

But the current contempt debate has lost its focus. This debate is no longer about gun-walking and Operation Fast and Furious. Having already discovered that Fast and Furious was the fourth in a series of gun-walking operations run by ATF's Phoenix field division in Arizona, dating back from the time of former President George W. Bush's administration, and finding no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of the Attorney General, the committee is now turning their focus to a single letter sent by the Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs to Senator GRASSLEY on February 4, 2011, which initially denied allegations of gun-walking.

The Department has acknowledged that its letter was inaccurate and has formally withdrawn the letter. The Department has also turned over 1,300 pages of internal deliberative documents relating to how it was drafted, showing that staffers who drafted the letter relied on inaccurate assurances from ATF leaders and officials in Arizona who ran the operation. Again, the focus has shifted from the real matter of investigation and bringing justice to Agent Brian Terry's family.

During the 16-month investigation, the committee refused all Democratic requests for key witnesses and hearings, as well as requests to interview any Bush administration appointees. For example, the committee refused a public hearing with Ken Melson, the head of ATF, as well as a hearing or even a private meeting with former Attorney General Mukasey.

Attorney General Holder has worked in good faith, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker, to respond to the committee's requests and even met with the bipartisan leaders from both Chambers last week, offering to provide additional documents regarding the Fast and Furious initiative. His offer was rejected, and even yet the committee has continue to move the goal posts by demanding additional internal deliberative documents from after the February 4 letter that is now in question.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is the concluding step of what has turned out to be, in my opinion, an unfair process of defaming a public servant who has thus far made all good-faith efforts to cooperate with the Oversight Committee.

Mr. Speaker, to suggest that today's debate and deliberations on this proposed contempt resolution against Attorney General Holder is a profound example of democracy at its best may also be considered a sad day—a sad day for our Nation and a recognition of the fact that there has been a failure of the system to function properly.

I would respectfully urge the Speaker not to bring this resolution to the floor and allow the leadership of both sides of the Oversight Committee not to give up, and continue the dialogue, continue the deliberation, and not to question the motives and integrity of our colleagues on the committee, but solve

the problem that is before us today, Mr. Speaker.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to give a special tribute to those fathers and their families who have come to America as refugees, escaping the harsh political and economic conditions in their home countries. On June 20, we celebrated World Refugee Day. Like many of our forefathers, refugees came to America hoping for a better life. Refugees receive sanctuary in the United States because they are in harm's way, they cannot return home safely, and they have nowhere else to turn.

For generations, we have resettled millions of refugees from all over the world. They have come from many backgrounds and ethnicities. America has offered sanctuary to countless Jews, Eastern Europeans, and many others displaced during World War II. We have welcomed people from Cuba, Vietnam, and other Asian countries who were fleeing repressive regimes.

In my home State of Georgia, I have seen how refugees have become an asset, contributing to the local economy and to the local culture. According to data from the Matching Grant Program, on average, 85 percent of refugee families in Georgia are self-sufficient 180 days after arrival.

Many Americans know the remarkable story of the Lost Boys of Sudan. Thousands of Sudanese boys were displaced and separated from their families during the second Sudanese civil war between 1983 and 2005. They traveled by foot for weeks and sometimes years to refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya just to survive. Their resilience and hard work should be an example for us all.

Defying all odds, these young men pursued their dream of getting an education in America and grew to become productive members of my congressional district in Scottdale and Clarkston, Georgia. Nonprofit organizations such as Refugee Family Services and RRSIA, located in my district, provide refugees with the resources they need to become self-sufficient and adapt to life here in America.

Thanks to services provided by these organizations, Ram, a young man who grew up in a Nepali refugee camp, was awarded a prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship, a full 4-year scholarship to any college in the country. Ram chose to remain close to his family in Georgia, and he is attending Georgia Tech and plans to become a doctor.

So as we celebrate and recognize World Refugee Day this month, let us take a moment to think of those refugees, and let us recognize those organizations and volunteers working tirelessly every day helping refugees build

a better future for generations to come. Let us also be proud as Americans for following our age-old tradition of welcoming those who have lost almost everything, but have found in our great country a promise for a better tomorrow.

□ 1120

Moreover, let us celebrate the generosity of the American people who have granted to refugees the best gift of all—freedom and hope.

So I ask all of my colleagues not to cut funding for refugees just to score cheap political points. Let us instead embrace refugees. Except for Native Americans, we are all descendants of progenitors who came here under some form of duress. Let us uphold our better nature of compassion and kindness that lies at the heart of who we are as Americans.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 21 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As the energy and tensions of the Second Session gather, may there be peace among the Members of the people's House. Grant that all might be confident in the mission they have been given and buoyed by the spirit of our ancestors who built our Republic through many trials and contentious debates. May all strive with noble sincerity for the betterment of our Nation.

