

areas, the Third District of Kansas is a microcosm of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these hate crimes were shocking to our community as these types of actions were so foreign to us. The days following the horrendous act, though, were filled with love, community, and comfort as members of our entire community came together to support one another.

Hundreds and hundreds of community members gathered together for an interfaith unity service at the Jewish Community Center. Vigils were held. Thousands turned out for memorial services.

Mr. Speaker, this type of hate and violence has no place in our society, and our Kansas community, as many often do, rallied and demonstrated in unified voice and spirit that one act of violence cannot break our bonds and tear us apart.

Mindy Corporan, a friend of mine and the woman who tragically lost both her son and father that day, stated something profound after these events. She said:

We want something good to come out of this. We don't know what that's going to be, so we want people to let us know if they think something good has come out of it.

Mr. Speaker, I was there for the week following the shooting. I saw the reaction of the entire community and the support and comfort our community has shown each other.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Third District of Kansas honors Reat, Bill, and Terri and every single other human being who has been the victim of racism, discrimination, hatred, and evil. We honor them, each and every one of us, by doing our part to turn darkness into light and to turn hatred into love.

INCREASE IN CARGO PREFERENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have challenges in the United States with the notion of how we are going to protect American-flagged ships, the capacity to be able, in times of national emergency, to provide the transport services that we need.

I have been a supporter of the Jones Act. I think it is important to have cargo preference. I think it is important to be able to manage. I am interested in other areas that we might explore to be able to make sure that the United States is not at the mercy of other nations in times of emergency.

I will say that I have been dismayed at recent activities to force, in the Coast Guard reauthorization, to increase the cargo preference for American food aid from its current level of 50 percent to 75 percent. This is outrageous, and it is not the answer.

The situation we face today is that we require this food to be delivered in American ships. It increases the delay in terms of when the food gets there,

and we are competing with local communities.

Mr. Speaker, in an ideal world, we would do what most international aid countries do when they deliver assistance. They use money to buy local products. This helps support local agriculture, and it provides the food when it is needed, not months later.

The United States primarily delivers surplus commodities that we produce in the United States that are shipped halfway around the world, that arrive often too late, and it is in direct competition to local producers.

It undercuts their capacity to take care of themselves, while our assistance gets there too late, and it increases the cost of doing so.

Now, in times past, the government had reimbursed the cost differential. That was eliminated in the Budget Control Act, so that is gone, and we have had this provision that was snuck in. It was not widely debated. Members of the House and the Senate did not understand what was going on.

We have had terrific leadership from Chairman ROYCE and Ranking Member ENGEL in the House Foreign Affairs Committee to try and focus on ways to be able to provide greater flexibility to United States aid, so we can help more people at less cost and not undercut their capacity to support themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that my colleagues will take a good, hard look at this provision. We need to make sure that this is removed, to at least go back to where it was at 50 percent; but more important, we ought to look at how we provide this food aid around the world.

At a time when we are providing lavish support to American farmers and ranchers, they don't need the additional support to undercut production of food in some of the poorest and most desperate countries in the world.

We ought to stretch those dollars. We ought to make sure that that aid arrives sooner, when it is needed; and we ought not to have this artificial mechanism that is both more expensive, less efficient, and most important, it hurts the people that we are trying to serve.

There is bipartisan leadership in the House that is trying to fix this, working with NGOs around the country and around the world. We ought to roll up our sleeves and do this in a cooperative way and prevent undercutting these poor countries and eliminating the ability to get food to them quickly.

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 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. WALORSKI) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. Lead us this day in Your ways, that our Nation might be guided along the roads of peace, justice, and goodwill.

Recent events, including the tragic murders in Kansas motivated by religious bigotry and the unfortunate high-profile racism displayed in Los Angeles, remind us that we as a nation still have work to do to guarantee that our founding documents and their soaring ideals are realized by all who dwell in our land.

Grant strength and wisdom to our Speaker and the Members of both this assembly and the Senate, to our President and his Cabinet, and to our Supreme Court, as well as to us all, that all our institutions and all our communities fulfill the noble promises of our representative form of self-government.

Grant us the courage to become whom You have called us to be—our better selves—so that the United States might continue to be a nation worthy of emulation.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NO BONUS FOR IRS TAX DELINQUENT EMPLOYEES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, last week we learned that the IRS paid out more than \$1 million of taxpayer-funded bonuses and other awards to more than 1,100 employees who owe back taxes. That is outrageous.

