

be a constructive part of the community.

Comprehensive immigration reform is what ultimately will help us unwind this problem, save money and heartache, and get about the business of building a stronger American future for all our families.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor again, as I have in the past 2 years, to talk about the location of high-level nuclear waste around this country and compare and contrast it with where we have high-level nuclear waste, mostly spent nuclear fuel, but other types defined as waste, and compare it to where it should be based upon a 1982 law, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act and the 1987 amendment to that law which identified Yucca Mountain as the location where we should be storing high-level nuclear waste.

Today we go to the Pennsylvania and West Virginia areas, and we compare Yucca Mountain with a nuclear power plant called Limerick. At Yucca Mountain, currently there is no nuclear waste on site. At Limerick, there are 1,143 metric tons of uranium spent nuclear fuel on the site. At Yucca Mountain, the waste would be stored, if it's there, a thousand feet underground. At Limerick, you can see waste is stored aboveground in pools and casks. That's above ground.

If it was stored in Yucca Mountain, it would be a thousand feet above the water table. Why is that? Well, Yucca Mountain is in a desert, so that's why the water table is very, very low. Well, at Limerick, the waste is stored 20 feet above the groundwater.

Finally, Yucca Mountain is 100 miles from the Colorado River. Limerick is on the Schuylkill River 40 miles from Philadelphia. Yucca is about 100 miles from Las Vegas, Nevada. The importance of this is just to address with Fukushima Daiichi, and nuclear waste, and some difficulties we've had, and public policy being as defined by law. The question is, why do we still have nuclear waste in Pennsylvania right outside Philadelphia, and why don't we have it underneath a mountain in a desert?

The answer is—I know it would shock people—politics here in Washington, especially in the other Chamber, not complying with the law, along with an administration that is in league with those who have blocked a final scientific study for Yucca Mountain. What I have been doing is going around and looking at the senators from the States around the nuclear power plants that I have been addressing.

Where do they stand individually? Well, Senator CASEY, a relatively new Senator, has really been silent on that, although he has said, as a Senator from a State with 9 commercial reactors and

10 million people living within 50 miles of those reactors, I can tell you that nuclear security is extremely important to Pennsylvanians. Obviously the nuclear waste is not that important to him since he has been silent on Yucca Mountain.

Senator TOOMEY is quoted as saying the alternative is what we have now, highly active radio waste located at 131 sites in 39 States, including nuclear power plants close to the Lehigh Valley. That cannot be as safe and secure as burying the waste deep in Yucca Mountain. I would agree with the Senator.

Senator MANCHIN from West Virginia, who is relatively new, has been silent on what we should do with the high-level nuclear waste. Part of this process is to identify that and hopefully have him come out in a statement. Senator ROCKEFELLER voted "no." His statement is, nuclear energy is touted by its proponents as a carbon-free option that should have its share of the Nation's electricity generation expanded.

□ 1010

Yet we have never figured out what to do about the permanent storage and human health and safety concerns regarding high radioactive waste with a half-life measured in tens of thousands of years. That's where I very much disagree with the Senator, because the Federal Government has spent 20 years and \$9 billion studying Yucca Mountain. Unprecedented 100 million-year projections were completed showing Yucca's safety. There is no safer place in the entire United States for nuclear waste than Yucca Mountain.

So, then, I've been doing a tally across the country of the Senators and where they stand as of today. We have 48 who support Yucca Mountain and high-level nuclear waste; 18, we don't know. Hopefully, they'll get a chance to cast a vote. And we have 20 who are "no." In the filibuster world that operates in the other Chamber, you know we really need 60. We're very close. In fact, if 12 of these 18 undecideds are "yes," there should be no reason why we would allow Senator REID and the President of the United States to block further development and movement to take all of our high-level nuclear waste and store it safely in a mountain in a desert.

QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Yesterday, the guest chaplain asked that the House of Representatives be blessed and that each Member of the House of Representatives be blessed. In our opportunity to be free in our expression of religion, I ask that each of us bless this Nation. For that reason, I set this morning to discuss just a series of

issues, hoping that we can improve the quality of life of not only Americans, but people around the world.

