this 100th anniversary, we have so much to celebrate, so many fine people. Those who started it are gone, but they built it on a solid foundation that had lasted.

Agriculture is the single most important industry in the world. It is the food we eat, it is the water we drink, it is the clothes we wear, and it is the financial system that we have created. The very commitment that Chairman AUSTIN SCOTT and I share was birthed out of that—the Commodities Exchange. The South didn't have everything it needed, but it had the land and it had the crops. It had commodities. Farm Credit provided the liquidity that our farmers needed. So there is so much to cherish in this time that we are celebrating.

There is something else, too, Mr. Speaker, as we look at this. As Chairman SCOTT said, 72 percent of their

loans are going to beginning, new farmers.

Now, why do I say that is so important?

Because the number one issue that we are faced with today is the age of the average farmer. To me, and to many of us in agriculture, this is not only a farming issue, it is a national issue, that the average age of a farmer today is 60 years of age.

What other industry has that? What other sector has that?

That is why we have to move aggressively. That is why I appreciate Farm Credit so much—because they jumped out front. Seventy-two percent of their lending capacity goes to getting young, beginning farmers in.

The other thing is they are partnering with our committee and going a step further. There is so much we can do. But, Mr. Speaker, it was the land grant colleges in the South that was the pivot. The 1860s and the 1890s is what pulled this country and pulled the South together. Every 5 years, we put a farm bill together. In that farm bill, we allocate badly needed dollars to these 1890 land grant institutions as well as to the 1860s.

I mention that because we have to get young, beginning farmers—African Americans, White, all of America's people. So what we are doing is to open up a new spending category in the farm bill for these 1890s that we will be able to give loan forgiveness and scholarships to young people who will go into farming. That is how we solve this problem. And Farm Credit has to template. They are there with that other arm.

Mr. Speaker, it costs \$8,000 just for one acre of land. You can hardly get a tractor for less than \$50,000. It is needed—when these young people graduate and they have that loan forgiveness there, they have that debt in school—in order for them to go and become farmers. They have to pay \$8,000 to start with just an acre, and \$50,000. But if we would be able to help them and say: We will help your loan forgiveness.

I mention that because the people at Farm Credit said: Let me reach out a hand. Let me help Fort Valley State in Georgia to partner with the University of Georgia. Let me help Florida A&M University Land Grant to work with the University of Florida, a land grant. Let me help Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee Institute work with the University of Alabama.

That is how we solve this problem. That is why it is important for us to understand the foundation. Farm Credit was developed out of a crisis need, and here they are moving to help with another crisis need to get more young people involved in farming.

I say a national crisis because, Mr. Speaker, if we allow this to continue without addressing this highly escalating age of our farmers, we will be in serious trouble. For if we do not continue to be the leading agriculture producer in the world and have to depend

on other nations to feed us, that is a national crisis.

So on this 100th anniversary, isn't it something that we celebrate Farm Credit when they ushered in and came and helped to restore and invigorate America at a great time, and they are still doing the same thing today?

With a century of experience and a focus on the future, I want to say to Farm Credit: God bless Farm Credit. God bless those 100 years. We look forward to many hundred more years. And God bless the United States of America.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. SCOTT, for being here. It has been a wonderful partnership to work with him on our subcommittee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM).

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I first want to thank our chairman, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT, and ranking member, Mr. DAVID SCOTT, for their leadership in bringing this vital topic to the floor.

Farm Credit System is not only part of our economic security of this great Nation, but I would argue it is also part of our national security with what they provide. We are here just to commend the cooperative owners, the employees of the Farm Credit System, as they celebrate this 100th anniversary.

The Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 was passed by Congress and President Wilson in 1916. It was a permanent means to support the well-being and prosperity of the Nation's rural communities and agricultural producers of all types and sizes, a mission it has been accomplishing every day for a century.

It plays a vital role, as you have heard my colleague say, in the success of United States agriculture and our rural communities. It has provided more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers. I am one of those customers, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I am still paying on one of their loans.

The Farm Credit System helped me get started in farming back when I was 25 years old. It helped me buy the land I needed. I still farm that land today. It has helped my family buy land that it has needed to farm.

We are just a small part of a community of 1,349 borrower-customers from the Fifth District of Louisiana. We customers account for \$354 million in credit and investments in rural Louisiana.

In my State, Farm Credit serves more than 3,600 Louisianans, with a total loan volume of \$645 million.

What I and other farmers like about Farm Credit System is that they just seem to get it. In an age where we are losing this person-to-person contact and we are losing the sincerity, I think, sometimes of the people we come in contact with, Farm Credit System remains hometown people who give out hometown loans.

