

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATION RECOVERS 168 JUVENILES

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the work of the FBI, local and State law enforcement, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for successfully conducting a weeklong operation to address commercial child sex trafficking in the United States.

During this operation, more than 168 juveniles being exploited through commercial child sex trafficking were rescued by law enforcement. The youngest of these victims was just 11 years old, and some of the victims had never even been reported as missing. The operation spanned across 106 different cities and resulted in 281 pimps being arrested who were recruiting minors off the streets and online.

While the operation was a success, it absolutely underscores the need for action to combat child sex trafficking. The House has passed five different bipartisan bills to protect and help victims, go after the pimps and the johns, and also end international sex trafficking. We need the Senate to take action as well, Mr. Speaker.

These are children. And by working together with law enforcement and victims' groups, we will save lives.

OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

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

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, our future is clouded by ocean acidification. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, ocean waters have seen a 30 percent increase in acidity. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, by the end of this century, the waters of the ocean could be nearly 150 percent more acidic, resulting in a pH that the oceans haven't seen for more than 20 million years.

This will have a dramatic and devastating effect on many marine creatures. It disrupts the calcification process of many species, including oysters, clams, corals, and plankton, putting the entire food chain at risk.

This will damage California's \$24 billion fishing industry, which supports 145,000 jobs; and California's \$25 million-a-year shellfish industry could also disappear.

We need to take action to prevent the effects of climate change from getting worse. We cannot stand by as we see our environment continue to deteriorate. The cost of inaction is too great. I call on this Congress to act to protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

□ 1230

JOBS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, President Obama was in my home State of Pennsylvania recently to tour a business and talk about the importance of American manufacturing.

If the President is serious, let me give him a few suggestions on things he can do right now—call for the quick passage of the Made in America Act to establish an official American-made standard; announce his support for a bipartisan plan to address the skills gap; use his pen to approve the Keystone XL pipeline; and truly take steps towards an all-of-the-above American energy policy that drives down energy costs for everyone; and increase pressure on the Senate to move on the dozens of House-passed jobs bills that will grow our economy, increase stability, and empower businesses and employees.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, Americans are tired of talk. Now is the time for bold action to help manufacturers, working families, and our Nation—politics aside.

IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago tomorrow, the Senate passed bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass a bill that is good for our economy, strengthens our security, and recognizes the contributions that immigrants make to our country.

This bill represents a good faith compromise by our Senate colleagues to find common ground. Over the past year, House Republicans failed to even bring an immigration bill up for a vote.

Earlier this year, Republican leadership outlined their principles for immigration reform, yet failed to introduce a bill based on these principles. They have claimed they want to pass reform, but their actions fail to match the rhetoric.

Instead of bringing up comprehensive legislation that spurs economic growth and lowers the deficit, we have seen attacks on DREAMers and excuses for inaction.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats and Republicans in the Senate have acted. Democrats in the House support reform and have also introduced a bill. A broad coalition—from the high-tech sector to law enforcement, the faith community to agriculture—backs reform.

The American people overwhelmingly favor a comprehensive bill. The only ones standing in the way are House Republicans. It is time to do

what is right for our country and bring comprehensive immigration reform up for a vote now.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRE CHIEF RYAN SEKERSKI OF COCHRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA, ORDINARY AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a brave young man from back in my district, Ryan Sekerski, a 28-year veteran of a volunteer fire department.

Now, this is a picture of Mr. Sekerski with his family. We celebrated his act of heroism. I have no idea how he is registered or how he votes, but I do know where his heart is.

What you are looking at is a tanker truck. Now, Mr. Sekerski, on his way home from work, heard on a radio that a gas tanker truck had swerved to avoid being in a collision, had hit a utility pole, was on its side, and seeping gas out that was on fire.

When he arrived at the scene, his question was: Is the driver okay? Nobody knew the answer.

When he found out the driver was still inside this truck, he went to his trunk, got on his volunteer fireman's gear, went inside this burning inferno, with no regard for his own life and his own safety, but more regard for the person trapped inside—what a remarkable act of heroism.

At a time when our country is looking for strong Americans, people like Ryan Sekerski are ordinary people doing extraordinary things every day.

Why? Because they are truly Americans—especially on the weekend we have coming up, we celebrate these types of people and what they have done.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINDSOR RULING

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, today is the 1-year anniversary of the historic decision to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act. We celebrate the progress we have made for LGBT equality; but, more importantly, we must recommit to ending the injustice that remains.

An announcement last week by the administration regarding ongoing efforts to extend Federal benefits to legally married same-sex couples in the wake of that Windsor decision clarifies what I have long suspected.

Unless Congress acts, legally married same-sex servicemembers, veterans, and their spouses will continue to face discrimination when accessing their benefits from the VA.

That is why, nearly a year ago, I introduced H.R. 2529, the Veteran Spouses Equal Treatment Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that no

veterans or their families are denied benefits they deserve, regardless of where they live.

Members of the military do not serve in defense of the rights and freedoms of a particular State, but rather of the United States.

My colleagues have a choice to stand with our veterans and their families or stand silent while they continue to face discrimination by the very government they fought to defend.

EPA DEEMS OWNERSHIP OF AMERICA'S WATERWAYS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, well, they are at it again. It is another overreach by this administration. This time, the U.S. EPA is reaching not only what you might term navigable waterways, but all waterways of the United States they want to deem as theirs.

This would mean mud puddles, and this would mean irrigation ditches and drainage ditches. They want to have jurisdiction over everything, so they can regulate it, tax it, and what-have-you.

It goes way beyond anything that has ever been legislated in this body and is a complete overreach. The U.S. EPA needs to withdraw this proposed rule. It is outside of the law.

It is outside of the ability of our people to have private property rights and to have an economy, especially in rural America, where farming, ranching, and timber operations can all be affected by a vast overreach by the U.S. EPA.

They need to withdraw this rule. We need to hear from the American people how this is going to affect them in their jobs in their local economies.

BRING BACK OUR GIRLS

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

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, 73 days ago, 200 Nigerian girls were kidnapped by the Nigerian terrorist group Boko Haram. This story tugged at hearts around the world and led to an international outcry for these girls' rescue, but 73 days later, we cannot allow this story to fade from the headlines. The violence of Boko Haram increases by the day.

Mr. Speaker, instead of focusing on rescuing these girls, Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan's attention is on his next election. He spent \$1.2 million to improve his image by hiring a Washington PR firm.

President Jonathan needs to rearrange his priorities. I can think of quite a few things he can do with the \$1.2 million. The first thing he should do is find those girls.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we cannot let up the pressure. I urge you to join

our Twitter war to keep the world's attention on the kidnapping of these children. Tweet #bringbackourgirls and #joinrepwilson every day, 9 a.m. to noon.

We will not be silenced. We will not be stopped. We will get our girls back. Tweet, tweet, tweet.

CHERISHING OUR CHILDREN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise the attention of my colleagues to several moments.

First, I would like to celebrate the passage of my amendment that just passed in legislation H.R. 4899, to create a job training and employment department or section in the Department of the Interior for veterans, minorities, and women. With 800,000 jobs on the horizon in the energy industry, this is an American job creator. I am excited about that amendment.

With sadness, Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague, Congresswoman WILSON. We joined each other in a delegation to Nigeria, meeting with girls who had escaped from Boko Haram, and in the backdrop of the tragedy of the bombing of a mall and killing more people, it is time for Boko Haram to be stopped and the girls to be brought back.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as I go down to the valley in Texas to address the question of those desperate children—this humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children—we introduced legislation today to create 70 more immigration judges, so that they can be addressed. This is a crisis which America is dealing with, and we should recognize it as a humanitarian crisis.

Finally, let me say, Mr. Speaker, bring the girls back in Nigeria. Help the children that are coming across our border. Let us have a heart when it comes to children.

PRESERVING THREE COEQUAL BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time.

I don't know if you have seen the headlines yet, Mr. Speaker, you have been busy with votes all day long, but the Supreme Court, in a 9-0 decision, today struck down the National Labor Relations Board so-called recess appointments that the President made there over the Christmas season in 2011-2012—9-0.

I hear a lot about the Supreme Court being a divided body, Mr. Speaker. 9-0, the Supreme Court said that the President of the United States had absolutely no constitutional authority to

name members of the National Labor Relations Board without Senate approval.

They said that the recess appointment power that is provided the President in the Constitution of the United States is not there, so that the President of the United States can avoid Senate approval.

It is there, so that the Nation can continue to run in the absence of the Senate being in session, in order to give its approval.

Mr. Speaker, the reason I bring that up is because that was yet another decision—in a long line of decisions the President has made—to ignore this body, to ignore the United States Senate, and, in fact, to ignore all of article 1 of the Constitution; and that is not just a Republican from the State of Georgia saying that, Mr. Speaker.

That is nine Supreme Court justices. Every single Supreme Court justice—the most liberal of the Supreme Court justices—said the President vastly overstepped his authority and his actions were unconstitutional.

Now, that is not news to anybody who has been following that case, Mr. Speaker. The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals made that same decision and said that the President overstepped those bounds, and that was way back in 2012.

I have a quote here from President George Washington's farewell address in 1796, Mr. Speaker. George Washington said:

It is important that the habits of thinking in a free country should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration.

That is us, Mr. Speaker. That is representatives in government. That is the White House, that is the courts, and that is the Congress.

Should inspire caution in those entrusted with its administration, to confine themselves within their respective constitutional spheres, avoiding in the exercise of the powers of one department to encroach upon another.

In his farewell address, George Washington said:

In order for this country to succeed, these individual branches of government, the checks and balances created in the Constitution, the men and women entrusted with those responsibilities must resist encroaching on one another.

Against that backdrop, Mr. Speaker, against the backdrop of our Nation's first President and against the backdrop of—well, he is standing right out in a painting out here in the hallway, Mr. Speaker, George Washington presiding over the Constitutional Convention in the summer of 1787—this man entrusted with the birthing of our country, with the understanding of the consent of the governed and how we can preserve our freedoms while administering our governmental responsibilities said:

Resist the opportunity to encroach on the powers of competing branches of government.

□ 1245

What I have on this sheet, and you can't see it, Mr. Speaker, but it is