

Whereas it is an uncontested fact that symbols of the Confederacy offend and insult many members of the general public who use the hallways of Congress each day;

Whereas Congress has never permanently recognized in its hallways the symbols of sovereign nations with whom it has gone to war or rogue entities such as the Confederate States of America;

Whereas continuing to display a symbol of hatred, oppression, and insurrection that nearly tore our Union apart and that is known to offend many groups throughout the country would irreparably damage the reputation of this august institution and offend the very dignity of the House of Representatives; and

Whereas this impairment of the dignity of the House and its Members constitutes a violation under rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall remove any State flag containing any portion of the Confederate battle flag, other than a flag displayed by the office of a Member of the House, from any area within the House wing of the Capitol or any House office building, and shall donate any such flag to the Library of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Mississippi will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

HONORING THE LIFE OF OFFICER SONNY KIM

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, last week, Cincinnati lost a hero in blue. A 27-year veteran of the Cincinnati Police Department, Officer Sonny Kim lived a life of service to his family, his department, and his city.

We mourn for a life cut short while serving in the line of duty. Officer Kim is remembered as a model police officer, husband, and father, an officer with 22 commendations during his decorated career. His lasting memory stands as a testament to the best of our community and society.

Mr. Speaker, police officers deal with people every day, usually people at

their very worst, and they do so selflessly and tirelessly, but we must never take that service for granted.

We mourn with Officer Kim's wife, his sons, and his sisters and brothers who served alongside him.

Rest in peace, Officer Kim. Your good deeds will not be forgotten.

□ 1730

REMEMBERING WILLIAM WHITE

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, recently, we lost William White to cancer, but his contributions to his community and dedication to his friends and family will not be forgotten. His life is yet another example of the American Dream realized.

Born in 1930, in Brooklyn, Bill started out selling printing presses in New York. Eventually, he would join forces with his brother Tom to build some of New York City's most impressive restaurants.

While he was well known for his success in business, Bill was also an important member of his community in Point Lookout, New York. There, he established the chamber of commerce and was an active member of the Point Lookout Civic Association. He was a true example that we can all find a way to serve and give something back to this great Nation.

He met his wife of almost 60 years, Patricia, at a dance near West Point in 1955. He and Pat traveled the world, always excited to explore culture and cuisine on their next great adventure.

They had one child, Bill, who works in philanthropy and has helped raise hundreds of millions of dollars for our Nation's veterans. I know that Bill was very proud of his son. His legacy of service, carried on by his son, has meant that thousands of veterans—our Nation's heroes—have received help they otherwise would not have received.

While this is a painful time for all who knew Bill, I know his family and friends can be proud of the life he lived and his dedication to his family and his country.

SONORAN CORRIDOR

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Speaker, the number one priority I hear from my constituents is creating more jobs and economic opportunity in southern Arizona, and this week, I introduced legislation, along with my Arizona colleagues, to do just that.

Southern Arizona already plays a vital role in our Nation's trade partnership with Mexico through its proximity to the border and key interstate

systems, but more can be done to take advantage of these invaluable assets.

Right now, trucks driving north on Interstate 19 from the Mariposa Port of Entry at Nogales must travel on congested city routes before meeting Interstate 10 to travel east. This impedes the flow of traffic and wastes valuable time and money.

A connection between the two highways south of Tucson would reduce this congestion, help attract businesses to southern Arizona, and expand trade connectivity for the southwestern United States and Mexico.

My bill, the Sonoran Corridor Interstate Development Act, would designate this proposed connection a high-priority corridor on the National Highway System. It has the support of the entire Arizona delegation.

Its passage is in the best interest of southern Arizona, our State, and our country; and I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this important project forward.

AURORA POLICE OFFICER DAVID BEMER

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, in the last year, we have seen far too many examples of conflict and violence in our communities. While we cannot forget or ignore these tragedies, it is important that we recognize the good that is happening throughout our country every day.

I would like to take a moment to share with you one example. While out on patrol, Aurora, Illinois, Police Officer David Bemer stopped when he saw a group of teens in the street. Some of the kids said they were alarmed, not knowing why he was stopping or what might happen next.

They explained that they were all part of a dance group called Simply Destinee and were practicing in the alley because their dance studio had lost electrical power. What happened next was something that we would all love to see much more of.

Officer Bemer got out of his car and danced with the kids. The video from this apparently went viral, highlighting exactly the kind of community engagement that we would love to see more of.

This is what happens when police officers like those in my district get to know their communities and communities get to know their police officers.

It is only when we work together—police officers, side by side with members of the community—that we make real and lasting progress.

Mr. Speaker, that leaves a smile on my face.

CONGRATULATING WAYZATA HIGH SCHOOL BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

(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 to congratulate the Wayzata High School boys track and field team on winning the Minnesota State championship.