We know these people. We go to church with them. We eat supper with them in the South. They are the DNA

of our rural communities. That is why we trust them. We trust them to give honest and forthright advice. They are going to do the right thing every time for you as a borrower, as a cooperative owner, and just as a friend.

As you have heard from Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT and Mr. DAVID SCOTT, they are supporting the next generation of farmers by annually providing billions of dollars of loans to young and beginning farmers, again, the future of this country—just like me once upon a time—through organizations like 4-H and the Future Farmers of America.

It helps communities moving forward by financing vital infrastructure to bring clean water, reliable energy, and high-speed Internet to places that normally would not have this available.

I am proud to cosponsor House Resolution 591 that commends the cooperative owners and employees of Farm Credit System for their 100 years of service to our rural communities.

I thank Chairman MIKE CONAWAY, Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON, Representative AUSTIN SCOTT, and Representative DAVID SCOTT for introducing this resolution.

Congratulations to the Farm Service Agency on its 100 years of service. May it continue to help farmers and rural America for another 100 years.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. GRAHAM).

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman SCOTT for arranging this Special Order tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Farm Credit on their 100th anniversary. That is a significant anniversary.

Earlier this year, when I visited all 14 counties in Florida's Second Congressional District on the first-ever North Florida Farm Tour, I saw just how important Farm Credit System is to each and every one of our rural communities.

In the Second Congressional District alone, Farm Credit of Northwest Florida serves 439 borrower-customers, providing more than \$120 million in loans. That has helped small businesses like Southern Craft Creamery, where I performed a workday in a hair net making north Florida ice cream. It was very good. I recommend it to everyone. Remember Southern Craft Creamery.

These small businesses and small farms aren't just growing food; they are growing our economy and creating jobs. Mr. Speaker, Farm Credit is working to make sure the next generation of Americans are interested in farming and growing food for our growing country.

I am proud to have worked with them on workshops for new and veteran farmers like Bob Jackson, who Farm Credit has helped start a honey and bee business.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Farm Credit on their 100th anniversary, and I look forward to continue working with them to support Florida farmers.

□ 1845

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank Ms. GRAHAM.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. I thank my friend, the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Farm Credit System for supporting agriculture and the rural communities in my home State of North Carolina for the past 100 years.

Established in 1916, Farm Credit provides farm families across America with consistent and reliable credit to help finance our Nation's food production needs. Without Farm Credit Services of America, our farmers would not have the resources they need to grow their crops and their livestock—putting food on the tables of every American family. Let me underscore that—putting food on the tables of every American family. Farm Credit organizations provide more than a third of the credit that is needed by United States agriculture, accounting for more than \$217 billion in loans, leases, and related services.

In my home district, our local farm lender is Cape Fear Farm Credit, which operates in a 12-county territory and issues loans to more than 2,500 farmers and rural North Carolinians. I applaud them for supporting farm families in my district with real estate and farm improvement loans, equipment loans, operating loans, country home loans, life insurance plans, and appraisal services. Cape Fear Farm Credit also helps young, beginning, small, and minority farmers become successful by offering courses that provide not only them but their families with a unique set of tools to increase the quality and sizes of their operations.

Without a doubt, Cape Fear Farm Credit is an incredibly valuable resource for our farm families and our rural communities in North Carolina's Seventh Congressional District. Our friends at Farm Credit should be proud of their great work. They have successfully delivered on their mission for the past 100 years, and I know they will continue to have great success. They are great and fine people who understand the unique needs of agriculture production, our farm families, and our rural communities. I am proud to stand with them.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank Mr. ROUZER.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

Mr. MOOLENAAR. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the two gentlemen from Georgia for hosting this hour to celebrate 100 years of Farm Credit and the important role it has played in our country.

For the past 100 years, Farm Credit has made vital contributions to the success of Michigan's Fourth Congressional District in our agricultural community, which includes over 10,000 farms and 15,000 farm operators. Farm

Credit has allowed farmers and growers to invest in their operations with new equipment and buildings in good times, and, in tough times, it has provided crop insurance and helped family farmers keep their lands. Farm Credit has helped Michigan farmers put healthy, delicious food on the tables of millions of people. In my district specifically, it has contributed to a districtwide output of \$1.7 billion in products sold across the country and around the world. These profits come back to our rural communities and help to keep them strong.

Mr. Speaker, Farm Credit has made America a more prosperous Nation, and I hope it will enjoy another 100 years of continued success.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank Mr. MOOLENAAR.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for holding this Special Order hour tonight so we may have the opportunity to recognize our friends at the Farm Credit System. I am glad to join my colleagues in doing so as the Farm Credit System has been a great service to agriculture and rural communities for these 100 years.

