

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would remind the gentleman as well on the other side that it was a Republican-controlled Congress and a Republican President who allowed us to get \$11 trillion in debt when the last Democratic-controlled White House had a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus.

So, now that the facts are straight, I just want to be clear that this legislation is about amending the Federal bankruptcy codes, which have already been used to exempt furniture, musical instruments, jewelry, and other household goods, to be allowed to exempt people's heirlooms, their firearms, that have been passed on from generation to generation.

I believe that the majority of Americans agrees with the Second Amendment—the constitutional right that we have to bear arms. We have continually upheld its validity for hundreds of years because, in many cases, a family's guns are heirlooms, treasured pieces of family history, which should not be subjected to financial hardship. I spoke of my grandfather's M1 carbine that has been handed down to me now through two successive generations.

One fact, one principle this country was founded upon was the ability of our people to provide their own protection. Bearing this in mind and this historical perspective, we respect the rights of gun owners as a shared value we see amongst Democrats and some Republicans. It is not a Republican or a Democratic issue but a foundational value of American ideals. We must protect the rights guaranteed to us by our Founding Fathers no matter what financial circumstances a citizen must face.

Mr. CRITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5827, the Protecting Gun Owners in Bankruptcy Act of 2010. As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, I believe that owning a gun is a right and that this right extends to all people, including those in bankruptcy.

After declaring bankruptcy, people are often denied their Constitutionally protected rights by being forced to relinquish their firearms. While other property, such as televisions, radios, china, crockery, and appliances, is protected from repossession, firearms are not. If owning a gun is a right, shouldn't guns be protected from repossession just as other property is protected?

Right now, only 10 states have laws that protect gun owners from firearm repossession during bankruptcy. Currently, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is not one of these 10, so I support this bill because I believe that my constituents' Second Amendment rights, as well as the Second Amendment rights of all Americans, should be protected during bankruptcy.

This is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5827, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AN END TO CHINESE HOSTILITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CAO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the ongoing maritime conflict in the South China Sea and the need for the United States to support long-term sovereignty of the Vietnamese people. Given this conflict will destabilize trade and peace in this region, this is a matter of great importance for all of us in this esteemed body.

Since the summer of 2009, reports of maritime disputes in the South China Sea have risen. I continue to hear of aggression from Chinese ships and submarines interfering with the freedom of navigation of neighboring Asian countries. I also hear of aggressive actions being taken towards United States interests as well, and this is particularly troubling and unacceptable.

According to reports, China has committed aggressive maritime acts against Southeast Asian countries including Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia, and especially the people of Vietnam.

China claims vast ocean territory that includes many islands and extends into much of the South China Sea. If we were to look at the map of the South China Sea, we see that China is here, Vietnam is here, the Philippines is here, and Malaysia is located here. And China, being the farthest away from the Paracel Islands, as well as the Spratly Islands, claims to have dominion over all of them. These claims, along with their aggressive presence,

has caused tensions between the people of Southeast Asia and China to grow.

The conflict in the South China Sea is hindering free navigation of these waters, which could negatively affect commercial interests and regional security. This would directly affect the livelihoods of peaceful people in these nations. The time has come for the United States to take a strong stance against China's harassment before these actions escalate into hostile confrontation.

China's hostile relationship has been reported to have gone so far as to commit aggressive actions towards Vietnamese citizens. As a Vietnamese American, I am especially interested in the territorial integrity of my native country. And I am concerned to hear reports outlining aggressive actions towards Vietnamese citizens, especially fishermen, that have resulted in injuries, damages to their fishing vessels and, in severe cases, death.

The goal of the United States diplomacy should be to recognize the tensions in this region and to concentrate on first alleviating this tension. The United States should strongly consider advocating for China's release of disputed territories like the Spratly and Paracel Islands and to ensure multilateral dialogue and action to resolve the ongoing maritime dispute.

What is the basis for China's aggression?

Many experts ascribe China's aggression toward its neighbors as stemming from its ever-increasing appetite for energy. There is no question China continues to seek additional sources of energy, particularly across Africa, where their influence continues to grow.

According to reports, China's oil consumption is expected to double over the next 25 years, from 7.2 million barrels per day in 2006 to 15.3 million barrels per day in 2030.

China's natural gas consumption is expected to more than triple in that same period of time, from 2 trillion cubic feet in 2006 to 6.8 trillion cubic feet in 2030.

