

things, that we gridlock the Congress of the United States and make America uncompetitive and undermine confidence in this country.

Yes, Mr. Leader, you are very tolerant, and I will keep asking the question because I think it is critical for our economy, and it is critical to get us off this gridlock where a small minority of the Congress of the United States is holding good policy hostage.

Now, let me also ask you: On October 29, the highway bill will lose its authorization, which we have been extending in very short periods of time. The gentleman knows no Governor, no mayor, no county commissioner, no contractor can possibly plan infrastructure improvements—highways, bridges, sewer systems, whatever—on the basis of 90-day or 60-day extensions of authority and funding.

The gentleman didn't mention it. It is not coming up next week. I understand that we have a longer time—but not a long time—between now and October 29 when the highway bill will expire. As the gentleman, I am sure, knows and agrees, the failure to do that will have a significant adverse effect on jobs for Americans and a significant adverse effect on the infrastructure of this country.

Can the gentleman tell me whether or not he expects a highway bill to come to the floor anytime within the timeframe prior to October 29?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. McCARTHY. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As the gentleman did mention, the highway program is currently authorized through the end of October. The relevant committees are at work—I met with them today—developing the best path forward, and I will keep you apprised, as well as the Members, and I expect it to be done before the deadline.

Mr. HOYER. That is good news that the highway bill, at least, will be done before the deadline.

I will tell my friend, like the majority leader, I had a discussion today with Mr. DEFAZIO, who is the ranking Democrat on the relevant committee, Mr. SHUSTER being the chairman. I know they have had some discussions, but I also know that they are not very close to an agreement. I know that neither one of them likes the Senate bill that was sent to us. The majority leader and I had discussions on that. We didn't take that up. I thought that was probably the right thing for the majority leader to do, to not take it up.

Again, the majority leader says he is engaged. I would hope he uses his good office to get us to a place where we can pass a bill in a bipartisan fashion as, during my 34 years, has normally been the case. That extends for a significant period of time—no less than 5 years—at levels that are necessary to meet the infrastructure needs of this country, both from an economic standpoint and a national security standpoint.

I yield to my friend if he wants to say anything further. If not, Mr.

Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

until 14 years ago, had little meaning for this country.

At 10 a.m. that day, the quiet of that field was shattered as 40 Americans successfully thwarted an attack on the Nation's capital. They, like 2,700 other individuals that day, lost their lives as a result of acts of raw evil. Quiet has returned to that field, but, today, there exists at the site a memorial and a new visitor center that opened yesterday.

I visited the site last week, and it amazed me how fresh the memories of that horrible day remain. The remembrances are unforgettable, from the timeline embedded within the walk that follows Flight 93's path—8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m.—to the words of the passengers from phone calls that were made that day.

Let's draw inspiration from the brave sacrifices made by so many Americans that day; and let's, today, renew the commitment we all felt in the days after September 11 to reinvigorate, heal, and strengthen our Nation.

#### WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

(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, I rise today in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Week.

Unfortunately, in the past several years, we have witnessed an increase in suicides among our Active-Duty members of the Armed Forces and our veterans populations.

Prior to my tenure in Congress, I served nearly three decades addressing the mental health needs of individuals who have suffered life-changing disease and disability. This is an issue I remain passionate about, particularly when addressing the mental health of those who place their lives on the line in serving this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I remain confident this body can do right by our servicemembers and veterans. A part of that is advancing the Medical Evaluation Parity for Servicemembers Act, which is intended to improve suicide prevention by instituting a mental health assessment for all new military recruits, which will then be used as a baseline throughout their military careers. This was included in the 2016 National Defense Authorization.

Our dedication to this cause is the least we can do for those who have sacrificed so much for their Nation.

#### COMMEMORATING THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN LOST ON 9/11

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the brave men and women lost on September 11.

Last week, I visited a windswept meadow in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, just outside my district, which

until 14 years ago, had little meaning for this country.

At 10 a.m. that day, the quiet of that field was shattered as 40 Americans successfully thwarted an attack on the Nation's capital. They, like 2,700 other individuals that day, lost their lives as a result of acts of raw evil. Quiet has returned to that field, but, today, there exists at the site a memorial and a new visitor center that opened yesterday.

I visited the site last week, and it amazed me how fresh the memories of that horrible day remain. The remembrances are unforgettable, from the timeline embedded within the walk that follows Flight 93's path—8:46 a.m., 9:03 a.m., 9:37 a.m.—to the words of the passengers from phone calls that were made that day.

Let's draw inspiration from the brave sacrifices made by so many Americans that day; and let's, today, renew the commitment we all felt in the days after September 11 to reinvigorate, heal, and strengthen our Nation.

#### IRAN DEAL

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, on this day, the 14th anniversary of the terrible attack of 9/11/2001, I rise to strongly oppose the deeply flawed, dangerous, and unacceptable deal that President Obama has struck with the Islamic Republic of Iran and its leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. To even stand here in the people's House of the greatest nation on Earth and discuss this course of action taken by the President is both shameful and embarrassing for our country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the world's leading sponsor of terrorism. They have the blood of thousands of American soldiers on their hands. They lead chants of "death to America," whom they call the Great Satan, and burn our flag in their streets. They declared just last week, with certainty, that Israel, whom they call the Little Satan, will be wiped off the map in no less than 25 years. This plan allows Iran to build a nuclear bomb in no less than 15 years. You do the math.

The President's deal with a terrorist nation allows them to continue their nuclear program and gives them over \$150 billion to fund worldwide terrorism.

A vote for this deal, with all of its dire implications for the future of our children and grandchildren, could well be the most regrettable vote that a Member of Congress will ever take in his career.

#### FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

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

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of

three brave firefighters—Tom Zbyszewski, Andrew Zajac, and Richard Wheeler—who were killed after their vehicle crashed near Twisp, Washington, leaving the men in the path of a raging fire.

Washington State has faced record forest fires this season. Nearly a million acres have burned. There has been a lot of loss, including the lives of these three men.

Tom, the youngest, at 20 years old, was a rising junior at Whitman College, who followed in his parents' footsteps and accepted the call to fight fires during the summer. How he and his colleagues died is really a testament to the type of men that they were—brave and generous, fiercely dedicated to protecting their home, and willing to put their lives at risk to protect it.

My prayers continue to be with their families and all those who have been impacted by these fires. We are eternally grateful for these young men and their service to our beloved State.

You are our heroes. Rest in peace.

□ 1315

#### JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Reauthorization Act and to call attention to our duty to the heroes who have already sacrificed so much.

As Americans, we have pledged to never forget the terrible events of 9/11. As Americans, we have a duty to never forget those who risked their lives to save others. Well over 1,000 9/11 first responders have been diagnosed with cancer caused by their exposure to toxins at Ground Zero.

Because of the Zadroga Act, over 70,000 9/11 first responders and survivors around the country, including 6,000 in my district, are being monitored for cancer and other Ground Zero-related incidences. Over 7,600 are already receiving treatment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we honor our commitment to those brave men and women by permanently reauthorizing this important program.

#### IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MACARTHUR). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, coincidental to the message or the speech that I am about to give, I am reminded, as so many of you are, that this is September the 11th and 14 years

ago terrorists, in an evil, devastating act against our country designed to destroy us as a people, attacked the very fabric of the Nation and killed almost 3,000 innocent Americans.

I pray for their families, and I pray for those who loved those people and still feel the loss within their souls today.

Mr. Speaker, I also believe that one of the best ways we can honor the people who lost their lives that infamous day is to remember that the price of freedom has always been eternal vigilance.

We still face a world where jihad has designs on destroying this, the greatest and freest republic in the history of the world.

And in the name of those we have lost, in the name of those generations still to come, God help us to be vigilant people, as Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the blood, sacrifice, and noble principles of millions of gallant souls across America's history have made this Nation the unipolar superpower of the entire world. Our international policies now significantly impact the peace and security of the entire human family.

The very first responsibility of this Nation's government and especially its Commander in Chief is to protect America's national security. The only two ways we have to do that is to prevent any enemy or potential enemy from having the intent and capacity to do us harm. We must make sure that, if there is an enemy with the intent to do us harm, that they do not have the capacity to proceed.

The intent of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been crystal clear since they took and held 52 American hostages 444 days at the beginning of their radical revolution those 36 years now ago. They have ever since been waging war on America and their own neighbors.

But the only way the Iranian leaders can ever truly achieve their ultimate goal is to become a nuclear-armed nation.

Consequently, they have proceeded inexorably in that direction both secretly and openly and obviously for decades until America and the Western world came together with resolutions, sanctions, and warnings of military intervention to halt and dismantle this unspeakably dangerous threat. This pressure finally brought Iran to the negotiating table.

But now, instead of increasing and using that pressure, President Barack Obama has completely ignored the original commitment that the sanctions would only be dismantled when Iran's nuclear weapons program was dismantled.

The President blindly accepted whatever deal Iran put on the table and completely forgot who was at the other end of that table.

Mr. Obama then proceeded to capitulate on every redline and minimum requirement that both he and the United Nations had previously required.

The President has now squandered away every form of leverage we had against this theocratic radical regime, which has broken every promise it has ever made to us.

And what did we get in return, Mr. Speaker? We got an insane rope-a-dope, duplicitous, unverifiable, astonishingly unenforceable deal. We got a deal that legitimizes and empowers the most prolific state sponsor of terrorism in the world.

It obligates America to lift all sanctions, lift bans on Iran's imports of weapons and ballistic missile programs. It allows Iran a protected protocol to enrich uranium and research even more advanced centrifuges.

It gives them tens of billions of dollars with which they can continue to spread their terror and destabilizing expansionism throughout the world.

It allows them to continue their human rights abuses, including illegally holding American citizens hostage. And it allows them to keep their entire nuclear infrastructure.

All the while, the Supreme Leader and ultimate authority in Iran is publicly reaffirming his hatred toward the United States and publicly leading throngs of his supporters in shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Israel." Unbelievable.

Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton made a far better deal than that, and the result was that the police state of North Korea proceeded to develop nuclear weapons only a few years later.

Some of our most loyal allies live under that nuclear threat to this day. Now this deal will place America and our vital ally, Israel, under that same nuclear threat tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, the Iranian mullahs were intently listening when Barack Obama proclaimed before the United Nations that no nation has the right to pick and choose what nations have nuclear weapons. But I remind him that Iran is a nation that has threatened to destroy America and destroy Israel.

These same mullahs were watching as Barack Obama knowingly stood by and idly watched as thousands of innocent civilians in Iraq were either butchered, tortured, raped, beheaded, crucified, or burned alive by ISIS. They then knew they had nothing to fear from Barack Obama.

So the jihadist leaders of Iran came to the nuclear negotiating table with nothing and walked away with everything.

These are the same Iranian mullahs that openly bragged how their bounties and weapons have killed hundreds of American Marines and soldiers on the battlefield, shattering their families in an unbelievable way.

What will these leaders do if they have nuclear weapons? Inexplicably, instead of making sure they never get a nuclear weapon, Barack Obama's politically motivated peace-in-our-time capitulation empowers the most dangerous sponsor of terrorism on this Earth and places them on the path to obtain an entire nuclear arsenal.