

could have been mobilized upon request from Washington?

5. And speaking of force posture, what have we done to ensure that if another incident were to happen this September 11 that we're prepared to respond?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #8 (SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD JULY 25, 2013)

1. 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?

2. Where was the president the rest of the night?

3. 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?

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

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

6. 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. 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?

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

8. Did the president and his team ever even consider cancelling his political fundraiser in Las Vegas the day after the attack to monitor the situation in Benghazi?

9. 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?

10. 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?

11. 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?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #9 (DELIVERED ON JULY 30, 2013)

1. Who are the anonymous senior administration officials who admitted "mistakes" in their handling of the attack to CBS?

2. Why haven't they testified to Congress about these mistakes?

3. Why wasn't the Foreign Emergency Support Team (FEST) deployed immediately?

4. Last week, Gen. Ham admitted that he believed Ambassador Stevens may have been taken hostage by terrorists. Given the FEST team's terrorism and hostage negotiation expertise, who made the decision not to deploy them?

5. Why didn't the White House convene the Counterterrorism Security Group (CSG) that night to coordinate the interagency response to the attack? If that group wasn't responsible for coordination, who was?

6. Which agency was leading the response that night?

7. Was the State Department directing the Pentagon not to deploy its planes or response teams while also not sending the FEST team?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #10 (DELIVERED ON JULY 31, 2013)

1. When was the CIA annex in Benghazi established?

2. How many people worked at the annex—of these, how many were direct agency employees and how many were contractors?

3. What was the ratio of CIA staff to security contractors?

4. Above all, why was there a facility operated by the CIA in Benghazi?

5. If indeed the CIA facility in Benghazi involved in the collection of \$40 million in weapons from the U.S., as first reported by National Journal in 2011, where are they?

6. The \$40 million promised by Secretary Clinton would buy a very large quantity of weapons. Were they shipped out of Benghazi? Are they in warehouses on U.S. soil? Are they in other allied countries? Or did they end up elsewhere?

7. Is it possible that the president's intelligence finding included an authorization for the weapons collected in Libya to be transferred to Syrian rebels? Was the CIA annex being used to facilitate these transfers? If so, how did the weapons physically move from Libya to Syria? By plane? By ship?

8. And, again, I ask, if these weapons were not being transferred to other countries like Syria, where exactly did they end up?

9. Was the CIA annex being used as a logistics center to track and transfer these weapons?

10. Was Ambassador Stevens' visit to the CIA annex on September 10 associated with these operations?

11. And if these activities were taking place, was this consistent with the president's intelligence finding? Was the Congress notified?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #11 (DELIVERED ON AUGUST 1, 2013)

1. Who in the White House knew what was going on in the [CIA] annex [in Benghazi]? The president? The chief of staff? Then-deputy national security advisor and current CIA director John Brennan?

QUESTION OF THE DAY #12 (DELIVERED ON AUGUST 2, 2013)

1. Why are these heroes being told not talk? What is the administration afraid of? What is it protecting?

2. How can the Congress know the survivors don't want to speak with Congress if they can't learn who they are and ask them?

3. Are we really to take the administration's word [that they aren't being silenced]?

4. With such a broad range of support [for a Benghazi Select Committee], it begs the question: why not? What are we afraid of from a full investigation and public hearings?

5. The House "interim progress report" on Benghazi was released on April 23. When will the final report be released?

6. Can any member here confidently say that they know what happened that night?

7. Can any member honestly say—with reports like the one CNN did yesterday—that this Congress has done everything it can to allow the survivors to come forward and tell their story?

8. September 11 is fast approaching. Will we continue on our current path and learn from forthcoming books written by the survivors and sanitized by the CIA, or will we create a Select Committee to subpoena witnesses to testify under oath at public hearings?

9. With news reports this morning that the U.S. will be closing all embassies in the Mid-

dle East this weekend due to a suspected terrorist threat, are we better prepared now to respond to an attack? We still don't know.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 434, I was unavoidably detained in a meeting off the hill at the White House with the President.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

A TRIBUTE TO PATTY COWNIE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Patty Cownie for being named a 2013 Women of Influence honoree by the award-winning central Iowa publication, Business Record.