After coming up just short the last 2 years, the Trojans were boosted by strong performances from distance runners Jaret Carpenter and Connor Olson. In addition, Wayzata was led by Wesley Jackson's second-place finish in the long jump, Tyler Didier's third-place finish in the 400-meter dash, and a number of strong relay teams. It absolutely was a complete team effort.

These athletes spend practice after practice pushing themselves and each other to reach their personal bests. In addition, every single one of these student athletes still manage to meet and excel at other school, family, and social obligations.

Mr. Speaker, the families, teachers, friends, and entire community are very proud of these high school champs.

Congratulations to Coach Aaron Berndt and the Wayzata High School boys track and field team on a job well done.

ISIS PROMOTES SLAVERY

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to news reports, ISIS is holding competitions at mosques to celebrate Ramadan. Here is the challenge: memorize the Koran. The prize—get this—is a young female sex slave.

As a father and a grandfather, I am repulsed by the fact that young women—just kids—are being handed out like door prizes in a Koran contest. Second and third place apparently receive the same reward, kidnapped young teenage girls.

This competition is advertised on flyers and marketed to young males. The arrogance, barbarity, and brutality of this terrorist enterprise has no limits. ISIS pillages, rapes, and kills their way across the Middle East. They brazenly broadcast decapitations, slowly drown people in cages, and burn captors alive.

ISIS is an enemy of all states. Its terrorist reign of religious genocide threatens all humanity in a path of murderous anarchy. The world must ban together to destroy these sub-human radical jihadists.

Justice demands these killers be held accountable for their crimes against all peoples of the world, including little girls.

And that is just the way it is.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florida

International University on the celebration of their 50th anniversary earlier this week on June 22.

This great accomplishment gives all Floridians an opportunity to recognize this special institution and all who have contributed to FIU's success throughout the years should be proud.

FIU is located in Florida's 26th Congressional District, where over 17,000 of my constituents are enrolled as students and an additional 2,400 graduated last year. In my time serving south Florida in Congress, I have witnessed this university's passion for helping students seek higher education to better themselves while giving back to our community.

Mr. Speaker, south Florida is a place where people from all over the world come seeking opportunity and success; many find it at FIU.

On the occasion of FIU's 50th anniversary, I salute all those who have dedicated their careers to improving the lives of scholars. I know many proud graduates who today are leaders in our community.

Once again, congratulations. I know that the next 50 years will bring even greater success and achievement.

Go Panthers.

PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS: ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICKS of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. As we do almost every week, my colleagues and I are here on the floor this evening to urge the people's House to take up the issues that matter to the people.

This week, we are still reeling from the tragedy in South Carolina. My colleagues and I are urging Members on both sides of the aisle to take a look at an issue we have consistently and painfully avoided for years, what we are doing to prevent gun violence.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Second Amendment and Americans' rights to reasonable, responsible gun ownership; but it is time for us in America to admit we have a problem.

When I see more than two dozen people shot in one weekend in my hometown of Detroit, when I see the face of

a deranged and hate-fueled young man—a man who should have never had a gun but was able to destroy the lives of nine amazing people who welcomed him into their church in South Carolina—I know it is time for America to embrace commonsense gun control.

In the span of about 24 hours, 27 people were shot and 3 were killed in Detroit, Michigan. It is a city that I represent, along with my esteemed colleague Congressman JOHN CONYERS. The FBI and the Detroit Police Department confirm that, in the city of Detroit, overall crime is down; yet gun deaths are on the rise.

Ninety percent of Americans who were polled want universal background checks for gun purchases. That is 90 percent. What are we waiting for?

There is not a Member of Congress who has not been touched by gun violence. That includes one of our own, a colleague that was highly respected, Gabby Giffords.

How many more deaths must families and communities endure? How many more funerals must we attend? How many children must be orphaned? How many parents must suffer the unspeakable heartbreak of losing a child?

There is no question that we must act, and we must act now. How many times must we watch on national news what uncontrolled gun violence can do to our country?

That action must focus on three principles: establish universal background checks; eliminate the gun show loopholes that allow a person to walk in, pick up a gun, and walk out the door; and enforce our existing gun control laws.

We have seen countries all over the globe who are not experiencing the gun violence that we have here in America, and their citizens have the right to own guns.

It is time for us to awaken from a sleep of the past and address this issue and address it now.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. I thank the gentlewoman for taking the time to join us and sharing that important message. I join her in her sentiments.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY).

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding as we continue this important conversation.

Every day in America, we navigate the threat of gun violence. From metal detectors in public buildings to shooting safety drills at schools and movie theaters, guns affect how we live and whether we live at all; yet, when gun violence intruded into the most sacred of places, piercing the peace of prayer at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, it stirred a sickening sadness within us.

□ 1745

It was a searing reminder that there is no corner of our country that offers a haven for us when guns end up in the wrong hands.