

recognition they deserved. Yet today, bureaucratic roadblocks continue to prevent nearly 4,000 of these aging World War II veterans from collecting the benefits they are due.

Five of these gentlemen pictured here reside in my district. They range in age from 83 to 100 years old. Regrettably, two others recently passed away. Many more will pass without ever obtaining the recognition they deserve if this body does not act to remove the barriers preventing these veterans from receiving the benefits they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in fighting to ensure these honorable World War II veterans are appropriately recognized.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE 1972 ISRAELI OLYMPIANS

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

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I will use my time to observe a minute of silence for the Munich 11 who lost their lives at the 1972 Olympic Games.

Thank you.

EXCESSIVE FEDERAL REGULATIONS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, take a look at this. Take a look at the regulatory red tape that's strangling America's small businesses, our job creators. Every time I travel up and down the Ohio River, businesses, both large and small, tell me that new regulations and the threat of more are keeping them from hiring and expanding.

Unemployment has been above 8 percent for the past 41 months, and America's job creators are speaking loud and clear that they want certainty. They want to grow and expand. And as a small business owner myself, I know firsthand the destructive burden of excessive regulation.

Today this House will take an important step toward freeing America's job creators from these excessive regulations. The Red Tape Reduction and Small Business Job Creation Act puts a stop to President Obama's unchecked power to issue costly and job-killing regulations on a whim. I encourage my colleagues to stand with me in supporting this legislation that will empower job creators to put America back to work.

RECOGNIZING LONG JUMP OLYMPIAN GEORGE KITCHENS, JR.

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

Mr. BARROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Kitchens, Jr., from Augusta, Georgia, who will be representing our State and our Nation at the London Olympic Games beginning tomorrow. George will be making his very first Olympic appearance in the men's long jump. A former Clemson Tiger All-American athlete, George will be the first member of the Tigers long jump team to advance to the Olympic Games.

The American Olympic team is made up of 530 men and women. For the first time in history, this Olympic team will feature more female athletes than male athletes. Of the 302 medal events at the Olympic Games, the United States will be represented at 246.

We look forward to watching George win the gold when the men's long jump team takes the spotlight on Friday, August 3. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in wishing our American Olympic team the best of luck in London.

□ 0910

CONDEMNING ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO

(Mr. TURNER of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TURNER of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern that Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus, continues to rule over Europe's last dictatorship. Despite continued promises of reform, Lukashenko continues to deny the people of Belarus their basic freedoms and human rights, and runs the country as a authoritarian dictatorship.

In fact, after Mr. Lukashenko's fraudulent election in 2010, 700 political opponents and activists were arrested during demonstrations. This is just one example of the type of persecution the people of Belarus have been subjected to in these past 18 years. Lukashenko's total disregard for the people he swore to protect is appalling, alarming, and should not be tolerated.

I'm here today to draw attention to this matter and publicly condemn Lukashenko and his regime for their continuing oppression of the people of Belarus, and offer my support for the country's civilians and pro-democracy forces.

AMERICA NEEDS A FARM BILL NOW

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

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a very simple message from rural America: we need a farm bill, and we need it now. With the current farm bill set to expire at the end of September, it is crucial that we continue to provide certainty to one of the few bright spots in our economy

over the past decade. It is all the more crucial to our farmers that we do this as they are staring at cracked, dried-out soil resulting from one of the worst droughts in modern history.

The newspaper Politico looked back 50 years—longer than I've been alive—and found that never before has a farm bill been this close to being passed and been blocked by House leadership. This is absolutely unacceptable.

Southern Minnesotans can't afford to deal with the uncertainty that follows out-of-date policy extensions or lame duck sessions. Lame, for sure.

Don't kick the can down the road. The Senate has passed a bill. The 2012 farm bill passed out of committee on July 12 with a bipartisan vote of 35–11, saving \$36 billion for the taxpayers.

My farmers in southern Minnesota are up before dawn working until after dark. We are leaving at noon today. We have 17 days between now and November 6 to work here in Washington. That is so unacceptable. No one will agree to that. Pass the farm bill. Pass it now.

U.N. ARMS TREATY VIOLATES U.S. CONSTITUTION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the draft of the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty called ATT is an attempt by Third World countries to control guns worldwide, including personal firearms in the United States. Under the section of "scope," the treaty indicates that the covered items include small arms and light weapons. The language is so broad that nations are expected to track all weapons movements from the time they are manufactured until their destruction. The language is vague so that the treaty could be interpreted to restrict the ability of the U.S. to help arm its allies, like Taiwan and Israel.

The treaty presents a clear and present danger to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It allows the U.N. to steal our liberty. It is unbelievable that this administration is even considering signing this document. The Senate should never approve it if the President signs onto it. The President should ignore the treaty because he took an oath to the U.S. Constitution, not to the U.N. charter.

And that's just the way it is.

CONDEMNING ANTI-SAFETY LEGISLATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today the House will vote on legislation to block all new Federal regulations. I'm concerned that this bill would damage our ability to improve aviation safety, which the bipartisan western New York delegation has long promoted.

We fought alongside the families of Flight 3407, who lost loved ones in a

preventable air crash near Buffalo. Due to their passion and dedication, Congress passed historic aviation safety reforms 2 years ago. But this bill would prevent many of those reforms from becoming reality.