First, we have to clean up our house. And so I express outrage of the actions of two former TSA workers—TSO officers and two present TSO officers.

All of us can fall short because we are human, but the outrage of participating in drug trafficking right here in the United States as an official of the United States Government should be condemned by all of us, and I will call for immediate hearings to ensure that the culture of TSO officers, besides their frontline duty, is to respect the job and the task. As a champion of their work, believing that their work is vital to the security of this Nation and the fact that we have not been attacked on our soil since 9/11, I call for immediate investigation and response.

This morning, as well, we determined that the Secret Service, who finished quickly an investigation of the Colombian debacle dealing with sex workers, prostitutes, we now have discovered through a contractor that, in fact, actions occurred in El Salvador. We thought it might not be the culture. But let's own up and begin, as necessary, to purge those who are reckless in their behavior. Thank you to the men and women of the Secret Service who have always done their duty. But to the dastardly deeds of these who think it's a playground: Get out now. There is no tolerance for this kind of behavior.

Let me move immediately to the work in Syria. I was the first Member to go to the Syrian Embassy to ask for the fall, or the removal, of Dr. Assad, and we have been moving along while others have been slaughtered. Meetings and discussions at the U.N. National Security Council, a special envoy—"do this and do that"—while women and children are being slaughtered, it is time for there to be a stronger statement on the removal of Dr. Assad and the increase in U.N. peacekeepers. The people need your help in Syria. The bloodshed continues and the fear is insurmountable, almost. It is necessary on behalf of their human rights to be able to move quickly in Syria.

As the Supreme Court has discussed the Arizona law, I hope that we can bless America by having comprehensive immigration reform. I hope we can understand that there are laws that work well. Just helping a Korean student who was shot in my jurisdiction whose father was denied entry because of his language and didn't understand, he now has been granted humanitarian parole. Let's have comprehensive immigration reform so that we don't have States who are stopping families who are U.S. citizens in the streets of Arizona, profiling them because of this dastardly law, that we don't have police officers having to become immigration officers while they need to be rescuing people and saving people. Let's do the decent thing. Let's bless America and have comprehensive immigration reform.

Then, of course, the Senate is debating the issue of the Violence Against Women Act, an act that as a new Member of Congress I had the pleasure of both cosponsoring and writing amendments as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, and it is sad that we have a divide on the Violence Against Women Act that has bipartisan support. This House should take up the Leahy bill immediately as it passed the Senate. Do you realize how many women are being killed a day, an hour, because of the domestic violence that this particular act helps to outreach, provide resources, counseling and opportunities to be able to nurture those women and to be able to ensure that they are safe?

As a former board member of the Houston Area Women's Center that has been a living example of protecting women against dastardly violence and, of course, men who are subjected to domestic violence, it is, unfortunately, a form of an epidemic in this country, as we have seen with bullying. We have to be able to bless America and have people turn internally. Let them seek help. But why stall the passage of the Violence Against Women Act which, in fact, will provide the nurture, comfort, and resources and the national statement that we abhor and stand against violence against women and others who are being impacted violently against this Nation.

As a Member who stood along Chairman Hyde many years ago, the late Chairman Hyde, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, a Republican who stood alongside of us to say he stands with legislation to protect women, get the Senate to do its business and let the House do its business. Let us bless America.

HONORING COACH PAT HEAD SUMMITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my praise to one of Tennessee's true living legends.

Born in Clarksville, Tennessee, in Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District, Coach Pat Head Summitt paved the way for women athletes at Cheatham County High School and then at the University of Tennessee-Martin. She was an exemplary student athlete, and today the gym at UT-Martin is named in her honor.

She took the reins at the University of Tennessee in 1974, and she has led the Lady Vols to an unprecedented 31 consecutive NCAA Tournament appearances. In her time as a coach, she has coached 12 Olympians, 20 Kodak All-Americans, and 77 All-SEC performers. After 1,098 career wins over 38 seasons, Pat Head Summitt is the all-time winningest coach in NCAA basketball history.