Originally enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Wilson 100 years ago, the Farm Credit System has played a very valuable and vital role in sustaining agriculture in our Nation. While many things have changed in the last 100 years, one thing has not: the need to feed and clothe our Nation. The Farm Credit System exists to help farmers and ranchers meet this challenge while it also adapts to meet the ever-changing agricultural needs.

For example, right now, the median age for farmers, as was mentioned by Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, is around 60 years old, with farmers who are 75 years old and up outnumbering those who are in their twenties and thirties. We have to do more to give those young people hope and the opportunity to be viable and have stability in the occupations they would choose.

With the population expected to increase by over 2 billion by 2050 and as prices for farmland and equipment significantly increase, the concerns of having enough farmers to feed the world are very real. Farm Credit initiatives have helped younger farmers not only access the financial tools that are necessary to get started, but also the education and advice they need to grow their business for years to come.

More generally, Farm Credit is vital to managing the everyday risks and the uncontrollable variables farmers face, such as the weather, natural disasters, or market distortions. Just this spring, in my part of California, high winds and heavy rains—even hail—have helped to shrink California's prune crop to half or less of its normal size, with some growers losing their entire crops for the year and with some not being able to even recover their costs

for harvesting—therefore, not harvesting at all. This is on top of devastating profit losses and cutbacks that are due to the ongoing drought in the State of California.

While insurance, certainly, comes nowhere close to making up for these losses or even breaking even, it helps farmers survive another year—to get by—so they can continue growing the food, hopefully, in that good following year as they faithfully go out to their fields, to their orchards, to their vineyards to produce what Americans want and need. This helps keep our communities and local economies strong.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues and join in recognizing the critical role the Farm Credit System has played for over 100 years and to support our farmers and ranchers throughout rural communities across the country. Let's do everything we can to hold onto this vital piece of rural America, and let's keep food on the tables for all Americans and for those around the world who depend on it as well.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank Mr. LAMALFA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. CONAWAY. I thank my fellow colleague on the Agriculture Committee for hosting tonight's Special Order hour and for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Farm Credit System for 100 years of service to rural America and the agriculture industry.

The importance of the Farm Credit System is largely unknown to those who are outside of agriculture, often leaving it prone to political attacks. However, its importance to those it serves has never been greater as declining commodity prices have led to a sharp downturn in the farm economy. Thankfully, the Farm Credit System and its members have been there to help lessen that burden.

To understand the Farm Credit System, it is important to look back at its roots. In the early 1900s, credit was largely unavailable or unaffordable in many parts of rural America, and lenders avoided agriculture loans due to their associated risks. In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed a commission to explore the problem and, ultimately, found a need to develop more cooperatives and a cooperative credit system for farmers. From that idea, Congress passed the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, which eventually resulted in the establishment of the Farm Credit System, a system created to provide a permanent, reliable source of credit to American agriculture.

The Farm Credit System's mission has evolved over time. For example, in 1980, Congress empowered the Farm Credit System to provide valuable capital for infrastructure that is necessary for communities to thrive.

Since its inception, the Farm Credit System has never wavered in its mission of providing lines of credit to rural communities in good times and in bad. During the late 1980s, our farmers and ranchers faced particularly difficult times. Fortunately, the agriculture industry and the Farm Credit System were able to weather the storm together, and they emerged even more prepared for the years to come. Today, I believe that the Farm Credit System is fundamentally safe and sound and in a position to endure the challenges that it will inevitably face.

To acknowledge and celebrate a century of dedicated service to rural America, I was proud to sponsor H. Res. 591, which commemorates Farm Credit's 100th anniversary. Providing more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers, the Farm Credit System has worked tirelessly in all 50 States to ensure a vibrant rural economy, and I am proud to congratulate it on its 100 years of good work and the system we have in place today.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. I thank Mr. CONAWAY.

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank all of my colleagues for taking the time to come down here and recognize all of the great things that Farm Credit has done in the past 100 years. I thank all of the people who have been a part of the Farm Credit System over the past 100 years. I thank the men and women who are out there, working every day on the farm, to make sure that Americans have the food and fiber that they need. May God continue to bless them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, Congress recognized the need for a permanent means to support our nation's rural communities and agricultural producers and established the Farm Credit System.

Cooperatively owned and operated, the Farm Credit System was designed to be responsive to the needs of its borrowers while being able to adapt to changes in rural communities and agriculture.

