

phone records, was not constitutional; yet we trusted them with the oversight, and they betrayed us. They betrayed that trust.

Since 1979, there have been 34,000 surveillance orders requested of the FISA court by the intelligence community; 12 of the 34,000 have been denied.

Mr. Speaker, things have changed. I urge my colleagues not to reauthorize the PATRIOT Act. The Freedom Act does not go far enough.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is a quiet revolution taking place across America to reform and modernize our marijuana laws. For over half a century, the official position has been one of prohibition, of incarceration, of obfuscation, and willful ignorance; yet almost 20 million Americans use marijuana every month.

A majority of the public now thinks that that should be legal, and an even larger majority thinks that, whatever their personal opinion about marijuana is, that the Federal Government should not interfere with what the States do, just like how we regulate alcohol.

In the vanguard of the reform movement has been medical marijuana since 1996, when California was the first State to legalize it. It has been followed now where almost three-quarters of the States provide some form of access to medical marijuana, and most of those decisions were made by a vote of the people. Well over 200 million Americans live where they have access to medical marijuana.

There have been many positive benefits achieved for our veterans, who suffer from a wide range of medical problems, many of which stem from their years of service: chronic pain, PTSD, controlling the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, or dealing with violent nausea as a result of chemotherapy; yet our veterans are discriminated against because, even in States where it is legal, their VA doctors are discouraged from working with them to see if medical marijuana is right for them or if it is not.

I am pleased to see some change taking place in Congress. We almost passed my amendment last month which would have given veterans fair treatment, enabling their primary doctor to consult with them. Just this last week in the Senate, there was approved in committee essentially the same amendment, and it is on its way to the Senate floor to give equal rights to veterans for medical marijuana.

This is the latest step in the evolution that we have seen now where four States and the District of Columbia have declared adult use legal, and we are seeing further progress at the local level.

The tide is building. We are turning away from a failed program of prohibi-

ting; arresting; and, in some cases, incarcerating, while denying the science.

We as a Nation are turning to approaches that are more honest and workable, that tax and regulate to allow for important research and public education that will allow people to make informed choices about the use of these substances or not.

We are already seeing the social, economic, and law enforcement advantages in this shift at the State level, and we should capitalize on this movement at the national level as well.

It is exciting to see a bipartisan group of legislators in a sea of legislative dysfunction coming together to promote bringing this country into the 21st century in terms of marijuana policies, doing it right.

This week, during consideration of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we are likely to see numerous amendments dealing with research, hemp, medical marijuana, cultivation, enforcement, and respecting States' laws.

This is an exciting and encouraging development to be able to make the Federal Government a full partner with the evolution that is taking place on the State and local level.

I urge my colleagues to vote in such a way that respects the will of the people and the rights of States to forge these new policies.

FISHING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the American recreational fishermen that, like myself and my family, used to have the opportunity to fish for red snapper in the Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

I can't help but think how sad it is that we have people in here articulating why illegal drugs should be made legal while we continue to allow Federal agencies to take away the rights of the American sportsmen and the men and the women who just want to take their kids fishing.

Maybe if we spent more time outdoors fishing and hunting, we wouldn't have the problems that we have in this country with drugs.

Now, technically, Mr. Speaker, we still have the right to fish in the Gulf of Mexico in the Federal waters, as long as you can do it in the crumb of the season that has been left for the recreational fishermen.

Dr. Roy Crabtree and the National Marine Fisheries Services have left a 10-day season for the not-for-hire recreational angler who just wants to take his or her kid fishing, 10 days.

In 2007, Mr. Speaker—if you want to know how fast this has gone downhill—we got to fish 194 days; so, in the short span of about 8 years, they have taken 95 percent of the opportunity of the

American sportsmen to fish in the Gulf of Mexico's Federal waters for red snapper away from them.

When they started the reductions, they promised that, as soon as the stock was restored, the season would be restored. Now, they give us the excuse: Well, because there are so many of them and they are so much bigger, you are catching that many that much faster.

You see, Mr. Speaker, this makes no sense. The commercial fishermen, ships, long lines and winches, and their powerful lobbyists, they get to fish year round for the same species. Dr. Roy Crabtree and the others at the National Marine Fisheries Services again virtually eliminated the fishing season for the recreational angler, reducing it to 10 days.

Now, I support the commercial fishing industry. I like to buy a piece of red snapper at the restaurant. I like to buy it at the grocery store. There is plenty of fish out there for all of us.

The 10 days that we have as recreational anglers—if it is bad weather, well, that is just too bad. If you have got to work that day, well, that is just too bad. You see, they pick the days. You don't get to pick the days, Mr. Speaker; and, if you can't fish on that day, that is just too bad for you. If you can afford it, the charter boat season now is 45 days.

Now, I will just tell you, I have never seen this much bias in anything I have ever done, especially in the rulemaking process, unless someone is being bribed or blackmailed or had a personal financial interest in the rulemaking, which brings me to the next point.

The vote to split the recreational season at the expense of the American angler, who just wants to fish with their family—not being forced to hire a charter boat—this was done by the Gulf Council on a split vote of 7 to 10 in which, according to news sources, 3 of the members that voted to do this didn't disclose that they sit on the board of a group that lobbies for the charter boat industry.

