

COUNTY PAYMENTS FOR HARNEY COUNTY

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

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, by refusing to renew the county payments program, Congress, this Congress, has broken its pledge to rural areas all across this country, such as Harney County, Oregon.

County payments account for 70 percent of the road budget in Harney County, in part because 78 percent of Harney County is Federal land. That's an area nearly the size of New Jersey.

Now, imagine if the tax revenue from 78 percent of the land in New Jersey suddenly dried up. It would be paralyzing, just as paralyzing as the loss of county payments is proving in the rural West.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty said, "It is now so bad that we've got fewer road crew employees than snow removal equipment. Our road department is now 50 percent of its historic staffing level."

H.R. 3058 would give some relief to this problem and would help keep the roads open in Harney County and schools open across the West.

Yet the Democratic leadership in the House has held this bill hostage on the Union Calendar since January 15. Today is day 120 that this bill could have been brought to the floor and voted on. It is a bipartisan bill. The lead sponsor is my colleague from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Keep the commitment to these rural communities. Pass H.R. 3058.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As a member of the Congressional Asian American Pacific American Caucus, and as the only Member of Congress with any Filipino ancestry, I'm pleased to speak on the floor today in honor of this great month.

Since the early 1800s, the AAPI community has played a vital role in the development and growth of this country. I'd like to take just a moment to highlight one of the many contributions that the AAPI community has played in American history, and that is, the accomplishments of the Filipino American veterans during World War II.

Members of the Commonwealth of the Philippines' military fought tirelessly for the United States during World War II. The invaluable service that the members of the military helped provide us the necessary support to defeat the Japanese empire in the Pacific.

Last year, Congressman FILNER introduced, and I cosponsored, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which will ensure that the Filipino veterans who served in World War II will receive the veterans benefits promised to them over 60 years ago. We need to pass this bill as soon as possible.

□ 1015

SECOND LIFE

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Second Life, it's not just a new job or a new start, it's a virtual world online with over 6 million people. Run by the San Francisco company Linden Lab, Second Life allows anyone in their world to do anything. And the labs make \$1 million each night.

And what is offered in Second Life? My staff found rooms leading people to commit suicide, satanic worship, buying assault weapons, leading human sacrifice, and rape rooms; game players choose to rape or be raped. This content is totally inappropriate and leads to the objectification lessons that are especially inappropriate for young boys.

Linden Lab claims that it provides a teen area, but the fine print of their user agreement clearly states that adults prowl in the children's area and children are in the adult area.

Second Life's K Street lobbyists say, "Trust us," but I think we should trust informed and aware parents. I urge Members to join me in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission worrying about the dangers of Second Life.

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

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

Mr. FARR. I'd like to welcome our guests in the gallery today because this week is the 25th anniversary of National Tourism Week.

As co-chair of the Congressional Tourism Caucus, along with my co-chair JON PORTER of Nevada and nearly 100 Members of Congress, we recognize the importance of the tourism industry to our national economy and to our local communities.

It is the fastest growing industry in the world. From mom and pop restaurants to local unique shops to local State and national parks to this Capitol, which is a tourist attraction, there is so much to experience in this great country.

The tourism industry also shows America's best face. Travelers experience warm, friendly and compassionate people that make up our country. This person-to-person contact between different cultures can help dissolve stereotypes and misconceptions. As

Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness."

So remember that while our economy grows, tourism plays a multibillion-dollar aspect of that, employing more than 7.5 million people. I hope you will join me in welcoming the representatives of the tourism industry that are here this week and celebrating National Tourism Week.

The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.

HONORING OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to welcome to Washington, DC, a special group of World War II veterans from Georgia's Sixth District. These proud patriots are here for one remarkable day as part of the Honor Flight Program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Roswell Rotary Club, these men and women will have the opportunity to visit the stirring World War II memorial built in their honor and to pay their respect to fallen comrades at Arlington National Cemetery.

As young Americans, these proud patriots showed courage and compassion, answering the call to serve at a time of great need. Through amazing sacrifice, they are responsible for the preservation of our treasured American way of life. Our community is extremely proud to be home to so many of the brave veterans who fought for freedom at a critical moment in our history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's Sixth District, I offer our deepest appreciation. And I know that my colleagues will join me in welcoming our veterans to our Nation's capital and thanking them, these soldiers of the greatest generation, for their invaluable service.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

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

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the fact that more than half a million women die in what is the most natural of processes and what should be one of the happiest, pregnancy and birth, is totally unacceptable and should call everyone in this world to action. But for simple and inexpensive medication, adequate trained providers, and because of poverty and poor sanitation, but mostly from the lack of an adequate global response to this tragedy, a mother somewhere dies every 60 seconds.

These same factors, in addition to lack of access and other social determinants of health, also cause maternal mortality rates among black women in