Today, credit in rural America remains an important issue. The Farm Credit System maintains a vital presence in all 50 states as well as Puerto Rico. In my home state of Minnesota, Farm Credit serves more than 24,000 borrower-customers by making available \$6.9 billion in loans.

Credit is one of the most important tools available for farmers and ranchers. It is a vital piece of the farm safety net during times of low commodity prices and an important resource to the next generation of farmers and ranchers looking to get started.

Farm credit also supports rural economic development, helping to fund important infrastructure improvements, provide reliable energy to rural communities, and connect rural Americans through modern telecommunications.

The impact of the Farm Credit System is felt across the country, and I congratulate them on this milestone.

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Farm Credit System's one-hundred years of serving rural communities in Michigan and across the country.

Michigan's Second Congressional District is among the most agriculturally diverse in the nation. West Michigan farmers grow countless specialty crops such as asparagus, apples, cherries, blueberries, carrots, and onions. They also lead the state in livestock, poultry, eggs, nursery, greenhouse, and floriculture production. For the last one-hundred years, the Farm Credit System has been there to provide agriculture producers with reliable, consistent credit and sound financial advice.

In Michigan, GreenStone Farm Credit Services has provided the support needed to keep agriculture running. Whether it is helping young, beginning, and small farmers get their start or transitioning family farms to the next generation, GreenStone has been committed to supporting rural communities.

GreenStone's mission is to provide reliable credit and financial services for rural communities and agriculture. It is a mission they have fulfilled for the last century, and this centennial milestone is an important achievement. As many producers face uncertain economic times, it is imperative that they have a partner who understands their business and the challenges they face. GreenStone has demonstrated their commitment to farmers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring GreenStone and the entire Farm Credit System for their efforts to ensure a prosperous, productive agricultural sector for our nation.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the centennial of the Farm Credit System and its unwavering dedication to our nation's agricultural sector. As an almond farmer, House Ag Committee member and Representative of California's abundant Central Valley, I understand that our nation's farmers and ranchers are continuously faced with unique credit and finance needs.

Since its inception 100 years ago, the Farm Credit System has worked to serve our nation's farmers and rural communities. Roughly \$240 billion in loans have been made to 500,000 borrowers nationwide. These funds have built viable farming operations, improved expanded existing ones, improved trade opportunities, and enhanced vital infrastructure needs. Farm Credit was integral in helping the ag sector to navigate the Great Depression, World War II, the Farm Crisis of the 1980s, and the Great Recession.

What may be more important than Farm Credit's impact on a national scale is its presence at the local level. Our local branch and representatives work hard to establish relationships and craft finance options that work for their clients, whether they are small farmers new to the business or the next generation of an established family operation. Over the years, this institution has also committed hundreds of thousands of dollars to support our district's student ag programs, scholarships, and community events.

I'm proud to cosponsor H. Res. 591, an overwhelmingly bipartisan commendation of the Farm Credit System and the service its cooperatives provide. California's Central Valley is the most productive ag region in the world, and I remain committed to ensuring our farmers and their communities have access to the financial support that the Farm Credit System and others provide.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, the availability of credit is of paramount importance to the success of farm country, and we learned this lesson the hard way. Over a century ago, our

farm forbearers faced a credit crunch that threatened the viability of the industry. As a result, farmers, creditors, rural stakeholders and policymakers worked together to create the Farm Credit System (FCS). This system has been improved upon throughout the years as events require and has provided more than \$210,000,000,000 in loans to more than 500,000 customers.

Today, the availability of farm credit is as vital an issue for rural America as ever. Without credit, a beginning farmer or rancher will find it nearly impossible to purchase land, equipment and inputs to start a farming operation, and a long-time farmer will find it equally difficult to continue and pass on their legacy to the next generation.

To be clear, the importance of the FCS is not limited to the private land between the fence posts. Instead, the entirety of the rural economy benefits from services provided by the FCS whether those services include funding for housing, markets, or infrastructural upgrades.

Finally, the success of the FCS is equal to the sum of its parts. The system works because it is composed of individuals who care about what they do, who believe 100 percent in the mission of their enterprise to bring results and prosperity to a rural community where, without them, there might be none. These individuals are neighbors, friends and family members who take the time to get to know their customers so that they can best serve the needs of the community.

On this 100th anniversary, I am both proud to celebrate the successes of FCS and supportive of its future role in the fabric of our rural economy.

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the cooperative owners and the employees of the Farm Credit System for 100 years of service in meeting the financial needs of our nation's agricultural producers.

The Farm Credit System was established by Congress through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916 and signed into law on July 17, 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. This year marks the centennial anniversary of the founding of the cooperatively owned and operated Farm Credit System.

