

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

On June 6, 1944, combined Allied forces began the opening phase of Operation Overlord in an effort to break the Nazi stranglehold on Western Europe. The initial assault included over 156,000 troops, along with 11,590 aircraft and 6,939 naval vessels. In that first day alone, approximately 10,000 Allied personnel were either wounded or killed, including 6,000 Americans.

The D-day landing was the largest single amphibious assault in history, and soldiers of six divisions—three American, two British, and one Canadian—stormed upon five different beach landings in Normandy. Just hours before that, U.S., British, and Canadian airborne troops dropped into France to support the landing.

The world owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Greatest Generation who assumed the task of freeing the world from Nazism and fascism and restoring freedom to millions in Europe.

Next week, as we commemorate this important day, I ask everyone to remember the importance of this 70th anniversary of the D-day landings on the beaches of Normandy, France.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 2 months since the Senate acted to extend unemployment compensation to millions of Americans. It is a bill that was passed in a bipartisan fashion, the way folks back home want us to do things; a bill that was paid for, as was requested; a bill that will not increase the deficit one penny; and a bill that would extend unemployment benefits and help preserve the American way of life for 2.8 million Americans who are at risk of losing everything that they have worked for.

And so what the American public asks me—I know what the folks back home ask—is, Why won't the House act? We know that there is bipartisan support for this legislation even in this body.

The bill that I introduced, H.R. 4415, right after the Senate acted with the precise same language, has bipartisan cosponsorship. So the question is, Why? Why won't Congress act? Is it because this question is too complex? No. This one is really simple. We have a bill that would extend unemployment compensation that is paid for, and it would prevent families from losing their house. Every day that passes that we don't act, a family loses their home. Every day that passes, a family loses hope. It is on our watch that we are allowing this to happen.

I call upon Congress to act.

THE WORST DAY EVER FOR THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, every day that I leave home to fly here, I pass the Southwest Inn, the site of the worst day the Houston Fire Department has ever had. One year ago this Saturday, four brave firefighters were killed when the inn's roof collapsed upon them without warning.

Matthew Renaud, Robert Garner, Robert Bebee, and Anne Sullivan all lost their lives on that day. They never came back to their stations.

Anne's mother, Mary, works at the middle school that both my kids have attended. We shared tears over Anne's loss at a local restaurant. I know the pain of losing her Anne will never leave my friend. But I hope she remembers what her father told her sister from Heaven on that day. Her father said: "It is okay. I have got her. It is okay. I have got her." And He has them all.

RENEWING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 52 days now since the United States Senate passed bipartisan legislation to renew unemployment insurance for the long-term unemployed. For 52 days, Speaker BOEHNER has been the only thing standing in the way of renewing this vital lifeline for millions of Americans.

In less than 3 days, the Senate bill will expire, and if Speaker BOEHNER gets his way, the House will leave town yet again without acting—delivering another devastating blow to the more than 2½ million Americans who have been cut off from this critical safety net.

We can't let Speaker BOEHNER run out the clock on the Senate bill. Every week that goes by, more and more members of our communities lose their unemployment benefits, and if the House does not act, then it is back to the drawing board for millions of Americans who are depending on us.

It is time for this body to act. The situation is not going to go away. It is only getting worse every week. If Congress does not act, nearly 5 million Americans will be without this lifeline by the end of the year.

I urge the Speaker to walk by my office and see the faces and read the stories of the people we have left behind. They are living on the edge, and without this critical lifeline, many of them lose everything.

The faces of the unemployed should not be invisible. I urge the Speaker to bring the Senate bill to the floor before it is too late. We deserve a vote.

HURRICANE SEASON PREPARATION

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, next week is June 1, and it marks the beginning of hurricane season. My constituents and Americans across the country in coastal regions are susceptible to these devastating storms. Disasters can strike at any time, often with little warning. It is important to have a plan in place.

Make sure the plan includes a supply kit filled with potentially lifesaving items like flashlights, radios, and batteries. It is also crucial to follow local weather forecasts and heed any emergency warnings during hurricanes or other extreme weather.

Hurricane season is starting. The best way to guarantee that you and your family are safe, you have to be prepared. My Web site, bilirakis.house.gov, as well as fema.gov, both have important resources available to you. This year, be sure you are ready and safe.

