

you can go in and buy guns on top of guns, it is time to reflect.

I think the sports community could work with us to ensure that America realizes that there's nothing wrong with standing up for gun regulation.

As well, let me offer my sympathy to the Brent and Brown families of the tragedy of the NFL players in Dallas. Let me ask the commissioner to work with those of us who are concerned about athletes in pro ball, that we can find a way to intervene. There should be intervention on a lot of these incidences of violence.

Let me close and speak well about the issue of millions of workers in the United States Postal Service, yes, government workers, public servants, who, over the decades, have made Americans' lives easier. Just yesterday we were speaking about another day of—or Monday I think it was, on online shopping.

I have small businesses who always say the post office is the most efficient and the, if you will, cheapest source of getting their business products where they need to be. It is a shame that we have not addressed the question of hardworking postal workers, rural post offices that are prolific in the State of Texas, rural postmasters who've come and said it'll be the death knell of their community.

Let us stand the post office up. Let us view it as a vital system. Oh, we are online, but there are individuals who depend upon this massive postal system. It can be made efficient. It can be made better. We can protect the workers.

Do we want to give a Christmas gift to hardworking postal workers, who as they are known to go through rain or snow or sleet, that is, give them a pink slip for no fault of their own?

This is not the American way. We create jobs; we don't destroy jobs. And it's time now for us to stand up and be heard before the deadline, that our postal workers who are always there, who are the ones that find the elderly and the sick in their home because they know their route and they find those persons if they're in need, they are the good-news people that come by the seniors and come by the disabled and come by the poor families.

I want to say that we can work together, bring our postal workers here to make a difference and to reform the postal system to keep it alive. It is a vital source of work, but it is a vital service to the American people.

CONGRATULATING JOHNNY MANZIEL

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, this is the second consecutive year that I have had the privilege to congratulate a Heisman Trophy winner from one of the two universities in the 17th Congressional District of Texas.

Today, I want to congratulate Johnny Manziel of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, as the 2012 recipient of the 78th annual Heisman Memorial Trophy.

On Saturdays, "Johnny Football," as he is now known, wowed audiences across the Nation with his steady poise and his remarkable playmaking ability. As a freshman, he personifies the fighting Texas Aggie spirit, and he proves that the impossible is never out of reach.

Leading the Aggies in their inaugural season in the Southeastern Athletic Conference, Johnny threw for 3,419 yards and ran for 1,181 yards, and he garnered 43 touchdowns. He broke a multitude of A&M, SEC, and NCAA records along the way.

Johnny is the first freshman, and only the fifth player, in FBS history to have at least 3,000 yards passing and 1,000 yards rushing in a season. He holds FBS freshman records for both rushing yards by a quarterback and all-purpose yards by an individual.

He is the SEC record-holder for total yards in a season, at 4,600, breaking the previous record in two fewer games than the prior record-holder. He also achieved an SEC record for total yards in a single game, at 557 yards, only to break that record 2 weeks later with a 576-yard game.

Johnny has logged nine straight games with 300 or more yards and generated five or more touchdowns in six different games. He tied an 85-year-old A&M record with 19 rushing touchdowns in a season. And, oh, by the way, he still has one more game to play this season.

Johnny has many firsts among the awards and accolades he has garnered in 2012. He was the first player in the history of the SEC to win the Freshman of the Year and the Player of the Year in the same season. He is also the first freshman in FBS history to win the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award. Most notably, he is the first freshman in college football history to win the Heisman Memorial Trophy, awarded to the most outstanding player in college football each year.

Johnny not only shined on the field, but off it as well. Academically, he has successfully completed enough credit hours to be classified as a junior, even though he's just a redshirt freshman.

When he first addressed the media at the end of the regular season, Johnny remained humble and gave credit to his teammates, to his coaches, and to the Aggie 12th man, which is the greatest tradition in all sports. When he addressed the Nation after receiving the Heisman Trophy, he named his offensive line individually, and honored the 1-year anniversary of the passing of a beloved teammate.

