

DEFENDING OUR HOMELAND

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

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay respect and grief for those who suffered loss of life and harm in Boston. I had two of my own constituents who suffered grievous loss and one of them the loss of a leg. It reminds us once again that those who seek our destruction are fully committed to that objective.

While the terrorists and others work in a very open way, seeking public notoriety, they have also learned to work in a very quiet and sophisticated and tactical way in cyber warfare.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very important bill before us today, H.R. 624. We need to really look at it, and we need to pass it. We need to show the world that we are fully committed to defending our homeland.

300,000 cyber attacks occur on major industry every single day—on each industry. We must stop this. They are bent on our destruction. We can do what it takes today to show the world that we are fully committed to defending our homeland.

MEMPHIS SOUL

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

Mr. COHEN. Last night, PBS aired the “Memphis Soul” performance recorded last week at the White House. The performance featured many songs that were recorded at Stax Records located in Memphis.

In 1998, Memphis civic leaders raised more than \$10 million to build the Stax Museum on the original site of Stax Records. The museum honors all of the artists who recorded at Stax, including Isaac Hayes, Al Green, Otis Redding, Booker T and the MGs, and others.

From Eddie Floyd’s “Knock on Wood” to Booker T and the MGs’ classic “Green Onions,” Isaac Hayes’ “Shaft,” and Sam and Dave’s “Soul Man,” the recordings at Stax Records made significant contributions to the music of the era.

Beyond honoring its history, Stax is about education. In 2005, the Soulsville Charter School opened its doors to 60 sixth graders. Now expanded to grades 6–12, the 2013 class of Soulsville Charter School has a 100 percent college acceptance rate and scholarships.

I encourage everyone to come to Memphis to visit the Stax Museum and see the Soulsville Charter School to learn more about Memphis’ contribution to music. I also hope you will tune in to PBS this afternoon to watch another performance of “Memphis Soul” at 5 o’clock eastern, 4 o’clock central.

CONGRATULATING ASHLAND UNIVERSITY WOMEN’S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING NCAA DIVISION II CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Ashland University women’s basketball team for winning the NCAA Division II Championship. The Ashland Eagles earned Ashland University’s first basketball national championship with a 71–56 victory over New York’s Dowling College on Friday, March 29, 2013.

I would like to congratulate the Eagles MVP, AU senior Kari Daugherty, for contributing 26 points to the win. Ms. Daugherty was also honored with the Player of the Year title for the division.

I would also like to congratulate Coach Sue Ramsey for leading her team to victory. This sportsmanship, determination, and hard work displayed by the Ashland Eagles throughout the season has been unparalleled. This momentous accomplishment deserves the most sincere congratulations, and we’re very proud of Ashland University and the Ashland Eagles.

Go Eagles.

IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Last week, right here in D.C., I hosted farm workers from all over this country that only ask for fair treatment and compensation as they do their work. As they chanted “Si, se puede”—yes, it is possible—with 20 of us congressional Members, I saw the look of hope on their faces—hope that they would soon have a pathway to citizenship, fair wages, and adequate worker protections. I saw the same hope in the eyes of my parents who came here as farm workers.

With the introduction of the Senate’s immigration bill, farm workers are one step closer to gaining legal status and the right to feed their families as they feed America. However, as any legislation moves forward, I will remain vigilant against any effort to legalize farm worker mistreatments.

I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle and both of our Houses to make sure that we fix this broken immigration system.

SENIORS’ TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT

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

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, the American people have just finished the annual aggravation of tax preparation. Every year, individuals and businesses spend more than 6 billion hours and about \$168 billion just to meet the filing requirements of the IRS.

Among those hit hardest by our 4-million-word Tax Code are senior citizens. Many live on fixed incomes and have common forms of income, like dividends, Social Security benefits, and IRA distributions; yet they face the high cost of compliance. That’s why I introduced the Seniors’ Tax Simplification Act. This commonsense bill—and it is bipartisan—would create one simple form, much like the popular 1040EZ form. It would be used for the relatively simple tax filing situations that are common for seniors anyway. Creating a no-nonsense 1040SR form would reduce compliance costs for seniors and lessen the burden of the tax season for them.

The Seniors’ Tax Simplification Act is a straightforward, no-cost bill that has bipartisan support and has been endorsed by many senior citizen groups and deserves a vote in this House.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. After far too long, there is finally real bipartisan momentum in Washington towards implementing much-needed comprehensive immigration reform.

Our immigration system today is crowded and confusing. It divides families, it stifles the American Dream for high-skilled foreign students and entrepreneurs, and it does not address the exploitation of many immigrants in the workplace.

The proposals unveiled last night are not perfect. For example, they eliminate diversity visas and certain family visas. But we are making progress. I look forward to supporting a bill that secures our borders, makes our existing laws more efficient and timely, promotes entrepreneurship and innovation, provides a fair pathway to citizenship for the millions of immigrants already in the United States, and includes the DREAM Act. It must also include humane provisions to keep families of all kinds together. We can and must get this done.

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IN MEMORY OF FORMER MEMBER CHARLIE WILSON

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

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Ohio Republican delegation in the House, I was greatly saddened to hear of the untimely passing early Sunday morning of our friend and former colleague, Representative Charlie Wilson. Although Charlie and I were on different sides of the aisle and often disagreed on policy, I always admired his dedication to our State and his tireless energy as he worked to serve his constituents to the best of his ability.