Our colleague, KATHY HOCHUL attempted to offer an amendment to protect these reforms from this moratorium. Inexplicably, the Rules Committee blocked her amendment. These reforms have the support of both parties, but now partisan politics is getting in the way of lifesaving regulations. I urge the defeat of this anti-safety legislation.

CONDEMNING THE ATROCITIES THAT OCCURRED IN AURORA, COLORADO

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of July 25, 2012, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 134) condemning, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous atrocities that occurred in Aurora, Colorado, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 134

Whereas, on July 20, 2012, an armed gunman opened fire at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, killing 12 and wounding 58 others;

Whereas many individuals at the theater selflessly sought to aid and protect others above their own safety;

Whereas the Aurora Police Department and the Aurora Fire Department quickly and bravely acted to prevent the additional loss of life; and

Whereas local, State, and Federal law enforcement, firefighter, and medical service professionals performed their duties with utmost skill and coordination: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the heinous atrocities that occurred in Aurora, Colorado;

(2) offers its condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of those who were killed in the attack and expresses its hope for the rapid and complete recovery of the wounded;

(3) applauds the hard work and dedication exhibited by the hundreds of local, State, and Federal officials and the others who offered their support and assistance; and

(4) honors the resilience of the community of the City of Aurora and the State of Colorado in the face of such adversity.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, July 25, 2012, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. COFFMAN).

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, we can never explain nor fully comprehend evil, but last Friday we were reminded of its existence. The face of evil emerged when a cold blood-

ed, calculating mass murderer trapped unsuspecting movie patrons packed in a darkened theater in my hometown of Aurora, Colorado.

Today, on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, we pause to again remember the victims of this horrendous crime and to honor the courage of so many who put their own lives at risk to limit the carnage.

The victims who lost their lives in the early morning hours of last Friday are: Veronica Moser, age 6; Alex Teves, age 24; Jessica Ghawi, age 24; Alex Sullivan, age 27; Matt McQuinn, age 27; Micayla Medek, age 23; John Larimer, age 27; A.J. Boik, age 18; Rebecca Wingo, age 32; John Blunk, age 26; Jesse Childress, age 29; Gordon Cowden, age 51.

Aurora is a proud suburban community, mostly of working class and middle class families, who share basic American values, the values of hard work, and of faith in God, and of family.

My family came to Aurora, Colorado, in 1964 when my father, a career soldier, was sent to Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center for his last assignment in the U.S. Army. Back then, Aurora was just a small town surrounded by three military bases. In the 1970s, Aurora transitioned away from being a military town, although it still has an Air Force base. Aurora has grown to become the third-largest city in the State of Colorado, with a population of over 300,000 residents. Aurora has also grown to become the most racially and ethnically diverse city in the State of Colorado.

Aurora has received the "All-American City Award" by the National League of Cities in recognition of being a community whose citizens work together to identify and tackle community-wide challenges and for having achieved uncommon results. A couple of weeks ago, I was at a meeting with the Aurora Board of Realtors where Mayor Steve Hogan was speaking. He proudly informed the audience that Aurora was ranked as the eighth-safest city of its size in the country.

□ 0920

No doubt we are still in shock and trying to understand why this happened to our community.

The theater where so many lost their lives and where so many were injured lies in the heart of our city. The vacant ground beside the theater has been designated by our city's planners to be the future site of the City Center.

Aurora will never be the same after this horrific act of evil that occurred last week, but the citizens of Aurora are caring and resilient, and a long process of healing has already begun. We will stand together and come back stronger than before this attack.

When I think of all the victims of this tragedy and how much our community has suffered, I am reminded by a refrain from a hymn that I have often sung in church:

And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity the other day for us to have a moment of silence. I know it was important to the members of our delegation as well as to the people of our community in Aurora, Colorado, and the whole metropolitan area.

I had a chance to speak on Tuesday. I have a number of things to say, but I know each of us in our delegation bears a heavy heart as a result of all this, and I would like others to be able to share some of their thoughts.

With that, I yield 2 minutes to my friend from Boulder, Mr. POLIS.

Mr. POLIS. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER from Colorado, not only for bringing forward this resolution, but for spending time with those affected in the aftermath of this. I'd also like to thank President Obama for immediately changing his plans and coming to Colorado to express, on behalf of our Nation, grief and provide what comfort he could to the victims and their families.

I think one thing that's important for Americans to understand is Aurora is a community just like yours. My district is several miles from Aurora, but I've been to movies myself in Aurora. I drive through it frequently on the way to the airport.

This could be anywhere. It's a safe community. It's a community of loving families. It's a growing city. And the tragedy that occurred could have been at any one of our neighborhood theaters.

Going to the movie theater, an expression of innocent joy, something that people have grown up with for generations, the magic of the silver screen and lives torn apart, not only those who lost their lives tragically, not only those who were injured, some of whom remain in the hospital, but all the others that were terrified, scared in the other theater, in the other movie theaters that night, in the community at large, this was, in many ways, a crime against innocence and a crime against enjoyment and diversion. People turn to movies, turn to entertainment for a moment's respite, a moment's entertainment from their daily lives, and this tragic end really represents an end of innocence for so many people that were affected.

But so, too, we've seen many great heroes rise to the occasion: the courageous responders, the community of Aurora, Mayor Hogan, the families of those affected, and our criminal justice system. We all come together in difficult times. We all come together, and together with the love, respect, and support from American families across the country, the victims' families know that they're not alone, and that's important.