Each year, Business Record undertakes an exhaustive review to identify a standout group of women in the Greater Des Moines area who, as the publication notes, "have made a difference." An impressive group of inspiring female leaders are selected annually for this prestigious distinction, which is based on combined criteria of community involvement, career success, and being a role model for other women to emulate. The 2013 Women of Influence honorees join an impressive roster of more than 130 women who have changed and are continuing to change our communities for the better.

As a leading community volunteer, Patty Cownie has come to personify the idea of "giving back" and working to help Des Moines provide quality educational experiences for children and young adults. After college, Mrs. Cownie worked for two years as a social worker, before parenting nine children became a full-time job. But she always has remained highly active in the community, spending 10 years on the Drake University board of trustees and being involved at Dowling Catholic High School, which her children attended, as well as St. Augustin School, where she was the foundation board chair. She also has been president of the Des Moines Metro Opera board, and she has served on the Des Moines Arts Festival committee, Civic Music Association board and Des Moines Performing Arts board.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent leaders like Patty Cownie in the United States Congress, and I am pleased to recognize her for working to better both her community and the great state of Iowa. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating her on receiving this esteemed designation, thanking those at Business Record for their great work, and wishing each member of the 2013 Women of Influence class continued success.

BIPARTISAN STUDENT LOAN
CERTAINTY ACT OF 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 31, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, student loan debt in our country tops \$1 trillion, burdening graduates with high repayment as they begin their working lives and preventing them from making other purchases, like a home or a car. This is a problem that requires a comprehensive solution that includes affordable financial assistance and collaboration with states and colleges to keep costs down.

Today's bill, while imperfect, will prevent rates from doubling immediately on loans for the neediest students. It locks in rates for each new loan, providing more certainty than the House Republican proposal, which I opposed when it passed the House earlier this year. It includes a cap, preventing rates from skyrocketing in the future. I remain concerned, however, about increasing rates for students in the long-term, and would urge future action on this issue as rates rise.

Ultimately, we must look at the alternatives available today. Had I been in the Senate, I would have voted against this bill in an effort to get a better long-term deal for students. However, now that it has passed the Senate and is before us on the House Floor with no opportunity for amendment, we are faced with a choice between keeping the doubled student loan rate or reducing it for this year's students. Therefore, I will vote for this bill today, but will seek to amend this law in the coming years should rates rise and further burden our nation's students.

Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act will provide a good opportunity to revisit this issue and address college costs in a more comprehensive way, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on that effort.

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPHEN S.
PEARCE

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Stephen S. Pearce, the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Senior Rabbi, who is retiring after serving Congregation Emanu-El for 20 years. Rabbi Pearce's inexhaustible empathy and commitment to others has touched and inspired thousands of people across this country. It is for good reason that Newsweek has recognized him as one of the 50 most influential rabbis in the U.S. on three successive occasions.

One of the issues Dr. Pearce is determined to solve is hunger in the Bay Area. He recently received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at the University of San Francisco for challenging the Emanu-El congregation and the community to address this pressing topic by reflecting on how faith is translated into action. Dr. Pearce took on hunger soon after he joined Emanu-El in July 1993. In September 1994, he initiated the High Holy Day food

drive benefitting the San Francisco Food Bank. In April 1995, the Pe'ah Garden started raising vegetables for the Food Bank, Hamilton Family Center, Dream House and Raphael House. In February 2013, the Emanu-El Food Pantry on Geary Boulevard opened. In April 2004, he began a partnership with Dr. William Cobb elementary school to improve literacy and later expanded it to a food pantry. As you can see, once Dr. Pearce takes on an issue, his commitment is lasting.

He also joined and won a drawn-out fight in 1997 to preserve one of the last remaining old-growth redwood groves in California. He organized an interfaith task force to help save the Headwaters Forest in Humboldt from chain saws. The effort won him the nick name "Redwood Rabbi."

