

piece of its nuclear infrastructure, and Iran can claim victory over the Great Satan and the Little Satan.

This will be more than just a defeat for diplomacy. It will be a disaster that will set in motion a nuclear and conventional arms race in the world's most volatile region. And who knows what dangers that will bring.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE SERVICES AND THE ABILITYONE PROGRAM

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Vocational Guidance Services program and the AbilityOne Program and Mr. Tubbs, who visited my office a few weeks ago.

VGS provides employment services designed to promote economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities in the State of Ohio and has maintained a strong presence in my district, Ohio's Third Congressional District.

The AbilityOne Program harnesses the purchasing power of the Federal Government to buy products and services from participating community-based nonprofit agencies that are dedicated to training and employing individuals with disabilities.

Since 2004, nearly 900 area residents received employment opportunities through the Vocational Guidance Services program. In fact, last year alone, VGS provided employment for over 100 Columbus area people with disabilities.

I commend VGS and the AbilityOne Program team for their dedication and commitment to helping individuals who are blind or have significant disabilities to find employment in Ohio.

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WE WANT THE SAME DEAL

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the nuclear weapon agreement with Iran is near. The deal will lift crude oil export sanctions on Iran. This will be a billion-dollar boom to the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism.

Meanwhile, here in America, the administration bans exporting our own crude oil. We can't even export Texas light crude oil to our closest neighbor, Mexico.

The administration has within its power to lift the crude oil export ban. The ban hurts the U.S. economy. Thousands of oil industry workers have been laid off. Half the drilling rigs in Texas have been shut down. This administration seems to be more worried about making Iran happy and wealthy than helping the U.S. economy by creating energy jobs.

Why can't America get the same deal that Iran is getting? While the administration lifts the sanctions on Iranian exports, it should lift the oil export

sanctions on America. And, Mr. Speaker, Texas will even agree not to enrich uranium or develop nuclear sanctions if the sanctions are lifted.

And that is just the way it is.

HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, we are closing in on yet another deadline and yet another needlessly manufactured crisis at the end of this month: the re-authorization of the highway trust fund.

Two months ago this body passed a short-term extension of the highway trust fund at the very last minute, as is standard procedure nowadays here in the House, temporarily protecting 660,000 jobs and extending 6,000 critical construction projects.

Republican House leadership has had more than a year to craft a bill that would repair our crumbling infrastructure, provide certainty to States, and protect hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs hanging in the balance.

Enough of this brinkmanship. Enough of this manufactured crisis. Enough of the short-term patches that waste time and money on problems that we create for ourselves.

It is time to pass a commonsense, ambitious, and long-term extension of the highway trust fund that rebuilds, renews, and puts America to work.

We just heard memorialized on this floor the former chair, the late Jim Oberstar, who headed the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He knew this was a sound investment in America. Let's go forward with that.

REMEMBERING ADAM JAMES LAMBERT

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, this morning on the hallowed ground of a hill in Dallas County, Iowa, a hero was laid to rest at the Iowa Veterans Cemetery. This hero and patriot was Adam James Lambert.

Adam was 24 years old. Adam was a marine. He was an honorable young man who put others before himself so that we could be safe and free. He was a dependable and encouraging brother in arms to his fellow Marines.

But long before Adam was a U.S. Marine, he was just a boy. He was a loving son who brought joy and laughter to his mother Jill and father Dean. Adam was a playful protective brother to his sisters McKenzie and Anna. And he made his grandparents so proud. He loved them all so much. And, indeed, they loved him.

Over the weekend I attended a celebration of life service honoring Adam. Indeed, all who attended were moved

and touched in a beautiful way. He will be missed so much, but he will be remembered.

I remember Adam. I remember when I first met him in Van Meter. He walked up to me with a wide grin and a firm handshake. He encouraged me. He spoke to me with kindness. He made me laugh. He made me smile.

Adam leaves a smile on all our faces. He leaves with us memories, and Adam will not be forgotten. May God bless his memory and his family in the days ahead.

IRAN

(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, we may be hours away from a deal with Iran. The question before us is not is it a good deal or is it a bad deal or what should the executive branch of government do. The question before us is what should Congress do if we have a President who has signed the deal.

We don't know precisely what is in the deal. But we do know that it has advantages and disadvantages in the first year because it causes the vast majority of Iranian stockpile of enriched uranium and the majority of their centrifuges to be taken off the table. The disadvantage is it provides the Iranian Government with access to \$120 billion plus of its own money.

We do know that, in the next decade, the deal will be unacceptable because next decade Iran will be able to have massive enrichment facilities.

So the question before Congress is, first, how do we prevent this deal from being morally binding on the American people next decade with that administration and that Congress.

And then the tougher issue is whether we want to forfeit the advantages, knowing there are disadvantages, of what the deal does in its first year.

It is this kind of analysis, not partisans screaming about is it a good deal, is it a bad deal, that should guide us in the future.

U.S.-SWITZERLAND SKILLED TRADES COOPERATION

(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, last week U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Switzerland's Vice President and Federal Councillor, Johann Schneider-Ammann, signed a joint declaration that will provide a framework for cooperation between our two countries in areas such as work-based training, pathways to career development, and the expansion of existing programs into new industry sectors. This notable agreement comes just 1 month after a similar signing with Germany that was largely focused

on apprenticeships and vocational education and training.

As co-chair of the Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus, I applaud these international partnerships and recognize their role in helping us to close our Nation's skills gap.