Johnny knows where his talents and blessings come from; and he gave glory to God, most importantly.

What makes this year so special is how Johnny and the Aggie football team excelled in their first year play-

ing in the SEC. Not too many people from outside their locker room gave them a fighting chance in their inaugural SEC season, but they believed in themselves.

I want to congratulate Texas A&M University and football coach Kevin Sumlin on a terrific 10-2 regular season. He and his coaching staff are doing extraordinary work down in Aggieland during their first year. Keep up the great work.

As Johnny said, leadership, respect and putting others first are what being an Aggie is all about. Aggies all across the world stand together, not only as fans, but as members of a team. I proudly echo Johnny's words when I say to the 12th man, to Texas A&M University and to Aggies everywhere, this honor is for you.

As an Aggie former student, I want to thank Johnny for an incredible season, and I look for more exciting seasons in the coming years.

Before I close, I ask all Americans to pray for our country during these difficult times and for our brave military men and women and first responders who are protecting us at home and abroad.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to address the House today.

Gig 'em Aggies, God bless America, and Merry Christmas to all.

□ 1050

A LEGACY OF WORKING FOR PEACE AND A MORE PERFECT WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, throughout my career in public life, and even before, nothing has motivated me more than a desire to end wars and violent conflicts. When I was a small girl saying bedtime prayers or making a birthday wish when blowing out the candles, I always asked for world peace. So it's no surprise that over a decade ago, I opposed the Iraq war before it even started. It was appalling that we would invade a nation that hadn't provoked us, had nothing to do with 9/11, and did not have weapons of mass destruction. It was a lonely fight at that time. But I didn't do it to be loved. It was a matter of principle.

BARBARA LEE, MAXINE WATERS, and I formed The Triad—WOOLSEY, WATERS, and LEE—to organize our opposition. We held forums, we developed an Out of Iraq Caucus, we traveled around the country, and in January 2005, I offered the first amendment here on the House floor calling for our troops to be brought home. Some in my own party thought that it was a mistake, that we wouldn't get any votes—or enough votes—and that we would be embarrassed. Well, I told them that even if I were the only one voting to bring our troops home, I would not be embarrassed.

Well, as it happened, we got 128 bipartisan votes that very first time. So you see, Mr. Speaker, when you lead, people follow. Because of a handful of progressive leaders and progressives in our country that were vocal and fearless, eventually public opinion turned. It turned against the Iraq war and turned towards peace. If we and other outspoken advocates hadn't ignored conventional wisdom and hadn't pressed for peace, the war in Iraq could still be going on today.

In April, Mr. Speaker, of 2004, I started speaking from this very spot on the House floor about my strong anti-Iraq war convictions. Eventually, these speeches focused on Afghanistan, where we've now been waging war for more than 11 years, despite more than 2,000 Americans dead and nearly \$600 billion wasted and even though we are undermining our own interests in failing to bring security and stability to Afghanistan.

Over the last 8-plus years, I've spoken here nearly every day that I could to drive home what a moral disaster and strategic failure these wars have been. When constituents and others call or come up to me or write and thank me, I say, But we're still there. I don't deserve thanks until all of our troops are home.

You know, Mr. Speaker, because you've been here for many of them, that my speeches haven't just been about bringing our troops home. They've offered a new vision for global engagement. From here I've outlined my SMART Security platform, which calls for development and diplomacy instead of invasions and occupations; civilian surges instead of military surges. SMART Security means helping other nations educate their children, care for their sick, and strengthen their democratic institutions. SMART Security says we can make America safe by building international good will and by empowering people with humanitarian assistance instead of sending troops or launching drone attacks. It's the right thing to do. It's the smart thing to do. And it costs pennies on the dollar compared to military force.