Many centuries ago, You blessed Abraham for his welcome to strangers by the oaks of Mamre. Bless this Chamber this day with the same spirit of hospitality, so that all Americans might know that in the people's House all voices are respected, even those with whom there is disagreement.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OUR NATION IS ANXIOUSLY
AWAITING DECISION ON
OBAMACARE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Americans will find out what we've been anxiously awaiting for the past 2 years: whether or not the government health care takeover bill is constitutional. Tomorrow, at 10 a.m., people across the Nation will be closely watching and listening as the Supreme Court delivers its opinion.

In efforts to rally her party for ObamaCare, former House Speaker NANCY PELOSI outraged Americans at a press conference by stating, "We have to pass the bill so we can find out what's in it." The American people now know this bill, and they overwhelmingly disapprove of this bill, which the National Federation of Independent Business reveals will destroy 1.6 million jobs.

It is my hope that the Supreme Court will side with the best interests of the American people and overturn the job-destroying, out-of-control spending, and overreaching government health care takeover bill, which will hurt senior citizens with waiting lists, rationing, and denial of service.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

Congratulations, Tom Rice of Myrtle Beach.

OPPOSING CONTEMPT CITATION
AGAINST THE HONORABLE ERIC
H. HOLDER, JR., ATTORNEY GEN-
ERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, tomorrow we risk bringing dishonor to this House.

For Members who revere Congress as the legislative branch of government, the majority's irresponsible and unprecedented contempt vote is just another sad chapter in our recent institu-

tional decline. I implore my colleagues to give careful consideration as to whether we truly want the 112th Congress to become the first in history to hold a sitting Cabinet member in contempt of Congress.

Do we really want our legacy to be establishing one of the most partisan House of Representatives of all time, so clouded in judgment, so besotted with rancor and partisanship, that we are incapable of addressing vital separation of powers conflicts in a serious and fair fashion?

Further negotiations with the Department of Justice and the Attorney General are clearly available if we want a solution. I urge my colleagues to join me in restoring honor and dignity to this House by opposing the nuclear option: a contempt citation.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FOR
JOBS ACT OF 2012

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

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. An important part of the continued viability of our Nation's small businesses is their access to capital. To foster this access, we need to provide community financial institutions with responsible regulatory relief so they can increase lending to small businesses.

That is why, today, I have introduced the Small Business Lending for Jobs Act of 2012. This bipartisan legislation will allow community banks to spread losses in commercial real estate over a 7-year period. This will allow banks to retain more capital and use these funds to make new loans to small businesses in their communities.

The bill also establishes a dual mission for Federal banking regulators and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, mandating these entities promote credit availability so long as that credit is provided in a safe and sound manner. This will bring a greater balance to banking regulations. A dual mission will lead to regulators factoring in the impact on banks, communities, and customers in making their decision.

I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Small Business Lending for Jobs Act of 2012.

AMERICA'S CUP

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work being done in my home State of Rhode Island as we host the final leg of the inaugural America's Cup World Series, an incredible boost to our tourism economy and a great moment for our State.

Teams of competitors and spectators from around the world have come to Newport for the America's Cup World Series, which according to some esti-

mates is expected to bring in \$70 million for our State's economy.

Although Newport hosted the America's Cup from 1930 to 1983, this marks the first time in history that America's Cup races are actually being held inside Narragansett Bay.

The opportunity to host a leg of this year's America's Cup not only provides a source of real economic benefit for our State, but also an intangible level of pride for all Rhode Islanders.

Thank you to the organizers for their hard work. I wish the competitors good luck, and to all those likely to benefit from the enormous economic impact of these events, much success.

BAXTER BOMB SQUAD
RECOGNITION

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of the Mountain Home High School FIRST Robotics team, first known as the "Baxter Bomb Squad," who recently won the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology championship. The team was made up of 22 students and 14 adults, including several pairs of father-and-son teams.

Together they spent hundreds of hours building a robot, which competed in the Rebound Rumble, a basketball-inspired game. The team competed in front of an audience of 30,000 people and against more than 400 other teams.

The Baxter Bomb Squad has been competing for 17 years, and for the very first time this year, they won the championship. They were sponsored by local businesses, including Baxter Healthcare and Mountain Home High School.

The For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology championship has helped influence thousands of students throughout the country to pursue higher education in engineering and related scientific fields. Students who participated in this competition are 50 percent more likely to attend college and twice as likely to major in science and engineering.

Congratulations to the Baxter Bomb Squad. Best of luck for years to come.

ORAL CHEMOTHERAPY

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, every day more and more cancer patients across the country are denied coverage for smart drugs because insurance companies refuse to cover them.

A resident in my district called my office last month to say that her insurance company refused to cover an oral chemotherapy drug she was prescribed to fight her cancer because her policy only covered generic drugs.

Madam Speaker, the insurance paradigm has not kept pace with the