I am not alone when I say that a conversation with Charlie was always

memorable and usually ended with broad smiles as you parted company. One thing that Charlie and I did have in common is that we played college football, and we were both defensive linemen. And at least in our own minds, the older we got, the better we had been.

Charlie Wilson was an honorable man, a trusted ally, and a worthy opponent. I ask my colleagues to join in wishing his four sons and nine grandchildren our condolences. His 14 years of government service in Ohio and in Washington, D.C., is a legacy they should always cherish and be proud of. God bless Charlie Wilson.

NOAA PROPOSES FURLOUGHS

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

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, like many Americans, I began my morning this morning with a check of the local weather forecast. It actually helps me answer questions, important questions, such as what should I wear, do I need an umbrella, or is a storm approaching that's going to tie up traffic.

The weather forecast is really important, but too often it's taken for granted. And, unfortunately, thanks to the Republican insistence that sequester cuts take effect, our access to these timely and reliable weather forecasts may be impacted negatively.

On Monday, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency, which includes the National Weather Service, proposed 4 furlough days, with a potential for 10. The cash-strapped Weather Service provides predictions for the ever-more-frequent extreme weather events, such as Superstorm Sandy, the historic drought impacting our agricultural sector last year, and the tornados that ravished the South in 2011.

On a daily basis, it impacts the lives of Americans across the country. Even today, severe storms are ravaging the midsection of the country. The Weather Service is already understaffed. Sequestration could further deteriorate forecasting abilities. So, once again, they've made indiscriminate spending cuts our top priority. We need to stop this and protect our economic safety and our national security.

IN RECOGNITION OF FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Mr. Speaker, our hearts and prayers go out to those in Boston and Massachusetts and all the States where people came from to participate in the marathon.

I, in particular, Mr. Speaker, wanted to stand and thank those first responders. They're firemen and they're police

officers and they're paramedics and they're doctors and nurses, and sometimes they're just somebody who never expected to be in that situation at that time. And yet, our fellow countrymen respond; they're there.

And right now we have people responding in the Senate. They've put themselves out there. They've run to the challenges. It is the American spirit. They touch the heart of all of us.

And, Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say God bless them, and God bless the United States of America.

SUPPORT BACKGROUND CHECKS ON GUN SALES

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, this is what my constituent, Barbara Kelty, wrote to the Louisville Courier-Journal this morning:

While polls continue to say that a majority of NRA members and a sizable majority of the American people support background checks and a majority of citizens support limiting magazine size, a majority in Congress at this point apparently does not favor either.

How can that be? To me, it is evident that these Members of Congress do not feel obligated to us, the people who elected them, whom they represent. Rather, they feel beholden to the gun lobby which fattens their campaign chests. And it is obvious that the gun-making industry, which does not condone or support gun violence, benefits from the emotional rush of citizens exercising the right to buy protection for their families after these tragedies.

We, the citizens, must do our bit to lobby Congress and remind them that our will takes precedence.

Ms. Kelty is right. In Kentucky, three out of four people support background checks for every gun sale. More than 90 percent of the American people, and three-quarters of NRA members, support background checks, which have stopped nearly 2 million people from illegally buying guns. Still, 40 percent of guns are purchased without a background check.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to listen to the vast majority of Kentuckians and the American people and support background checks.

SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL WORSE THAN WE THOUGHT

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it's hard to believe, but the Senate immigration bill is worse than we thought.

Despite assurances, the border is not secured before almost everyone in the country illegally is given amnesty. So the bill guarantees there will be a rush across the border to take advantage of massive amnesty.

And the bill offers amnesty to far more illegal immigrants than we

thought. In addition to most of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the country, it offers to legalize their relatives outside the country and even others who have already been deported home. So current immigration laws are shredded.

The good news is that the House Judiciary Committee will come up with a better plan.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. GALLEG0 asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today encouraged that comprehensive immigration reform is moving now that a framework has been released by our colleagues in the Senate.

The 23rd Congressional District, which I represent, runs some 800 miles along the Texas-Mexico border and includes five ports of entry. No other congressional district shares a larger border with Mexico.

After more than two decades, I'm encouraged that our friends in the Senate are taking steps and we finally have this framework. I look forward to working in a bipartisan and bicameral way to get it done this way.

Our values teach us that our families should stick together and that hard work, not circumstance, should shape our future. I believe that our Nation becomes stronger as more people pledge allegiance to our flag and commit themselves fully to our Nation and to our economy.

Last week I asked the Senate Gang of Eight to give special consideration to members of the armed services who risk their lives every day for our country and our families—it's particularly important to folks and families at Joint Base Lackland in San Antonio, Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, and Fort Bliss in El Paso—and requested that comprehensive immigration reform eliminate the 3- and 10-year bar on spouses for spouses, prevent the termination of petitions of spouses and children of fallen heroes, and streamline the naturalization process for those deployed overseas.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to getting it done this year.

TAXES

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, as you all know, Monday was tax day, so it's an appropriate time to talk about the need for tax reform. We need a simpler, more competitive Tax Code that's flatter and fairer so that we can create jobs and put Americans back to work.

We need a simpler code. In fact, the code, when you include all its regulations, annotations, and explanations, totals 74,000 pages. And according to