□ 1230

CONGRESS OWES THE AMERICAN PEOPLE GUN SAFETY REFORM

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, shame on us. Twenty kids killed in Newtown, Connecticut. You can see their faces here.

Six college kids killed this week in Santa Barbara. Guns kill more young people in America than cancer, yet we can't pass universal background checks, an assault weapons ban, or limits on massacre magazines.

Shame on us. We even have a gag order on any publicly funded health research into gun violence. As Edmund Burke said:

There is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be debated.

I would add that there is no issue that is so controversial that it cannot be researched, especially if such research could save lives.

Congress is failing the American people, and it is time to stop. Let's pass the Thompson amendment today. We owe it to the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, and we owe it to the families whose loved ones could be saved by real gun safety reforms.

KENTUCKY NATIONAL MODEL FOR AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Kentucky has been a national model for the Affordable Care Act. In the first 6

months of Kentucky Kynect, the State exchange created by the law, we enrolled nearly 415,000 Kentuckians in new health coverage.

That is one in 10 Kentuckians and nearly half our previously uninsured population; but rather than help inform his constituents of life-saving options now available to them, Senator MITCH MCCONNELL has spent the past 4 years working to repeal that coverage while misleading Kentuckians about the law.

Now, he is suggesting Kynect's overwhelming success can remain, even if he succeeds in repealing the law that created it. That couldn't be more disconnected from the truth.

If the Affordable Care Act is repealed, more than 300,000 Kentuckians covered through the law's expansion of Medicaid would lose their coverage. Insurers would no longer be required to cover preexisting conditions, and private plans through Kynect would become unaffordable for most Kentucky families.

Mr. Speaker, health reform has been so successful in Kentucky that MITCH MCCONNELL now says we should keep Kynect, but his claim that we can keep Kynect and still repeal the Affordable Care Act is as absurd as it is disingenuous, and our constituents deserve to know that.

IMPROVING VA MEDICAL CENTERS

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, President Obama announced his plans to withdraw our troops from Afghanistan. As we prepare to welcome these men and women home, we must ensure that the VA medical centers are well-equipped to meet the needs of these returning heroes, in addition to those who are currently receiving care.

Like all of my colleagues here, I am outraged by the deaths and medical errors at VA medical centers around the country, including those in Memphis. As soon as the VA inspector general issued a report about preventable deaths at the Memphis VA, I wrote Secretary Shinseki expressing my concerns about the Memphis facility. I invited him to visit the center to assess what resources it needs to improve care for the nearly 200,000 veterans served by that facility.

I have been in close communication with the director at the Memphis medical center to discuss quality of care improvements for our veterans. I am committed to making sure that our VA medical centers have the resources that they need to deliver quality care to our Nation's veterans.

This is a serious matter, and it will become more critical as more heroes return home. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS ACT

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the House Foreign Affairs Committee for adopting the North Korea Sanctions Act of 2014. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of that legislation and was very pleased the committee unanimously adopted an amendment of mine to strengthen the legislation even further.

This is an Orwellian regime. In fact, it is so much so that I think it would make George Orwell blush that he had not the imagination for the kind of suppression, oppression, and degradation that occurs in the North Korean regime today.

Mr. Speaker, 200,000 North Koreans are in gulags throughout the country—freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and freedom of political practice all repressed; and the terrible, terrible suffering, preventing the reunification of Korean families even to visit, the complete lack of humanitarian regard by this brutal regime is something we Americans cannot ignore, and we here in Congress have an obligation to address.

I commend the House Foreign Affairs Committee today for adopting unanimously this important piece of legislation and eagerly look forward to supporting it when it comes here to the floor.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 29, 2014.

Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: In light of my recent appointment to chair the "House Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi," I hereby resign my position on the House Education and Workforce Committee.

I thank my committee colleagues, the committee staff, and especially Chairman John Kline for their tireless work. The issues within the jurisdiction of the Committee are vitally important to our country. Chairman Kline has shown extraordinary leadership, and I am grateful for his stewardship and friendship.

Sincerely,

TREY GOWDY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTING CERTAIN MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution (H. Res. 603) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 603

Resolved, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE: Mr. Kelly of Pennsylvania, to rank immediately after Mr. Heck of Nevada.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr. Duffy.

Mr. WOLF (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 4660, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 585 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4660.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1244

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4660) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes, with Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

□ 1245

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) had been disposed of, and the bill had been read through page 25, line 2.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 23, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$8,000,000)".