

for rollcall votes 364, 365, and 366. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" for all three.

IN RECOGNITION OF BOBBY VASSAR AND HIS CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I, along with House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Jr. and Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations Ranking Member ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, would like to take this opportunity to thank Bobby Vassar for his work with the House Committee on the Judiciary and Congressman SCOTT's Congressional office for the past 19 and ½ years.

Bobby came to Representative SCOTT's Congressional office on February 1, 1994 to serve as Senior Counsel and Legislative Director. He joined the staff of the Crime Subcommittee of the House Committee on the Judiciary in March of 1999 as Minority Chief Counsel. From January 2007 to January 2012, Bobby served as Majority Chief Counsel for the Subcommittee.

Prior to joining Representative SCOTT's office in 1994, he worked for three Virginia governors, starting as Chairman of the Virginia Parole Board in 1982 and ending as Acting Secretary of Health and Human Resources in 1994. Prior to 1982, he worked as Executive Director of the Peninsula Legal Aid Center in Hampton, Virginia, for which Congressman Scott served as Chairman of the Board. He also held positions previously as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as a staff attorney with the Laborer's Pre-paid Legal Services Plan of Washington, D.C. and Vicinity, and as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow at the Roanoke Virginia legal Aid Society. Bobby is a graduate of Norfolk State University and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Bobby's ability to work well with his colleagues, especially across the aisle and across the Capitol, made him a valuable staff asset to passing many key pieces of legislation. He had the lead staff responsibility in the House for several significant bipartisan bills that were enacted into law including the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment, and Crime Reduction Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-416); the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-220); the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-297); the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program (Public Law 107-273); the Second Chance Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-199); along with dozens of other bills enacted into law over the years. He also led the development of the Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (PROMISE) Act which was introduced in the 110th Congress and has been reintroduced every subsequent Congress; H.R. 1695, the Justice Safety Valve Act of 2013; H.R. 2656, the Public Safety Enhancement Act of 2013; and many promising bipartisan bills pending in the House and Senate.

We are deeply appreciative of the service and contributions Bobby has provided the Crime Subcommittee, the Judiciary Committee and the Congress over the past two decades. Throughout that time, many people both on and off Capitol Hill have been fortunate to call him a colleague and friend. He will be missed. We wish him the best of fortunes and fulfillment in his future endeavors.

EIGHTH UNANSWERED QUESTION ON BENGHAZI ATTACKS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am raising the eighth in a series of critical, but unanswered, questions about the terrorist attack on the U.S. consulate and annex in Benghazi last September 11.

My previous seven questions have focused on what happened in Benghazi that night.

Today, I would like to focus on what happened in Washington.

It has been well documented that official Washington started to get reports of the attack around 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. It also has been well documented that then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta and General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, made the decision to brief President Obama about what was happening at a previously scheduled 5 p.m. meeting, which is 11 p.m. in Libya.

Former AFRICOM commander General Carter Ham (ret.) told a paying audience at the Aspen Security Forum in Aspen, Colorado—where tickets started at \$1,200—last weekend that by the time a U.S. drone appeared over the consulate shortly after 11 p.m. the attack on the consulate was winding down. He also said it was clear this wasn't a protest and he understood it to be a terrorist attack—a direct conflict with repeated statements by the Obama Administration.

If the Pentagon immediately knew this to be a terrorist attack, why did the president go to the United Nations nearly two weeks later and blame the attack on protest in response to a controversial video? Why did then-UN Ambassador Susan Rice go on five Sunday shows and attribute the attack to the video? Why did former Secretary Clinton continue to reference the video as the cause of the protest when the Pentagon immediately attributed the attack to terrorism?

It is also worth asking what Gen. Ham thought of the waves of attacks against the CIA annex later that night. Trusted sources have told my office that in the weeks leading up to the attack, the annex had a notice on its bulletin board warning about imminent attacks on U.S. facilities and other foreign consulates in Benghazi. How does Gen. Ham reconcile his position that there was to send assistance after the consulate firefight ended when there was so many more attacks against Americans that night?

A U.S. consulate is under attack. A U.S. Ambassador is missing. A State Department Diplomatic Security Agent is dead. Are the American people to believe the president is briefed only once that entire night, at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time?