Pushing excellence both on and off the court, Coach Summitt prepared her

players to be successful women when they hang up their jerseys. We will remember her legacy at UT for two things: winning games and, most importantly, graduating players. Every Lady Volunteer—every Lady Volunteer—who finished their eligibility at the University of Tennessee graduated from college. That is a statistic to cheer about. Coach Summitt has dedicated her career and her magnificent journey to the great game of women's basketball and to the student athletes she has championed.

This week, we have welcomed Coach Summitt and her son, Tyler. They've been here in D.C. with us this week as we have saluted her career and as we cheer her as she now coaches millions of volunteers in fighting Alzheimer's and early onset dementia.

Thank you, Coach Summitt, for leading by example both on and off the court.

□ 1020

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Ladies and gentlemen of the House, 64 years ago, the State of Israel was born out of the hope of a generation and on the heels of history's darkest human tragedy. Notwithstanding the many grave challenges that it has faced since that day and still in our time, Israel has achieved a thriving economy, a strong national defense, and an important role as a member of the family of nations.

Israel's existence itself is a powerful symbol of the Jewish people's resolve never again to permit its sons and daughters to face the threat of persecution or genocide. On my many visits to Israel, I have witnessed the triumph of a dream—a beautiful dream that sustained the Jewish people for 2,000 years and that has been fulfilled through the blossoming of a desert, the emergence of Israel's high-tech economy, and the freedoms of speech, press, and religion for its citizens of every faith.

Israel continues to impress the world with her achievements in business, technology, sports, the arts, and the defense of human rights. They are even more remarkable when considering the very real dangers Israel faces in the form of terrorism, regional instability, and the threat from Iran.

For Americans, Israel's peace and security has always been an important national interest of the United States of America. As President Obama has made very clear, our countries will continue to work closely together to prevent a nuclear-armed Iran. Not only do the United States and Israel share common interests; we also share common values. Democracy, equal opportunity, human rights, and a yearning for peace are the ideals we hold in our hearts, and together we have worked for 64 years to defend them and promote them.

On the anniversary of Israel's independence, Americans continue to stand side by side with Israel as it pursues peace and security for its people and, yes, for its region.

I pray for the peace of Israel and its people and for all the people of that troubled region. And I know the strong bonds between our nations will endure for generations to come. Those futures were what we worked so hard to make possible for thousands and thousands.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF COURAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, in March, the United States recognized 10 women who were risking their lives to bring about justice in their countries. These women were honored in the United States as the 2012 International Women of Courage and visited Congress to share their stories and give a voice to the people of their countries who have nowhere else to turn.

I had the privilege of meeting with each of these women and listening to their stories and learning more about their fight to end human rights abuses and to make the world a better place. I was impressed with their strength, their courage, and want to share some of their stories with you here today so that we can continue to speak up for those who have no voice.

Maryam Durani is from Afghanistan. At age 27, she is the director of Women's Association for Culture and speaks out for the rights of women and girls in Kandahar province. Her life has been threatened numerous times, and yet she continues to fight for women in Afghanistan and has started the only female-focused radio station in the nation. She received the International Women of Courage Award for "striving to give a voice to women through the power of media, government, and civil society."

Pricilla de Oliveira Azevedo is from Brazil. She is 34 and serves as the General Coordinator for Strategic Programs for the Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Public Security. She is one of the most senior officers in the Police Pacification Units in her country and has worked to end drug-dealing operations in Brazil. She arrested a gang of criminals who had once kidnapped her and is working with the state and local governments to improve conditions throughout Brazil. She received this award for "integrating previously marginalized populations into the larger Rio de Janeiro community."

Zin Mar Aung is from Burma. At age 36, she is a democratic activist who was a former political prisoner and was held for 11 years because of her efforts to promote democracy, women's empowerment, and conflict resolution in Burma. She received this award for "championing democracy, strengthening civil society, and empowering individuals to contribute meaningfully