Again, I support the charter boat industry, but the idea that someone could sit there and vote to make a season for themselves 45 days as long as you can pay them to take you, but 10 days if you don't pay them—Mr. Speaker, to be quite honest, Federal law stipulates those with a conflict must disclose it and shall not vote on those issues where a conflict exists.

The conduct of the National Marine Fisheries Services in allowing that vote is in direct contrast to the rights of the Americans who just want to fish in the Gulf of Mexico.

I, for one, am not going to sit back and let this continue; and, when the CJS appropriations act is on the floor, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we have the opportunity to correct what I believe to be illegal actions by the National Marine Fisheries Services and Dr. Roy Crabtree.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ODESSA PERMIAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM'S FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Odessa Permian High School football team's first State championship title. As a member of that team, I am especially excited to gather with my teammates this weekend to look back over the 50 years.

They say everything is bigger in Texas, and high school football is no different.

Mr. Speaker, when our team earned the title that bitterly cold December day, it was the start of one of the most storied high school football dynasties in Texas. We were led by the Texas coaching legend, Gene Mayfield, who was as tough as his reputation suggests. He was known for his motivational skills, and he could motivate. Coach Mayfield and the coaching staff did not inherit a State-championship-caliber team that year; rather, through his influence and direction, he molded our team into something that many doubted we could ever become.

His emphasis on preparation, competition, and expectation to win drove our team to demand more of each other. We suffered during his notoriously tough workouts. You could find our team running in the sandhills of Monahans Sandhills State Park or challenging each other with bicycle races, wrestling matches, or any of the other various events that he could find that would hone our competitive spirit and build a drive to win and a spirit to never quit.

Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to us as kids, the values Coach Mayfield was instilling in us that year would carry with us for the rest of our lives. He was teaching us more than how to be good football players; he was teaching us how to become men. I personally view Coach Mayfield as one of the most influential men in my life, and I believe that my teammates would say the same.

It was through our shared experiences that our team bonded together. In 1965, it drove us to win, and we were seeing the fruits of our labors with each game night. Those experiences created relationships that have endured over five decades.

This Friday, my teammates and I will gather to renew those bonds and reminisce, but also to become the recipients of this year's Odessa Permian High School Black Shirt Award. Every year, this award is given to a school organization, individual, or group that have achieved a standard of excellence and inspired a passion in the Permian High School alumni and student body.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have been a part of that historic season and to

have played with some of the best teammates you could ever ask for.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DENHAM) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Thomas More Garrett, OP, St. Pius V Catholic Church, Providence, Rhode Island, offered the following prayer:

Hear us O God, we pray, that we may begin these summer months refreshed and renewed. Give new vigor to our efforts. Help us to be always mindful of the guiding hand of providence as we seek to better our country and the world at large.

Let us remember that we are not always the best arbiters of our own good, that we can be wrong about what is best for us, and that our own desires can sometimes bring us harm. Confident in Your assistance, we turn to You for Your protection and ask You to save us from the difficulties that we bring upon ourselves.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE 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.

COMMEMORATING THE SAMOAN EXILES

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

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, this month, 72 Samoans who were exiled to my home, the Northern Mariana Is-

lands, will receive the ceremonial farewell they were never given—100 years late.

In 1909, the 72 Samoans were exiled to the Mariana Islands by the Governor of German Samoa, Wilhelm Solf. Their crime: the chiefs had tried to reinstate traditional Samoan practices outlawed by the German colonial regime. The Samoans remained in the Marianas until 1915, when they were repatriated by another colonial power—Japan.

Their story was almost lost in time. But thanks to the work of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the history of these exiles has now been documented.

RECOGNIZING OUR AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS

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

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our American manufacturers. As we work to knock down trade barriers—barriers abroad—so American exporters can sell their products overseas, many opponents of free trade are spreading outright lies: lies about the impact of American trade agreements on American manufacturers.

Whirlpool is a great example, an example that continues to be cited as an American company that has virtually shut down its plants in America because of trade. It is astounding because it is not true.

There are 22,000 American Whirlpool workers. They are makers of iconic brands like Whirlpool, Maytag, and KitchenAid. More than 80 percent of Whirlpool products sold in the United States are made in the United States. Their products come from Ohio communities like Clyde, Marion, Greenville, Ottawa, and Findlay, Ohio, not to mention Whirlpool plants in other States.

Believe the numbers, Mr. Speaker. One in every five jobs in Ohio depends on trade. With new trade agreements, barriers abroad will be removed so Whirlpool and other manufacturers have the opportunity to sell their American-made products overseas.

Let's spread the truth: trade supports American jobs, and increased trade will build a healthy American economy.

PASS A LONG-TERM HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT TRUST FUND BILL

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Michigan, of all States, knows that we need to fix our crumbling roads and bridges if we are going to remain competitive as a nation.

It is long past time, long overdue, for this Congress to rebuild our infrastructure, to pass legislation to fully fund, on an extended basis, the highway and