My question(s) today: Where was the president the rest of the night?

Did his national security team, including John Brennan, Sec. Panetta and Gen. Dempsey, ever go back and brief the president when the annex came under attack? If so, what steps did he direct at that time?

Did the president ever step foot in the White House Situation Room that night?

Did he ever see the footage from the unarmed drone stationed over Benghazi monitoring the attacks?

I field many of these questions from my constituents on a regular basis and I believe they are fair to ask, especially when the White House carefully orchestrates photo-ops and leaks of the president and other senior administration officials when the news is favorable, like the now-famous picture of the president and his national security team watching a live video feed of the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in 2011.

Last evening, Fox News' Catherine Herridge reported how Diplomatic Security Agent David Ubben is still recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center—more than 10 months after the attack—for injuries he sustained while repeatedly risking his life to save others that night. Fox reported that it was Ubben who ran into the burning consulate building to retrieve Sean Smith's body. Fox reported it was Ubben who later that night climbed the roof of the annex compound with Ty Woods and Glen Doherty to try to defend the annex during the mortar rounds, where he sustained a very serious injury that is still being treated at Walter Reed.

Contrast David Ubben's valiant efforts—repeatedly putting his life on the line to try to save the lives of the other Americans at the consulate and annex—with what is currently known about what the White House national security team did to support him and the others in Benghazi.

As far as the American people know, after nearly a year of investigations, the White House took no additional efforts to come to the aid of those in Benghazi, nor, apparently, did the president take another briefing on what was happening.

Has the president ever called or met with David Ubben to thank him for his sacrifice? Has he ever called the others who were seriously wounded that night, including the former Navy SEAL on the security team who sustained significant injuries?

To Secretary Kerry's credit, I know that he has visited with Mr. Ubben at Walter Reed. But did former Secretary Clinton ever meet with him during the six months she was still in office after the attack?

Either way, the families of the four Americans—including a U.S. Ambassador—who lost their lives in Benghazi have a right to know where the Commander-in-Chief was on September 11, 2012 and what role he and his national security team played to provide support to those in Benghazi that night.

The State Department's own Web site asserts, "International rules do not allow representatives of the host country to enter an embassy without permission—even to put out a fire—and designate an attack on an embassy as an attack on the country it represents."

In this context, with an attack against America underway, it's fair to ask, did the president and his team ever even consider cancelling

his political fundraiser in Las Vegas the next day to monitor the situation in Benghazi?

That night, when the ambassador was considered a potential hostage and nearly 30 Americans were under sustained attacks at the CIA annex, did the president's staff ever notify the campaign that he might not be leaving the White House the next day?

When he boarded Air Force One for Las Vegas, did the president know about the serious injuries that some of the survivors had sustained? Did he know what hospitals they were being taken to?

Is there a parallel in American history when the U.S. was under attack, Americans were killed and a sitting U.S. ambassador was considered a potential terrorist hostage, but the president was not engaged with his national security team?

I think most Americans would agree that they are legitimate questions that deserve a straightforward and truthful answer.

With only four legislative days remaining before the Congress departs for August recess, I am increasingly concerned that this question, as well as the other questions I have raised in the last two weeks, will not be answered by the one-year anniversary of the Benghazi attacks.

That is deeply disappointing. Congress can—and should—do better.

I continue to believe the only way to get answers through a House Select Committee. H.R. Res 36 has 162 cosponsors, a majority of the Majority. Two new cosponsors joined in the past week alone. This is the way to go so the Congress and the American people know the truth, whatever it may be.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) this week seeking comments from the general public as the Agency contemplates the future of menthol cigarettes.

As part of the agency's review process, the FDA released a report entitled "Preliminary Scientific Evaluation of the Possible Public Health Effects of Menthol Versus Nonmenthol Cigarettes," which documents the FDA's review of the currently available science on menthol. Disappointingly, the report relies heavily on social sciences while admitting that menthol cigarettes are no more harmful than their nonmenthol counterparts.