Under Rabbi Pearce's long and distinguished leadership, congregation Emanu-El established a preschool and an adult education center, held fundraising concerts for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and for the work of American Jewish World Service in Darfur, helped young adults transition out of foster care, participated in the Pride Parade, launched a pulpit exchange with the Muslim community, and was involved in countless other projects.

Stephen Pearce was born in Manhattan in 1946 and grew up in Brooklyn. He graduated with a BA in Psychology from City College of New York in 1967 and was ordained at the New York School of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1972. He earned his PhD in Counselor Psychology at St. John's University in 1978 and was awarded an honorary DD by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1997.

Before Rabbi Pearce joined Congregation Emanu-El, he served at Temple Sinai of Stamford, Connecticut for 16 years and Temple Isaiah of Forest Hills, New York for five years. He was a faculty member at the Rabbinic School of the Hebrew Union College for 20 years and has also taught at the University of Connecticut, St. John's University and the University of San Francisco.

He is a board member of Palo Alto University and an advisory board member of the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture. He formerly served on the board of the Graduate Theological Union and is a past president of the Northern California Board of Rabbis.

Rabbi Pearce is a renowned lecturer and has written a tremendous number of articles and poems for publications such as the New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Jewish Spectator. He is the author of *Too Short and Sweetness of Honey*, two children's books, a psychology textbook, and the co-author of *Building Wisdom's House*. He is the former editor of the *Journal of the Central Conference of American Rabbis*, wrote a column for the *Jewish News Weekly of Northern California* and produced a weekly radio show for KUSF.

His tireless engagement inside and outside his congregational duties has earned him universal admiration, utmost respect and many awards, including the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association's Silver Spur Award for interfaith community dialogue and engagement; the national Jefferson Award for inspiring worshippers to fight hunger; the San Francisco Food Bank Community Partner Award for inspiring member of Congregation Emanu-El to donate over 90,000 pounds of

food in the last two decades; and the San Francisco Interfaith Council's recognition for encouraging green sustainability at the temple.

Rabbi Pearce has been married to his wife Dr. Laurie Pearce for 36 years and they have two children, Sarah and Michael Pearce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor an exceptional human being, someone I admire greatly. His influence will forever be felt in San Francisco, the Bay Area and across the country. Rabbi Pearce has shaped his congregation and created a haven for collaborative worship, life-long education, social welfare and cultural offerings. He is retiring, but Rabbi Pearce is the type of leader who never truly retires. We wish him well in his next adventure in life.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ALAN ORR

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2013

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a true patriot and mentor, not only to myself, but to all the Marines that served with him, Colonel Alan Orr. Col Orr recently retired from the United States Marine Corps last week on July 26, 2013. While he may be hanging up his service uniform, Col Orr will continue to serve those who have sacrificed so much in defense of our country in his role as President and Founder of Combat Marine Outdoors.

Col Orr graduated from the University of Michigan and then went off to Officer Candidate School where upon completion he was commissioned as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. Col Orr was an outstanding artillery officer, commanding several Firing Batteries, a Marine Corps Recruiting Station, an Artillery Battalion, and an Artillery Regiment. It was during this period that I had the distinct honor of serving with Col Orr when he was my Battalion Commander in 2004.

Col Orr went on to graduate from the Marine Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Virginia, and the Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He is also a graduate, with honors, from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the Army War College in Carlisle, PA, and holds several Masters degrees. In addition, Col Orr has numerous combat tours from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to Somalia and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But just as he has distinguished himself in combat and with his Marines in distant battlefields, his love for our Marines, sailors and soldiers extended from the front lines to the hospitals where our wounded warriors recover, and to life after the fighting has ended. Col Orr, along with a group of devoted hunters, ranch owners and patriots, has shown to our wounded heroes that excitement and adventure doesn't end with their battle wounds.

In 2005, after visiting wounded Marines from the 1st Marine Division at Brooke Army Medical Center, Col Orr and other founding members created Combat Marine Outdoors, an organization that not only accelerates the recovery process, but restores hope in our servicemen and women. In collaboration with thousands of contributors and over 50 ranches, the