

Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Murphy (CT)  
Oliver  
Paulsen  
Pelosi

Perlmutter  
Pitts  
Reyes  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Schrader

Smith (WA)  
Speier  
Stivers  
Waters

□ 1909

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 501, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall 501, I was away from the Capitol due to prior commitments to my constituents. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted no on H.R. 2362, the Indian Tribal Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011 (Rep. COLE—Natural Resources).

Had I been present, I would have voted no on S. 2039, a bill to allow a State or local government to construct levees on certain properties otherwise designated as open space lands (Sen. HOEVEN—Transportation and Infrastructure).

Had I been present I would have voted yes on H.R. 3477, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 133 Hare Road in Crosby, Texas, as the Army First Sergeant David McNerney Post Office Building (Rep. POE—Oversight and Government Reform).

#### HONORING GEORGE DUNKLIN

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

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor George Dunklin on completing his term as an Arkansas Game and Fish commissioner. For the last 7 years, Mr. Dunklin has worked tirelessly to maintain a healthy wildlife population in Arkansas.

From the time he took office in 2005, after being appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee, Mr. Dunklin has been a devoted public servant. One of the accomplishments he's most proud of is improving and restoring water flow habitat in crucial areas. Arkansas is world renowned for duck hunting, and restoring the water flow habitats will make for a better environment for the many ducks that over winter in Arkansas.

Mr. Dunklin also worked on an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide minimum flow in the White River below Bull Shoals Dam and in the Norfolk River below the Norfolk dam.

Always the gentleman, Mr. Dunklin maintained a healthy balance of opposing passions on the commission. I appreciate all of Mr. Dunklin's efforts and wish him well on his future endeavors.

#### SENSIBLE GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events that happened in Aurora, Colorado just shows us in this country that if we don't have sensible gun control legislation, then shame on us; then we're the fools.

Nobody is against Second Amendment rights, and nobody is not for giving legitimate people the ability to own guns. But what the shooter was able to obtain on the Internet or in a gun shop, without any kind of background check whatsoever, to me, is unconscionable and makes no sense whatsoever.

I think that this Congress has to come together and find out what language we can put in sensible gun control legislation to make sure that when someone buys weapons, they don't have 100 and 200 and 300 and 1,000 times the amount of ammunition that they would need, that a reasonable person would need, for any reasonable event.

My heart goes out to the victims in Aurora and to their families. This tragedy should never happen again.

#### SEQUESTRATION TARGETS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CIVILIAN WORKERS

(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, this month, in Politico, Todd Harrison, a defense analyst at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, warned of the impacts that sequestration will have on the Department of Defense civilian work force if action is not taken.

If sequestration is implemented, Harrison warns the Department of Defense civilian employees "could see, 10, 15 or even a higher percentage being laid off or furloughed shortly after sequestration goes into effect." Over 200,000 jobs are at risk in the State of Virginia alone.

I support Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK MCKEON's efforts to protect our national security, and also to protect up to one million jobs that will be destroyed as a result of sequestration. Job loss could be as high as 2.14 million.

With a record unemployment rate now of 8 percent for over the past 41 months, the President and Senate should adopt bills that have already been passed by the House.

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

#### RED TAPE REDUCTION AND SMALL BUSINESS JOB CREATION ACT

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, over the last 3 years, the number of regulations imposed on small businesses has grown considerably. This year alone, the Federal Register has ballooned to a staggering 41,662 pages, burying our Nation's small businesses in paperwork and red tape.

But it's not all about page numbers. There are very real implications to our economic recovery as a result of the increased burden on small businesses. Nearly half of all small businesses say they aren't hiring because of red tape. They are spending vital time and energy and money on navigating the tidal wave of regulations that is coming out of Washington. These are resources that could be used to invest in new equipment and expand and hire in their payrolls.

Mr. Speaker, this week the House will take action, action aimed to freeze onerous regulations, to streamline the permitting process for construction projects, and create transparency within regulatory agencies so that employers can have more time and more energy and more resources to growing and expanding their businesses and, ultimately, creating jobs.

Mr. Speaker, it's time to help small businesses get out from under the red tape coming from Washington.

#### EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE COLORADO TRAGEDY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we all came together prayerfully last week as the tragedy in Aurora, Colorado, took place.

The State of Texas has a relationship with Colorado. We probably were of one territory some time ago. But I rise today to extend my sympathy to Congressman PERLMUTTER and the entire congressional delegation in Colorado, both House and Senate.

I also rise to offer sympathy to the victims and those fallen—families, innocent babies, children, that were injured.

And I reach out to say this: Tell the NRA to come and sit down with all of us so that this Congress can work in an effective manner, that we can begin to look at issues such as buying 6,000 rounds of ammunition on the Internet, not against the Second Amendment, but that the fact that the Internet sellers did not even have to give notice that one person was buying 6,000 rounds of ammunition. There's no Federal law on that issue. There's not even a Federal law to give notice on that issue.

We can find common ground. Something has to be done, whether it is a disturbed person or not, whether it's a terrorist act. And for me, this issue was a terrorist condition because of what happened.

But I want us to come together as one. We can do so, and we can come together to do what is good for the American people, respect the Second Amendment, but find ways to protect the American people, whoever they are, wherever they live, from these dangers.