It has been reported that, in addition to substantive fishing resources, the disputed areas contain oil and natural gas reserves. Further, the islands are in China's pathway as their economy continues to expand. This may be why China is racing to secure its maritime territory, to secure these areas for their oil and natural gas exploration, and to assist in their economic expansion.

However, credible reports indicate that China has claimed lands beyond Taiwan, which may point to China's intention of expanding its power over a much larger area, in direct conflict with the interests of its neighbors.

While some explain China's territorial behavior as strategic to secure their access to energy resources, others strongly believe China's intentions may be going further to gain territory to impose its influence.

What is certain, however, is that while China appears to be negotiating,

we cannot underestimate their appetite for influence. When we are talking about China's track record, China has a history of aggressive actions which have been the source of tension in Southeast Asia.

In 1974, China seized the Western Paracel Islands from Vietnam. In 1988, China seized six of the Spratly Islands from Vietnam and sank three Vietnamese ships, claiming 70 Vietnamese lives. In 2007, China fired upon Vietnamese fishermen in the disputed area, killing one and wounding six others.

The Vietnamese American community has denounced China's claim to territory in the Spratly and Paracel Islands as unofficial, with no legal, historical or factual basis. China, in turn, ordered a ban on all Vietnamese fishing in these disputed territories until August 1, 2009; and during this ban, approximately 50 Vietnamese fishermen were detained.

China's actions infringe upon the sovereignty of the Vietnamese people to freely navigate crucial waterways that support their livelihoods, which is a direct violation of international treaties.

China's harassment is not limited to their neighbors. China has also engaged in hostile confrontations with U.S. vessels traveling through the disputed area.

Given these violations, it is time that the United States take aggressive action against China, and to, hopefully, resolve these disputes without resorting to any force.

We must pursue a peaceful resolution to this conflict in the South China Sea, and the United States must take actions in doing so.

In 2001, a Chinese Naval vessel attacked the USNS *Bowditch*, a U.S. surveillance ship, in the Yellow Sea, and, in another occasion, a Chinese Navy F-8 fighter collided with a U.S. Navy EP-3 reconnaissance plane in international airspace over the South China Sea. China detained the 24 U.S. crew members for 11 days.

In 2009, there were reports of aggressive encounters with the Chinese Navy and unarmed U.S. ocean surveillance ships, which were freely operating in international waters in the Yellow Sea and the South China Sea. A U.S. destroyer was called to escort the surveillance ships as they continued their operations and avoid further hostility from the Chinese Navy.

China's aggression poses a threat to the U.S.-China relationship, too. And, there is no excuse for these territorial disputes potentially pitting two powerful nations against each other.

The maritime disputes over the South China Sea must be addressed immediately to protect the United States' regional relationships and agreements.

For example, the United States is involved in the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty that covers the Senkaku Islands, which are actively disputed. If tensions increase for these islands, Japan might seek assistance from the United States against China.

Likewise, the United States continues to collaborate with the Philippines, and, if regional

tensions were to rise, the Philippines, too, might seek assistance from the United States against China.

China has test-fired missiles at enemies trespassing onto claimed Chinese territory. This may trigger other countries to expand their naval forces as well, which may cause more tension in these disputed waters.

I appreciate Secretary Clinton's statements on Friday that the resolution to the South China Sea dispute is a "national interest" to the United States, and I agree with her that we must seek a peaceful solution.

United officials including Secretary Clinton must demonstrate their strong concern for China's hostile actions, which are causing a disruption of free navigation.

At the same time, China needs to recognize and honor the freedom of navigation of all neighboring nations as well as the United States.

While the Chinese Foreign Minister said yesterday that the United States should not internationalize the South China Sea issue, which could worsen matters and complicate the situation, as an influential nation, we must not remain neutral and passive.

We must take action to end Chinese harassment—not only to ensure the freedom of navigation, but also to restore the respect and interests of the U.S. and these Asian nations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. QUIGLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PUTNAM addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate being recognized to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is always an honor and one of the reasons I try to come down here often and convey the values that emanate from the Midwest; and hopefully some of the people across the rest of the country that don't adhere to those values can index with the things that we believe in.

But what I have found out, Mr. Speaker, as I have traveled around the country is that we have a tremendous amount of common values, from corner to corner of America and up through the Midwest as well. When I think of the States that I have been to in helping other candidates in trying to convey a message, from the Northeast to the Southeast to the South, up through the Midwest, down to the Southwest and off to the West, what I have found is that the people that show up, that care about our Constitution, the constitutional conservatives, the newly energized Tea Party groups that are out there, the 912 Project people that