The skilled trades are the hardest jobs to fill in the United States, with recent data citing 550,000 jobs open in the trade and transportation sectors and 246,000 jobs open in manufacturing.

Working with our allies to address this issue will undoubtedly benefit our economy and allow us to remain globally competitive.

I am confident in our ability to make continued progress in the area of workforce development and am grateful for the assistance of our international partners.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members be given 5 days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to have an important conversation, a conversation that is long overdue, a conversation that is crucial to healing America's deep racial wounds, our topic being the Confederate battle flag and why racial symbols matter.

The Charleston 9 killings focused many of our attention on the significant appropriateness and bigoted history of this flag. In 2015, why do so many still revere a flag that tolerated the shackling of people because of their skin, a flag that allowed human beings to be counted as three-fifths of a person, a flag that was flown during lynchings, the holding of children, and one that symbolized a movement to deny education and equal treatment under our laws?

Fifty years since Selma, we think of the Freedom Riders, marchers, boycotters, protesters, and policymakers who pointed our Nation in a more positive direction. They knew it was time to reject the traditions of the past.

The civil rights movement symbolized the quest of equality and a change in mood for America. Thousands from all backgrounds had the courage to join in peaceful protests, lunch counter sit-ins, and boycotts at the expense of being jailed, beaten, or killed. They did this for one Nation and one flag.

And in the way of these Americans stood those who believed in the perseverance of inequality, who believed in an America of White and colored, an

America of two flags, and the Confederate battle flag represented their America.

Jim Crow America saw States that seceded from the Union, reacting to the growth of the civil rights movement, with the use of the Confederate battle flag as the representation of their resistant movement.

In 1956, the State of Georgia incorporated the battle flag into its official State flag design. The movement continued into the sixties, where it met renewed and intensified opposition, opposition that waved the Confederate battle flag in the name of continued racial oppression.

In 1961, just 2 months after the sentencing of nine students arrested for a lunch counter sit-in in Rock Hill, South Carolina, the Confederate battle flag was raised over South Carolina's State house during a centennial celebration of the Civil War's opening.

That same year, in neighboring Georgia, Charlayne Hunter and Hamilton Holmes were the first two African American students to be admitted to the University of Georgia. Their admission only came after a court order sent from Federal court.

Eleven days after arriving on campus, Hunter and Holmes were attacked by a mob of White rioters who threw rocks and bottles at them while waving the rebel flag. The attacks were so fierce that the dean of students suspended both Hunter and Holmes for their own safety.

Now, even with me highlighting this violence, we are told that the stars and bars are about heritage. That heritage, Mr. Speaker, is not so subtle a reminder to African Americans that they are less than—maybe not three-fifths of a person, but still not equal.

This is a reminder that there are two classes of citizens. And despite our Declaration of Independence clearly stating that all men are created equal, this is a reminder that there is a lesser class and will never be equal.

But why are we honoring the heritage and flag of the hooded night riders of the Klan at our State houses and in this Congress instead of the flag of the Freedom Riders who died for a single, fair, and equal America?

Two years after Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his "I have dream" speech before 600 civil rights marchers, including our friend and colleague from Georgia, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, a different group of civil rights heroes were greeted by police officers in Selma, Alabama, proudly displaying the Confederate flag on the side of their helmets.

These officers brutally beat the marchers, and their actions were a reminder that Dr. King's speech had not yet resonated in the hearts of those who needed to hear it most.

But it was the undeterred resilience of the protesters who refused to back down and refused to resort to violence that persevered. It was the love, the respect, and the mutual understanding

that displayed what was the strongest symbol of strength, honor, and heritage than the Confederate battle flag.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way since 1965, but we still have a ways to go. We must move forward. The needed progress, however, will not come if the Federal Government continues to provide American citizens with reminders of our hateful and oppressive past in a manner that legitimizes such hate.

I am glad to host this important Special Order hour with my colleague from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) to talk about where we go from here and why we continue to give energy to symbols of hate and division.

I yield to the kind gentleman from Newark, New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois.

This is a very timely topic, as we have seen what has transpired in our Nation over the past several weeks. It is incredible to me how fast this issue has moved over the past month. But it always seems that it takes a horrific act in this country for us to wake up and realize that maybe something isn't right.

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Nine people at church study on a Wednesday night, not knowing their fate, were gunned down in cold blood by someone who actually said: You know, they were so nice to me, I almost didn't do it, but I had to.

Last week in South Carolina, there was a monumental step in removing the Confederate flag from its State capitol, where it had shamefully flown for 54 years; but here in our Nation's Capitol last week, Republicans tried to go back to the future.

House Republicans had to pull a vote on a spending bill because some of their Members opposed a measure that would ban Confederate flags from national cemeteries, and when the Democratic leader, NANCY PELOSI, presented an opportunity for Republicans to do the right thing and immediately remove the Confederate flag from the Capitol Grounds, they punted.

South Carolina, the birthplace of the Confederacy, had the courage to do what the House Republicans did not, remove that dreaded symbol. It is the symbol of an incomprehensible hate, a hate that manifested itself in a massacre. Since that unfortunate day 1 month ago, we, as a nation, have been forced to look inward at who we are and who we want to be.

Mr. Speaker, out of this immense grief of that dark day in Charleston came a resounding call throughout our Nation to remove the Confederate flag and other symbols of racism and racial supremacy. For many, the removal of these symbols is a logical step in the trajectory of our Nation, a necessary action on the path toward the more perfect Union.

For others, calls to remove these symbols of hate are seen as an attack