Specifically, the report states that "No studies found an increased risk of cancer or non-cancer diseases in menthol smokers compared to nonmenthol smokers. From the available studies, the weight of evidence supports the conclusion that menthol in cigarettes is not associated with an increase in disease risk to the user compared to non-menthol cigarette smokers."

In addition to the FDA's conclusion that menthol cigarettes pose no greater disease risk than nonmenthol cigarettes, it is insensible for the agency to conduct a review of percep-

tion of menthol products. While the review of this type of information may be useful to understanding adult consumer choice, it should not form the basis of any policy decision within FDA. Rulemaking should be rooted in science.

Finally, the real world health consequences of a potential ban are very alarming. Implementing a ban unfounded in science could lead to the creation of a black market for menthol products. Such an illegal market would result in an influx of illegal, unregulated, counterfeit products into the marketplace.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that these concerns will be addressed during the public comment period, and that the FDA will treat this issue fairly and with the scientific integrity it deserves.

A.L. STANBACK MIDDLE SCHOOL: SCHOOL TO WATCH

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff and students of A.L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough, North Carolina, on being designated one of 115 "Schools to Watch" by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. The "School to Watch" designation signifies that A. L. Stanback's administrators and teachers have created one of the most academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable middle schools in the nation.

I applaud A.L. Stanback's commitment to engaging students by challenging expectations and employing a variety of teaching methods. Reaching students during their middle school years is critically important, and A.L. Stanback truly takes this to heart, preparing its students not only for their high school education but their lives beyond by teaching critical thinking skills. By providing students with diverse opportunities in a supportive environment, A.L. Stanback is helping today's students become tomorrow's leaders.

The Research Triangle of North Carolina is considered one of the best places in the nation to live, work and raise a family, and the A.L. Stanback Middle School community's record of success will only contribute to that reputation. This is well-deserved recognition, and I hope it serves as a shining example of the positive impact that creative, committed teachers can have not only on our young people, but also on how we strive for excellence in education.

Congratulations again to the teachers, administrators, parents, and students that helped A.L. Stanback Middle School achieve this award.

HONORING STEVEN RYAN PALMER

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, every community needs a great champion who organizes, leads, and fights to leave an indelible

mark. Those champions come in many forms. Some are teachers, some are public servants, and some are dedicated to noble causes. I rise today to honor one such champion, Steven Ryan Palmer, as he retires from 36 years of distinguished service to the American Cancer Society.

Palmer's three decades of service began in South Carolina as a worker in the field level of the American Cancer Society. He went on to hold many leadership positions in the six-state Mid-South Division of the American Cancer Society. His work was instrumental in the success of many ACS initiatives which improved and saved lives in Middle Tennessee.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the outstanding work and dedication of Ryan Palmer. From the American Cancer Society to Brentwood Baptist Church, Ryan has certainly offered his time, talents, and treasures to his community. Along with his family and friends, I offer my thanks for his service to others.

IN OPPOSITION TO THE RULE GOVERNING DEBATE ON H.R. 2667, THE "AUTHORITY FOR MANDATE DELAY"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Rule and the underlying legislation because this bill would delay the implementation of the employer mandate a key provisions of the Affordable Care Act until 2014.

The House majority on May 16, 2013 placed before this body another bill in another attempt to end the Affordable Care Act also known as Obama Care. Their efforts to do anything and everything they can think of to stop millions of Americans from enjoying the security of health care enjoyed by all of my colleagues in this body is astounding. The Health care we enjoy is at the taxpayer expense so we do know what a federally supported health plan can do.

27.6 percent of Texans are without health care coverage

The Department of Health and Human Services announced over \$9 million in grants to fund community health centers all over the State of Texas. The funds will be used to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.

The Affordable Care Act is needed and we should not pretend otherwise. The Administration announced that it would on its own allow a delay to work with the 5 percent of employers who are having difficulty meeting the mandate for providing health insurance for all of their employees. This means that 95 percent have met the obligation so the need for this change in law is not founded in fact.

In my district over the weekend, I held a press conference to congratulate Community Health Centers in the City of House who received part of \$9 million to the State by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Grants to Community Health Centers will fund work to enroll the uninsured in new health coverage options made available under the Affordable Care Act—or Obama Care Act.