Congress designed the Farm Credit System as a permanent means to support the well-being and prosperity of our Nation's agricultural sector. Today, the Farm Credit System plays a vital role in the success of United States agriculture and the economic vibrancy of communities throughout all 50 States and Puerto Rico. The Farm Credit System provides more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers.

The Farm Credit System has served my home district, Ohio's 11th Congressional District particularly well. In 2012, three Farm Credit System organizations; AgriBank, CoBank and Farm Credit Services Mid-America joined to provide \$135,000 in financial support for Cleveland's Gardening for Greenbacks program.

The Gardening for Greenbacks program provides grants to local entrepreneurs for the development of for-profit urban food gardens. This program encourages economic development, improves access to fresh, healthy and affordable food, and has helped to establish the City of Cleveland as a model for local food system development.

I am proud to honor the Farm Credit System on its centennial. Happy 100th Anniversary to the Farm Credit System.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, this July marks the 100-year anniversary of the Farm Credit System, and I rise today to commend the cooperative owners and employees for their continuing service and support in meeting the financial needs of rural communities and agricultural producers in the 28th District of Texas and across the country.

I was pleased to cosponsor House Resolution 591, introduced by House Agriculture Committee Chairman MIKE CONAWAY and Ranking Member COLLIN PETERSON as well as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee for Commodity Exchanges, Energy & Credit, Chairman AUSTIN SCOTT and Ranking Member DAVID SCOTT, and join my colleagues in celebrating the Farm Credit System for its 100 years of service.

Congress established the Farm Credit System through the Federal Farm Loan Act of 1916, which was signed into law on July 17, 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson. The Farm Credit System is comprised of independently owned cooperatives that are controlled by their borrowers. Each cooperative is therefore responsive to its borrowers' individual credit requirements and can continually adapt to the changing needs of our rural communities and agricultural producers.

Today, the Farm Credit System plays a vital role in the success of our country's agricultural sector, and the vibrancy of rural communities throughout the country. The Farm Credit System provides more than \$237 billion in loans to more than 500,000 customers nationwide. In the state of Texas specifically, Farm Credit has issued over 47,000 loans, providing \$9.5 billion in credit to farmers and other agricultural borrowers. 1,443 of those loans were made to people in the 28th District of Texas, totaling over \$593 million in loans. In 2013, Farm Credit returned nearly \$258 million to its borrowers in the state of Texas alone.

Farm Credit actively supports the next generation of agricultural producers by providing billions of dollars of funding to emerging farmers and producers, and providing financial support for organizations like 4–11 and Future Farmers of America. Additionally, Farm Credit finances reliable energy sources for farms and rural towns, clean water systems, and modern telecommunications systems that connect rural America with the rest of the world. By financing these vital infrastructure projects, Farm Credit supports the agricultural and rural communities in my congressional district and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the Farm Credit System on the occasion of its centennial and extend my appreciation to the cooperative owners and employees for their commitment to providing innovative financial services to the people of the 28th District of Texas and to the nation as a whole.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2114

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL) at 9 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5293, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

Mr. BYRNE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-623) on the resolution (H. Res. 783) providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5293) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

5667. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's Major final rule — Member Business Loans; Commercial Lending (RIN: 3133-AB37) received June 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5668. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Trade Acknowledgment and Verification of Security-Based Swap Transactions [Release No.: 34-78011; File No.: S7-03-11] (RIN: 3235-AK91) received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5669. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5670. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps [Docket No.: EERE-2009-BT-TP-0004] (RIN: 1904-AB94) received June 8, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5671. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Advisory Committee; Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee; Termination [Docket No.: FDA-2016-N-0001] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5672. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia Infrastructure Requirements for the 2012 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards [EPA-R03-OAR-2015-0838; FRL-9947-76-Region 3] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5673. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District and Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District [EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0124; FRL-9946-38-Region 9] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5674. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; UT; Revised format for Material Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R08-OAR-2014-0309; FRL-9945-65-Region 8] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5675. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Finding of Failure to Submit a State Implementation Plan; New Jersey; Interstate Transport Requirements for 2008 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone [EPA-R02-2016-0316; FRL-9947-77-Region 2] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5676. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Indiana; Ohio; Disapproval of Interstate Transport Requirements for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS [EPA R05-OAR-2011-0969; FRL-9947-71-Region 5] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5677. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chlorantraniliprole; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2013-0235; FRL-9946-75] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5678. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clofentezine; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2014-0749; FRL-9942-23] received June 10, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5679. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce,