

the growing threat of terrorist groups like ISIL Daesh.

Hearing Prime Minister Netanyahu speak out against radical Islam and warn the world about the threat of a nuclear Iran, I was reminded of another great leader who addressed Congress nearly 75 years ago. Winston Churchill and Binyamin Netanyahu are the only two foreign leaders to address a joint session of Congress three times.

Like many, I believe Prime Minister Netanyahu is the Churchill of our time. Both men had to fight against global threats of unmatched and barbaric proportions but also stood firm to other world leaders advancing a strategy of appeasement over strength. I only hope that we heed Netanyahu's words now before it is too late to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. And may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

JUDGE EUGENE FAHEY, NEW YORK STATE COURT OF APPEALS

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, on February 9, the nomination of Judge Eugene Fahey of Buffalo to a seat on the New York State Court of Appeals was confirmed.

I have known Gene for many years, starting when we were colleagues on the Buffalo Common Council. Gene went on to judicial service, first as a city court judge and later as a trial and appellate justice of the New York State Supreme Court. Gene's decisions include a landmark ruling affirming the validity of New York's marriage equality statute.

As colleagues on the council, Gene and I had many conversations about public service, though rarely about where our respective careers might take us. It is with tremendous pride that we now see Gene taking a seat as an associate justice on the most celebrated, top-level State court in the United States. His service will be a great credit to those whom he is sworn to serve.

Mr. Speaker, in Justice Eugene Fahey, the New York Court of Appeals gains a towering intellect, a booming voice, a compassionate heart, and an accomplished lead guitarist.

My best wishes go to Gene; his wife, Colleen; and their daughter, Ann.

DHS FUNDING AND THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the House voted with bipartisan support to pass H.R. 240, legislation to fund the Department of Homeland Security through September 30, 2015.

It is our constitutional duty to ensure that our country remains safe, and playing politics with Homeland Security funding, when the world is as dangerous as it is today, is simply unacceptable. Make no doubt about it, it is critically important to stop the President's actions on immigration. But at a time like this, it would be gravely irresponsible to allow the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, or even to have the appearance of that.

When the executive and legislative branches of our government are in disagreement, the judicial branch must play referee, and that is exactly what took place when a Federal judge sided with a complaint filed by 26 States in opposition to the President's move toward amnesty.

Now that our Federal courts have halted President Obama's executive actions, further rulings will closely examine how the President has overreached his constitutional authorities.

Mr. Speaker, considering all of the facts, voting "yes" on Homeland Security funding yesterday was the right decision. However, this does not compromise my position of standing strong against the President's executive actions.

FUNDING DHS

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with some relief to note that yesterday, we did come together to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. A number of us came together and ignored the extremist shutdown crowd and did the responsible thing and funded this Department.

I regret that the Department had to spend millions of dollars to prepare for a shutdown that it anticipated having to go through. Nevertheless, this is a Department that protects our Nation at a time when ISIL is executing journalists and aid workers and Christians and Muslims, when al Shabaab is threatening our Nation's biggest shopping mall. We need the Department of Homeland Security. And I say, Bully.

Let us continue to do the responsible thing and fund our departments, including the Department of Homeland Security.

IRAN

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

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that we cannot trust the tyrannical regime in Iran. For many years, our own State Department has determined that Iran is one of the world's leading state sponsors of terrorism.

As Prime Minister Netanyahu reminded us yesterday, the Iranian Government has consistently called for the

destruction of Israel and has referred to the United States as the "Great Satan." Does this sound like a negotiating partner that we can trust?

If anyone is unwilling to acknowledge their support for terror groups like Hezbollah or their hateful words toward America and Israel, then consider how this regime acts toward its own people. They stifle dissent by restricting the most basic political freedoms within their borders—the freedoms of speech, assembly, and press. They often jail opposition leaders and journalists and hold them without cause.

If Iran wants to be considered a legitimate power, they should stop arming and aiding terror groups and open up their political system to prove to the world that they are committed to freedom and peace. They can start by releasing all political prisoners, including Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian, who has been unjustly imprisoned for over 200 days. These steps should be taken before the U.S. continues to negotiate any nuclear deal.

PLAYING PARTY POLITICS

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

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, last week we were pushed to the brink of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security, the agency tasked with safeguarding our homeland from threats here and abroad, all because Congress couldn't do its job. Only weeks after horrific attacks in Paris and with news of ISIS every day, the House majority risked the national security of our country to play party politics.

We cannot continue to govern in crisis mode, threatening the safety of American lives, jobs, and our homeland, so my colleagues can score political points. Enough is enough.

Threatening to shut down DHS was reckless, unnecessary, and completely avoidable. The House majority's games have forced Congress away from its most critical priority, working for middle class families to create jobs, improve transportation and infrastructure, invest in education, and protect programs for our seniors. It is time to stop playing political games and get back to what the people elected us to do.

HONORING MAJOR TRENT COLESTOCK, UNITED STATES ARMY

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Army congressional liaison to the U.S. House of Representatives Major Trent Colestock. The Army has recognized his patriotism, abilities, and his demonstrated potential for increased responsibility, and

it promoted him to the rank of major on February 1.

Born in my hometown of Miami, Florida, and raised in Mineral Wells, Texas, Trent graduated from Texas Christian University, where he earned a degree in business administration and an Army commission. During his congressional assignment, he earned a master's degree in legislative affairs from George Washington University.

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army's Field Artillery Branch, Trent has served at Fort Drum, Fort Hood, and in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout his career in our proud military, Trent has earned many accolades, including the Combat Action Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal.

It is my distinct pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to join with Major Colestock's family, friends, and peers as they honor his promotion and the many accomplishments of his outstanding service to our Nation.

□ 1215

THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL RADIO AND REINTRODUCTION OF THE LOCAL RADIO FREEDOM ACT

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the significant benefits and services that our local radio stations provide to our communities.

I cannot say enough about the benefits local radio provides constituents in our district in Houston and Harris County, Texas. Local radio provides AMBER Alerts, local news, weather, and critical emergency alerts, which we all know too well along the gulf coast we need. In addition to the public service, radio provides entertainment and music free to the public.

For nearly 90 years, Congress has recognized this fact and has not imposed performance fees on local radio stations. That is why I am pleased to reintroduce, along with my fellow Texan, Congressman MIKE CONAWAY, the Local Radio Freedom Act, H. Con. Res. 17.

Our simple resolution simply states that Congress should not impose any performance taxes or fees for playing over-the-air music and keep local radio free. Last week's introduction with 93 cosponsors, over 20 percent of the full House, shows the strong commitment Congress has to protect local radio and all the benefits it provides our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank all the original cosponsors of this resolution and thank local radio for serving our communities.

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

(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, President Truman had a plaque on his desk that said, "The buck stops here." Many veterans are probably wondering why this old poker expression doesn't apply to the VA. However, on Monday the House passed H.R. 280, which gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to make sure the bucks do stop on back bonuses given to management of the VA, which is very, very backlogged.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad the House has acted, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the President to join this effort. It is clear that it is time to send a message to the VA that the days of rewarding subpar work and service for hidden and lost files or long waiting periods are over.

We need to continue to fight for commonsense reforms that will provide this type of system that our veterans deserve. At many regional offices of the VA around the country, including my own of Oakland, veterans have waited far too long to have their benefit claims processed and are struggling to access the care they need and deserve. There are countless examples of dysfunction, and the VA is falling short of its mission.

Does anyone actually think the VA deserves bonuses for failing our veterans when we have these long lists of people waiting for medical care, having their claims serviced? No, I think not. Mr. Speaker, the VA bonus bucks stop here.

REMEMBERING REVEREND THEODORE M. HESBURGH, CSC

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

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today is the funeral for one of the most influential figures in higher education, the Catholic Church, and domestic and international affairs: Father Theodore Hesburgh. He served as president of the University of Notre Dame for 35 years, in that time taking a small Catholic college and transforming it into a world renowned institution.

During his career he was granted 150 honorary degrees, more than any other person. This Congress awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal in the year 2000, becoming the first figure from higher education to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. He was also appointed by both Democratic and Republican Presidents to 16 Presidential commissions, ranging from atomic weapons policy to immigration, to civil rights.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to be a graduate of the Hesburgh Program in Public Service and hope to be able to live up to that awesome example he set.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

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

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of four high-tech fields that are dominating the digital age. The fields of science, technology, engineering, and math, commonly referred to as STEM, are driving our Nation's innovation and competition, generating new ideas, industries, and companies.

Just last week, I had the opportunity to tour the University of New Hampshire's InterOperability Laboratory to see just how important the STEM field is to the Granite State. The InterOperability Lab is the only full-service, nonprofit test lab in the world that provides both industry expertise and real-world training for our Nation's future STEM workers.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that Congress continues to advocate on behalf of the STEM fields because the demand for individuals with these backgrounds and education only continue to grow. In fact, the Office of Science and Technology Policy estimates that STEM jobs will grow almost two times faster than non-STEM jobs from 2008 to 2018. We must ensure R&D continues in these fields.

FUNDING DHS

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express relief that Congress has funded the Department of Homeland Security. We averted an unnecessary and harmful crisis. We should not have reached a point where the Department was on the brink of a shutdown.

The Department of Homeland Security was created after the devastating September 11 terrorist attacks and performs vital functions to protect Americans against ongoing terrorist threats. We are talking about FEMA, which responds to emergencies and disasters; TSA, which makes flying safer; the Secret Service; Customs and Border Protection; and other important services.

The Coast Guard, which patrols our waters and helps protect communities like mine near the Port of Los Angeles, is also a part of the Department of Homeland Security. We must do even more to improve port security, and shutting down the Department would have been a step backwards.

We must stop the crisis-to-crisis governing around here. The American people deserve better than this sort of political brinksmanship.

CONGRATULATING MIDLAND MARKETING COOPERATIVE

(Mr. HUELSKAMP asked and was given permission to address the House