This bonus scandal comes at a time when the IRS is under fire for targeting Americans based on their beliefs and amid reports that reveal IRS workers broke the law by engaging in political activity on the job. Simply put, the IRS is out of control. IRS employees are failing to comply with the very laws they were hired to enforce. Worse, it further proves that Washington doesn't respect nor care how Americans' hard-earned tax dollars are spent.

It is time for the IRS to respect hard-working American taxpayers, and that is why I am introducing a common-sense bill to prohibit the IRS from providing bonuses to tax delinquent IRS workers.

I urge my colleagues to join in this effort. It is the right thing to do.

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the United States Department of Transportation released a proposal to spend \$302 billion over the next 4 years on highway and transportation projects in our Nation. Though this is an improvement on the current pathetically weak investment in roads and bridges, this is not nearly enough to adequately address America's broken infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the American Society of Civil Engineers gives the United States infrastructure a D grade and predicts that an additional \$3.6 trillion investment will be needed by 2020 just to bring America's infrastructure to a state of good repair.

Making a real investment, going beyond the President's proposal, is not only an investment in our Nation, it is also an important investment in our Nation's people. Nation-building right here at home can't be outsourced and could create millions of jobs and dramatically lower the unemployment rate.

I urge my colleagues to support large-scale investment in America, supporting American people and American businesses.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the 63rd annual National Day of Prayer. Tomorrow morning, I will join a bipartisan group of

Members to gather together and pray for our country.

As we continue to face obstacles each day, both as a country and as an individual, I urge Americans to join us in praying for wisdom and guidance, thanking God for the many blessings we have been given in this Nation.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our brave servicemen and service-women and their families who are serving our country overseas and here, protecting our freedom and putting their lives on the line for our security. We pray they return home to our grateful Nation swiftly and safely.

Let us also continue to pray for peace in our own communities. Psalm 145 promises that the Lord is near to all who call upon Him, and I urge you to join me tomorrow in observing the National Day of Prayer.

ANIMAL EMERGENCY PLANNING ACT OF 2014

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise on National Animal Advocacy Day to announce the introduction of the Animal Emergency Planning Act of 2014. This bill would require entities regulated under the Animal Welfare Act to develop a plan for how they will respond to and recover from emergencies, both natural and manmade, that would most likely occur in their facilities.

Regulated animal breeding facilities, commercial animal dealers, transporters, exhibitors, and research facilities would be required to submit plans to the USDA annually and to train their employees on the contingency plans and procedures.

Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy, as well as other recent disasters, have highlighted the need for planning to minimize the impact of these disasters on animals, which can have devastating effects.

Local first responders, nongovernmental agencies, and private individuals in the past have often ended up shouldering the cost and taking on the responsibility of protecting and caring for these animals. It is only fair and reasonable to require emergency readiness plans from those in these businesses. So please join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

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

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of making the research and development tax credit permanent. America has a long tradition of supporting research and development.

The R&D tax, which was first enacted in 1981 under President Ronald Reagan, stimulates investment, creates high-value jobs, and drives economic

growth. But the R&D credit has never been made permanent. In fact, the credit expired at the end of last year, which has caused significant uncertainty and hurts long-term investment for businesses of all sizes.

The roller coaster of tax extensions, expirations, and renewals should stop. Businesses need to make decisions on what is best for their workers and companies, not the stop-and-go policies of an uncompetitive Tax Code.

Permanency of the R&D tax credit will propel U.S. competitiveness, and it will also help promote future investment, innovation, and job growth right here at home.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today there are 2 million Americans that stand to lose everything they have worked for, through no fault of their own—2 million Americans that are working Americans that get up every day and work hard to find their next job. They are America's unemployed who have lost their extended unemployment benefits. They stand to lose everything.

Rather than taking up H.R. 4415, which I introduced right after the Senate acted on a bipartisan basis to deal with this problem of the unemployed in our country, to make sure that that unemployment compensation is there for them when they need it, rather than take that up, the House Budget Committee has sent to this floor for its consideration a budget that would slash essential programs to provide a safety net for those hardworking Americans who stand to lose everything in order to fund tax cuts—big tax cuts—for America's wealthiest people. That is policy that we just can't tolerate. Rather than taking up the needs of those 2 million, we have taken on the challenge of trying to provide more tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

If this had happened because of a storm, we would act overnight. We need to take up H.R. 4415 right away.

BIPARTISAN TRADE PRIORITIES ACT

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, given the fact that 95 percent of consumers live outside our borders, the U.S. must continue to pursue trade opportunities. The U.S. actually had a trade surplus with our 20 trade agreement partners in 2012.

Trade agreements expand opportunities and fuel competition, which benefits consumers and can strengthen and protect American interests around the world. Though trade agreements make sense strategically and economically,