

similar story. Time and again, Syrian Christians remark that they fear their fate that befell their brethren in Iraq, where hundreds of thousands fled after being targeted by rival Islamist groups. Today, Iraq's Christian population has fallen from as many as 1.4 million in 2003 to roughly 200,000 today. In fact, throughout the Middle East, Christian communities are increasingly under siege and imperiled. Christianity is at risk of being ripped from the very fabric of the Middle East when, for centuries, it has been part of the rich tapestry of that region.

Will we permit it to happen on our watch? Will we answer their pleas for help, or will their cries fall on deaf ears? I pray it is not too late.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause now in Your presence and acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who are returning this day to their stations here on Capitol Hill.

As the new session is in its early days, help each Member to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HOLDING led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: It has been an honor to serve my neighbors, friends and family of Florida's 19th Congressional District.

Regardless of some personal struggles in 2013, this year has already been tremendously positive as I focus on my health, family and faith.

Unfortunately, some of my struggles had serious consequences. While I have dealt with those issues on a personal level, it is my belief that professionally I cannot fully and effectively serve as a United States Representative to the place I love and call home, Southwest Florida.

I hereby submit this letter of resignation as the Representative of the 19th District of Florida, effective 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014. Please find the attached letter I have submitted to Governor Rick Scott.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, to you and our colleagues from both parties, I thank you. Thank you for the tremendous support and encouragement. Oftentimes in Congress, our personal relationships and successes are overshadowed by intense but meaningful and necessary debate. However, I leave the House of Representatives with friendships and memories of great men and women dedicated to helping and improving the lives of our fellow Americans.

As an eternal optimist, I know there are great things in store for our country when we find ways to work together. Whether it is as a father, a husband, or in any future endeavor, I hope to contribute what I can to better our country in the years to come.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

Hon. RICK SCOTT,
State of Florida,
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCOTT: I hereby submit my resignation as the United States Representative of the 19th Congressional District of Florida. My resignation is effective at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014.

Please find the attached letter I have submitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 27, 2014.

Hon. KEN DETZNER,
Secretary of State, Florida Department of State,
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR SECRETARY OF STATE DETZNER: I hereby submit my resignation as the United

States Representative of the 19th District of Florida. My resignation is effective at 6:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, January 27, 2014.

Please find the attached letter I have submitted to Governor Rick Scott.

Sincerely,

TREY RADEL,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

SAVANNAH RIVER SITE FOR CLEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I unveiled my legislative priorities for 2014. I promised the people of Aiken and Barnwell Counties that I would continue to advocate on behalf of the missions at the Savannah River Site, a Department of Energy facility that has experienced several setbacks as a result of the administration's confused policies on clean nuclear energy.

On Friday, I hosted a roundtable conducted by talented staff members Ted Felder, Sarah Beaulieu, and Baker Elmore with Site contractors, community leaders, and locally elected officials to discuss a path forward. Having all parties in a central setting gave me the opportunity to hear their concerns, thoughts, and proposals for jobs. While many different priorities were discussed, everyone shares the same objective: ensure current and future missions remain intact with a dedicated workforce for environmental cleanup, nonproliferation compliance, and national security.

As the only Member of Congress who has worked at SRS, I am confident that as we all work together for these missions, our goal will be accomplished.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

UNEMPLOYMENT

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

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, today in our country, far too many Americans have been unemployed for too long. Out of every 10 people looking for work, nearly four have been looking for more than 6 months. What for many families began as a crisis has turned into a reality, a new normal.

That's why the House has passed dozens of jobs bills that would create a better environment for hiring and more economic growth. One proposal awaiting action in the Senate is H.R. 803, the SKILLS Act.

Right now, if you want to acquire new skills to qualify for a good job, you are up against a job-training system that is a maze of overlapping programs and waste. The SKILLS Act streamlines and strengthens the system to

make it more effective for those who need help. It reduces roadblocks for both job-seekers and employers trying to find the right candidates.

While our economy has been changing, the way we help prepare our workers has not. With so many Americans still asking the question “where are the jobs?” it is clearly past time that we do this.

Unfortunately, not only have Senate Democrats failed to act on this measure, their focus continues to be on improving unemployment. Our focus should be on improving employment, making it easier to create jobs and to boost wages.

To help the nation’s long-term unemployed, the Senate should passed the SKILLS Act as soon as possible.

IRAN

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

Mr. HOLDING. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to find anyone outside the Obama administration singing high praises for the nuclear deal with Iran.

In fact, the regime in Tehran has on more than one occasion taken to the media to declare how the Obama administration is overselling the terms of the agreement, how there will be no dismantling of centrifuges, how the United States “surrendered to the Iranian nation’s will.”

So while this administration, Mr. Speaker, gives back access to billions of dollars in frozen assets and relaxes sanctions on the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, Iran, their centrifuges will continue to spin.

History has taught us that we are not dealing with an honest broker in Tehran. The election of President Rouhani does nothing to change the fact that the Supreme Leader is still in charge. Nothing in this agreement denuclearizes a hostile and an oppressive regime.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of New York). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1730

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEADOWS) at 5 o’clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH AND RECOVERY ACT

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2166) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2166

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Good Samaritan Search and Recovery Act”.

SEC. 2. EXPEDITED ACCESS TO CERTAIN FEDERAL LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and implement a process to expedite access to Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for eligible organizations and eligible individuals to request access to Federal lands to conduct good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions. The process developed and implemented pursuant to this subsection shall include provisions that clarify that—

(1) an eligible organization or eligible individual granted access under this section shall be acting for private purposes and shall not be considered a Federal volunteer;

(2) an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section shall not be considered a volunteer under section 3 of the Volunteers in the Parks Act of 1969 (16 U.S.C. 181);

(3) the Federal Torts Claim Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual carrying out a privately requested good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section; and

(4) the Federal Employee Compensation Act shall not apply to an eligible organization or eligible individual conducting good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section and such activities shall not constitute civilian employment.

(b) RELEASE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FROM LIABILITY.—The Secretary shall not require an eligible organization or an eligible individual to have liability insurance as a condition of accessing Federal lands under this section if the eligible organization or eligible individual—

(1) acknowledges and consents, in writing, to the provisions listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (a); and

(2) signs a waiver releasing the Federal Government from all liability related to the access granted under this section.

(c) APPROVAL AND DENIAL OF REQUESTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify an eligible organization and eligible individual of the approval or denial of a request by that eligible organization and eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section not more than 48 hours after the request is made.

(2) DENIALS.—If the Secretary denies a request from an eligible organization or eligible individual to carry out a good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission under this section, the Secretary shall notify the eligible organization or eligible individual of—

(A) the reason for the denial request; and

(B) any actions that eligible organization or eligible individual can take to meet the requirements for the request to be approved.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary shall develop search-and-recovery focused partnerships with search-and-recovery organizations to—

(1) coordinate good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

(2) expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a joint report to Congress describing—

(1) plans to develop partnerships described in subsection (d)(1); and

(2) efforts being taken to expedite and accelerate good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission efforts for missing individuals on Federal lands under the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION AND ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The terms “eligible organization” and “eligible individual” means an organization or individual, respectively, that—

(A) is acting in a not-for-profit capacity; and

(B) is certificated in training that meets or exceeds standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials.

(2) GOOD SAMARITAN SEARCH-AND-RECOVERY MISSION.—The term “good Samaritan search-and-recovery mission” means a search for one or more missing individuals believed to be deceased at the time that the search is initiated.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

In the Natural Resources Committee, we heard testimony from Jodi Goldberg, who shared a story about the search for her brother Keith, who had been murdered and whose body was presumed to be in the vicinity of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.