So, Mr. Speaker, today I'm delivering that message for the 444th and final time on the House floor to speak on a 5-minute Special Order. This is the last of my Special Order speeches on war and peace and SMART Security. I'm retiring from Congress at the end of this year, and I believe part of my legacy will be that I worked diligently for peace and a safer world.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to acknowledge that sometimes I've been accused of wanting a "perfect world." But I consider that a compliment. Our Founders strove to form a "more perfect Union." Why shouldn't we aim for a perfect world? You see, I'm absolutely certain that if we don't work toward a perfect world, we won't ever come close to providing a safe, healthy, and secure world for our grandchildren and their grandchildren.

I thank my wonderful staff who have helped me over the last 20 years to work for a perfect world, which means peace, health, and security for all.

SO-CALLED RIGHT TO WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from Ohio, a State that borders Michigan, I rise to stand in solidarity with the workers of Michigan. Many Ohioans I represent actually drive to work in Michigan. And due to the high-handed actions of Michigan's Governor and its legislature, they actually railroaded legislation through Michigan, with no hearings, to take away the rights of Michigan workers to fund the collective bargaining process that results in living-wage worker contracts.

The workers of Michigan are fighting to maintain their rights to a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. I support their rights and the rights of every American to organize and negotiate by contract for proper pay and benefits, regardless of which State they live in. The rights of labor by contract are critical to growing our middle class, as opposed to rights by happenstance that are always up for grabs, where workers have no rights and live in fear of the future.

Michigan's Republican ideologues passed so-called "right-to-work" legislation. Well, let's be clear: the bill being pushed there by the far right should really be called the Right to Work for Less. And that is exactly what President Obama called it. To quote Bob King, the visionary president of the United Auto Workers of this country:

Every right-to-work State has lower wages, lower benefits, less security for workers and more income inequality.

And they have a shrinking middle class. The UAW is right: if you happen to live and work in a State that has a so-called right-to-work law on the books, you earn an average of \$5,000 less a year than if you lived in a worker rights State. The bill signed last night in Michigan strips labor organizations of their right to collect dues to cover the cost of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement.

The Michigan law is pure politics. No, it is more than that. It is an old-school union-busting technique, pure and simple. And in Michigan and Ohio, we know a lot about union busting. As a daughter of auto workers, I know the history of the hired goons who bludgeoned auto workers back in the 1930s at River Rouge as workers began to stand up for their human rights as they labored in the dungeons of the automotive production facilities at the time.

I actually would like to challenge the Governor of Michigan to come with me and let's work on the line for a month in one of those repetitive-motion jobs

that make and characterize modern automotive production. They're not easy jobs. I would like him to install the windows on the right side of a vehicle as it moves down the line over and over and over and over and over and over again. Let's see how much fun he'll have.

A year ago, we in Ohio witnessed a similar effort to eliminate unions. Right-wing legislators moved through legislation that would have ended collective bargaining as we know it in Ohio for public sector workers. We're talking about firefighters, police, and teachers. Well, the people of Ohio broadly rejected that union busting earlier this year.

□ 1100

Citizens organized a ballot initiative to restore worker rights in Ohio, and they won. It was called Issue 2. The people of Ohio voted to overwhelmingly protect the rights of those who protect us and who teach our children.

While worker rights were protected in Ohio, up north, what was done in Lansing, intends to extend far beyond the borders of just Michigan. It will impact workers who commute from my State of Ohio and Indiana.

This is about more than just one State. In fact, this is a national issue, not a states' rights issue at all. The Michigan union-busting bill is a direct result of weak Federal legislation, and I'm talking about section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act, which weakens the rights of labor. Congress should overturn that part of the law and reaffirm its role in protecting the internationally recognized labor rights of every American citizen.

That is why I have joined a number of my colleagues in introducing legislation, H.R. 2775, that would do just that. We should not have individual States competing against each other in a race to the bottom. Haven't we seen enough of that?

We need to support and build back the American middle class by creating good jobs, good-paying jobs, and secure benefits through secure contracts. I stand attired in red today in solidarity with the workers of Michigan, and I am proud to do so.

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 1 minute 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

Reverend Jerome Milton, Greater New Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist