

I am honored to share the most recent achievement of the postal service with you. Sunday deliveries and other adjustments to mail processing were instrumental in allowing the United States Postal Service to set holiday season records, with 524 million packages delivered in December. That is up 18 percent from 2013.

The United States Postal Service has reported it delivered more than 28 million packages on December 22, the busiest day and the largest single day for package delivery in its history. The package delivery record on December 22 was set while the United States Postal Service also delivered about 463 million pieces of mail.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this moment to recognize and applaud the hardworking individuals who made this possible and to also say another 118,000 packages were delivered on Christmas Day.

RENEWED OPTIMISM FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today humbled and thankful for the opportunity to represent the people of the great State of Kansas for a third time.

As we begin the 114th Congress, we start with renewed optimism for a fresh start for the American people. I am proud to join my colleagues here in the people's House from both sides of the aisle from across our great Nation as we work together to try to repair this institution and to represent the voices of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, last week we took steps to create jobs and unleash our economy by authorizing construction of the Keystone pipeline, rolling back job-killing portions of ObamaCare, and helping our heroic veterans get back to work.

This week we will move decisively to stop the flow of illegal immigration into our country and to reestablish the rule of law and to adhere to the Constitution that governs our great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are counting on us. Now is the time for bold leadership to do great things. Now is the time for the people's House to rise to the challenge and to stand up for the American people.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF HAITI EARTHQUAKE

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the devastating earthquake that struck the nation of Haiti. Monday marked 5 years since a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck some 15 miles southwest of

Port-au-Prince, Haiti's population center and the seat of its government.

Mr. Speaker, the aftermath of the quake was unimaginable. Estimates of as many as 316,000 people perished, and nearly 1.3 million were displaced. This tragedy struck in a nation already hobbled by grinding poverty, health disparities, and food insecurity. It crippled the infrastructure of government, destroyed the National Palace, ministry buildings, and tragically robbed the nation of some of its most talented civil servants.

In spite of the many challenges, once again, the Haitian people rose to the occasion, and our Nation, to date, has contributed billions to recovery efforts, along with donors around the world. The American people and the Haitian people deserve that this aid be delivered in the most effective way.

My bill, the Assessing Progress in Haiti Act, had bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Obama. This bill—now this law—provides critical oversight and reporting. And this week, along with my colleague Congresswoman FREDERICA WILSON, we are asking our colleagues to join us to reintroduce a resolution commemorating this tragic earthquake.

□ 1230

BOKO HARAM KILLS IN THE NAME OF RELIGION

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, a 10-year-old girl walked into a crowded Nigerian market with a bomb strapped around her body. She walked through a metal detector, and the bomb exploded, killing her and dozens around her. The device reportedly was controlled by Boko Haram terrorists.

Days earlier, Boko Haram invaded the town of Baga, Nigeria, armed with grenades, explosives, and assault rifles. News reports say up to 2,000 bodies have been found, many of them children and the elderly who could not escape.

Boko Haram means "Western education is sinful." They have inflicted genocide in their reign of terror in Nigeria. Their goal is to impose sharia law in that country.

This al Qaeda-affiliated group of thugs, bandits, and outlaws slaughter both Christians and Muslims in the name of religion. 10,000 people were killed last year in Boko Haram terror. Boko Haram abducted 200 Nigerian girls and made sex slaves out of them. These girls are still missing.

Mr. Speaker, Boko Haram is not going away. They are part of the cancer of radical Islamic terror that has to be eliminated.

And that is just the way it is.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on my Republican colleagues to just stop it; stop endangering the American public, stop endangering our national security and get to work for the American people.

The Department of Homeland Security should have been properly funded when the CR/Omnibus bill passed. Homeland Security is supposed to ensure our local law enforcement, emergency responders, antiterrorism experts, and border security professionals have the resources they need to keep our country safe. Instead, House Republicans continue to talk about deporting kids and pushing their anti-immigrant agenda against Dreamers and compromising our national security.

This way of thinking, this type of exclusion is what divides our Nation. In a time when we need to be strong and stand together, Republican House leadership continues to turn their backs on opportunities to work together. The only way to fix our broken immigration system is by passing true immigration reform that secures our borders, protects our workers, unites our families, and provides an earned pathway to citizenship.

It is time to pass a clean DHS funding bill and bring comprehensive immigration reform to a vote.

CONGRATULATING THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my alma mater, the Ohio State University, on being the first team to win the college football playoff. Go, Bucks.

After beating the number one-ranked University of Alabama team in the Sugar Bowl, the Ohio State University beat the number two-ranked team, the University of Oregon, last night 42–20 to become the first undisputed national champion. Go, Bucks.

This Buckeye team has heart, talent, and teamwork on their side. In fact, they are the first team in history to be ranked outside the top 10 in November and go on to win a national championship. Go, Bucks.

This championship is a result of coaches like Urban Meyer, Luke Fickell, and Chris Ash, and impressive scholar-athletes like Braxton Miller, J.T. Barrett, Cardale Jones, Ezekiel Elliott, Tyvis Powell, Darron Lee, Joey Bosa, as well as the entire Buckeye squad. Go, Buckeyes.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time, I want to leave you with this: O-H.

ADMINISTRATION URGED NOT TO PROSECUTE GENERAL PETRAEUS

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

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will be circulating a letter for signature urging the administration not to prosecute General Petraeus. It will ask Eric Holder to use his prosecutorial discretion to close the file now. And if Attorney General Holder will not do so, to urge the President to immediately pardon General Petraeus.

Keep in mind that General Petraeus has an incredible record of service to our Nation. The items he disclosed, if any, were to an Army Reserve Officer who had security clearance, and the disclosure has not gone any further. Given his record to our country, we should not be spending taxpayer dollars in this prosecution.

But here is the delicious irony. While the prosecutors accuse General Petraeus of mistakenly disclosing confidential information—maybe they are right, maybe not—they themselves have clearly and intentionally violated law and disclosed confidential information, namely that they are making a recommendation to the Attorney General that he prosecute General Petraeus. So if the Justice Department has unlimited funds to investigate and prosecute, perhaps they should start with their own ranks and at least purge their ranks of those who violate their employment responsibilities and leak confidential information.

STOPPING EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about my amendment that is going to be offered to the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. It is part of our effort to stop President Obama's executive amnesty.

The amendment would freeze the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program by prohibiting any Federal funds or resources from being used to consider or adjudicate any new renewal or previously denied application for any alien requesting consideration for the deferral. Individuals currently in the program would be allowed to continue through the remainder of their deferral period.

Last year, I had the opportunity to visit the UAC facility at Fort Sill and also to spend some time on the southern border, where agents briefed me. The visits confirmed what we have known all along: DACA is the magnet for drawing Central American children here. Unaccompanied alien children believe they are going to receive amnesty. That is a false hope. There are also problems with the Office of Ref-

ugee Resettlement, with physical abuse of these children, and we know that the American people want us to take this action. Seventy-five percent reject executive amnesty.

I encourage the body to join me today in passing the Blackburn amendment.

DEFEAT DIVISIVE ANTI-IMMIGRATION AMENDMENTS

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, almost every day I hear from the families in my district who are frustrated by the disconnect between what they need and the discussions that we have here in Congress and Washington. Only 1 week into the 114th Congress, the Republican majority is back with the same divisive agenda that is at the root of the public's frustration.

Instead of focusing on policies that help families succeed, House Republicans have introduced legislation that not only risks our national security but tears families apart. In this time of increased terrorism, what do these amendments target? American Dreamers, young people who were brought to this country as children. These amendments jeopardize our national security and do nothing to fix our broken immigration system. These amendments represent dangerous, mean-spirited, divisive politics at its worst, and I hope they are defeated.

ENDING EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, for more than four decades the United States has pursued a policy of an embargo against our neighboring nation to the south, Cuba. President Obama has taken the first steps towards moving towards the end of isolating the Cuban people and the Cuban nation.

I applaud his efforts to reengage in a diplomatic way and through tourism with the country of Cuba. Clearly the policy of an embargo has failed to bring down the regime of Fidel and Raul Castro. Let's instead try a policy of engagement where the ideas of democracy and human rights can spread across Cuba and across much of the world after the ending of the cold war.

The time for the embargo is over. I call upon Congress to continue to pursue a repeal of the embargo and establishment of normal trade and diplomatic relations with the nation of Cuba so we can continue to, where appropriate, criticize their human rights record and engage them in respecting the rights of all people, and in trade, create jobs on both sides.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 37, PROMOTING JOB CREATION AND REDUCING SMALL BUSINESS BURDENS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 185, REGULATORY ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2015; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 240, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 27 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 27

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 37) to make technical corrections to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, to enhance the ability of small and emerging growth companies to access capital through public and private markets, to reduce regulatory burdens, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 185) to reform the process by which Federal agencies analyze and formulate new regulations and guidance documents. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House