May God bless the people who have now fallen, and those who suffer, and God bless the United States of America.

#### RECOGNIZING CENTRE COUNTY WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication and hard work of the staff and volunteers of the Centre County Women's Resource Center, which has addressed the harms of domestic violence while promoting community safety in Centre County, Pennsylvania, since 1975.

The Women's Resource Center provides vital services to women, children, and men who have been victims of sexual assault and/or domestic violence. The continuum of services includes prevention, crisis intervention, education, and advocacy.

In 2010 and 2011 CCWRC served more than 1,000 victims with 24-hour confidential and free services for those victims of sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence. The emergency shelter also provides counseling, legal and medical advocacy, and prevention programs.

Much of the Federal support the CCWRC receives has been through the Violence Against Women Act and the Victims of Crime Act, both of which I am proud to support.

Mr. Speaker, domestic violence is a national epidemic. The professional and caring staff of the Centre County Women's Resource Center is doing their part to raise awareness, assist victims, and make positive strides towards further prevention. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed or underappreciated, and set an example for how other communities can address domestic violence.

□ 1920

#### CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS HOUR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIBSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Again, it is my pleasure to lead this Special Order this evening, and I thank again our Democratic leadership for giving us this time.

Before I yield to the minority whip, I want to also add my condolences to the families who lost loved ones in the shooting in Aurora, Colorado, and to those who are recovering from their injuries, both physical and emotional. I want to add the condolences of the people of the Virgin Islands to all of them. They are all in our prayers. It happened that I had taken my granddaughter, Nia, to a preview of the movie the night before, and I really shudder to think of what everyone in that theater went through that night. It could have been us, and it still could be any one of us anywhere unless we do something to ban assault weapons and to turn back some of what the Republican Congresses have passed.

One of the weapons used by Holmes was an AR-15 rifle, which is a semi-automatic weapon. If the assault weapon ban of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 had not been allowed to expire, it might be that 12 people, including a little girl, might still be alive. Our colleague, Gabby Giffords, would not be home, making what is, thankfully, a remarkable recovery, but the six people who died that day might be alive. A young man in St. Croix, who lost his life yesterday—and many others in the U.S. Virgin Islands and across this country—might still be alive if that ban were in place.

So, again, on behalf of me and my family and of the people of the Virgin Islands, I offer condolences to the families of those who were lost and to the families of those who are recovering. They are in our prayers.

At this time, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to our Democratic whip, a true leader for all Americans, leading us in many issues. Tonight, I believe, he is going to talk about voter protection, but he also has been working very hard to make sure that we Make It in America and that everyone is able to Make It in America.

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentle lady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends in the Congressional Black Caucus for organizing today's Special Order, but as my colleague Mr. ENGEL and as my colleague on the Republican side and as Dr. CHRISTENSEN have pointed out, our hearts and thoughts go out to and with those people who by happenstance of going to a movie have lost their lives, have been injured badly, have lost family members, have had the confidence of going out and about in this country put at risk. How we lament that loss of life, that loss of confidence, that loss of a sense of safety in their community.

We need to address that issue—to instill confidence, to restore safety, to ensure that America continues to be a land in which people feel safe.

Mr. Speaker, today, I want to talk about an issue that is central to America, and that is the right to vote. This is an issue that affects millions of Americans from every walk of life, but it will certainly have a disproportional effect on African Americans, Hispanic Americans, seniors, and youth.

In 2008, we saw a record turnout from minority communities and younger voters as more Americans were energized to take part in our democracy. That democracy is our greatest strength, and the principle of "one person, one vote" has always been a vehicle for Americans to hold their government accountable and ensure it is responsive to the challenges we face as a Nation. We ought to be building on that progress we made in 2008 by encouraging more Americans to register to vote and cast their ballots. Indeed, in my view, the Nation—States, counties, communities, municipalities—need to be reaching out to people to make sure they know how to vote and to facilitate their votes, not to put stumbling blocks in the way.

It continues to be deeply disturbing to witness a campaign of raising barriers to voting and voter registration by Republican-controlled legislatures in States across this country. My dear friend and colleague, a hero in American history, JOHN LEWIS, is a veteran of the fight for voting rights in the fifties and sixties. He carries the scars, both physical and in his memory, of the great effort to secure not just the right to vote but the freedom to exercise that right. That's why he is helping to lead this effort in 2012 to prevent voter suppression and to make certain our elections are open to all who are eligible to participate.

He can attest that today's effort is a continuation of the work he began as a young man. Since the beginning of last year, 22 laws and two executive actions in 17 States have restricted our citizens' right to vote. Civil rights heroes like JOHN LEWIS refused to accept barriers to voting in the middle of the 20th century, and all of us—each and every one of us—is here today because we refuse to accept these new restrictions in the 21st century.

That's why many of us introduced the Voter Empowerment Act in May. Our bill strengthens America's democracy by improving our voting system in three key areas: access, integrity, and accountability. It will reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission, create a national voter hotline for reporting problems, allow same-day and online registration, remove obstacles to voting for military personnel, and prohibit deceptive practices that discourage Americans from casting their votes.

Each one of us in this House is opposed to voter fraud. Each one of us is opposed to any voter voting who is not