

money, is being sent to the U.N. We must use that leverage at the U.N. to hold those entities accountable and to fight back this fraudulent unilateral statehood scheme and these efforts to delegitimize Israel.

We need to make every effort we can to signal to the world that our commitment is an unbreakable bond between the U.S. and the democratic Jewish state and that that bond is unwavering.

ARE WE IN OR OUT IN ELIMINATING ISIS?

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on September 10, 2014, President Obama announced that the United States would “degrade and ultimately destroy” ISIS. ISIS has obviously not gotten the memo. This terrorist group keeps moving across the Middle East, killing those who stand in its way by raping, pillaging, and murdering those who disagree with them. ISIS controls half of Syria and large parts of Iraq. Civilized society is losing to these barbarians.

Despite the U.S. spending billions on a counterterrorism strategy, the terrorist group’s numbers have not decreased. In fact, ISIS has grown in size, with affiliates all over the world, including Indonesia, Yemen, Egypt, and even Libya.

A \$3 billion U.S. airstrike campaign has been plagued with little measurable successful results. From the very beginning, military officials warned that airstrikes alone that relied on virtually no human intelligence or on-the-ground intelligence would not be successful. Without good intelligence, the number of airstrikes the U.S. has carried out have been few, and the results are uncertain.

Also, ISIS fighters killed by our airstrikes are just replaced by other jihadists. Our intelligence estimates that ISIS’ numbers are the same as they were when our airstrikes began.

In addition, the administration’s \$500 million train and equip program has proved to be a failure by anyone’s measure. In July, officials reported they had identified 7,000 planned participants but only trained 60 of these mercenaries. Later that month, 54 fighters crossed into Syria to fight ISIS forces that numbered in the tens of thousands. Of those 54 mercenaries, virtually all were killed, captured, or scattered when attacked. We are now down to four or five U.S.-trained mercenaries, according to General Lloyd Austin of CENTCOM.

Despite this failed policy, just last week, we sent a second group of 70 U.S.-trained mercenaries into Syria. Just 1 day later, reports suggested that one of the officers defected and surrendered his arms to al Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate, and several truckloads of weapons were allegedly traded to the terrorist group al-Nusra for safe passage.

It is time to abandon this failed train and equip program.

The reality is just as bleak on the online battlefield. ISIS has 30,000 to 40,000 social media accounts. It uses the Internet to spread propaganda, raise money, and find recruits as far away as Washington State.

In 2011, the administration promised a strategy to combat terrorist use of social media. Four years later, we still haven’t seen that plan. No plan, no degrading ISIS, no defeating ISIS.

The intel given to the administration has also been doctored to cover up how badly the war against ISIS is going. Meanwhile, thousands of people are fleeing the Middle East—flooding Europe and demanding entry into other Western nations because of the ISIS carnage and the chaos in Syria as well.

In the face of our failure to destroy ISIS, we should be focusing on what we can do better and how we can improve our strategy without using U.S. ground troops.

ISIS’ advances in Syria translate into more direct threats to our national security and interests, both abroad and at home. ISIS wants to destroy the United States and everything we stand for. ISIS fears no one—certainly not the United States—so it continues to murder in the name of its radical jihad. It has already killed innocent Americans.

We need a strategy that protects American people from this radical Islamic threat. So what is the plan? Let the Russians defeat ISIS and prop up the butcher of Syria, Assad, and let him remain in power? Who knows. The current U.S. plan seems to be like the war in Vietnam: don’t win, don’t lose.

The American people need to know if the U.S. is in or out in the fight against ISIS. If it is in the national security interest of the United States to degrade and defeat them, we need to define the enemy and defeat them.

And that is just the way it is.

SITUATION IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I am not generally in the habit of agreeing with my friend from Texas, but I do thank him for posing some really challenging questions about our activities in Syria.

I think it is fair to say that the situation in Syria has gotten worse, not better. And only now that the chaos in Syria results in the flow of hundreds of thousands of people into Europe and into surrounding and delicately constructed countries, only now that we are having a conversation about how many Syrian refugees we will take in the United States are we beginning to take notice of the moral tragedy that has been with Syria for many, many years.

The civil war in Syria has resulted in the deaths of more than 300,000 people. It has created 4 million refugees and

displaced more than 6.5 million people into places like Jordan and Turkey—and now, in Europe and elsewhere around the world.

Sadly, it appears that the efforts that we have made, which my friend from Texas referred to, have been ineffectual, to put it mildly, and the situation grows worse. We watch now the Russians introducing military equipment into Syria, something that can only result in more violence, more death, and more refugees. We see, sadly—and I have watched this closely from my perch on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—ISIS gaining in strength, not losing strength.

There are lots of conversations to be had about U.S. efforts to train and equip the so-called Syrian moderates. There are conversations to be had about how we deal with Russian influence in the area. But something we must focus on now, and something that is the subject of a letter that I and 54 of my colleagues have sent to the President of the United States, is that the only real solution in Syria, a solution that should be implemented today, is for the international community, all of the players that have a stake and influence in Syria, to come together today to begin the process of working out an international agreement, the terms of which will undoubtedly be uncomfortable for us, but an agreement that will bring an end to the civil war. This agreement should provide for the exit of Bashar al-Assad. He has lost all credibility as a global leader, but he remains there.

Apart from ending the humanitarian and moral crisis in Syria, that conference would allow us to finally align behind an objective that I believe is shared by pretty much everybody in the region, which is the destruction of ISIS.

Until we take this step of coming together around a table that, yes, will involve some unsavory characters, that, yes, will not lead to an agreement that we regard as perfect, until we do that, we will simply be managing chaos. And maybe we will manage chaos well, but it will still be managing chaos: hundreds of thousands of refugees and the destabilization that that will cause, more weaponry being introduced, more U.S. taxpayer dollars expended.

We can do that. That is what we have been doing. We can do it for more months and more years. Or we can do the obvious thing, which is get around a table—and I do call on the President of the United States to show American leadership in this—and say we don’t leave the room until this moral tragedy is stopped.

This is what it would mean to be a leader in the world. We can bomb. We can send military equipment. We do that a lot. Real leadership will involve saying we will come together with people we like and people we don’t to solve this problem.

I call on this House to assist me and others in the effort to make sure that

this becomes a national priority so we can finally bring this tragedy in the Middle East to an end.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate concurs in the House of Representatives amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment to the bill (H.R. 719) "An Act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes."

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend William Vanderbush, Cathedral of Praise, Austin, Texas, offered the following prayer:

My gracious Heavenly Father, I stand in awe and gratitude at Your goodness and Your grace for our Nation.

I pray today that You would grant our Congress, our Representatives, and our President a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You and of Your love.

Fill them with Your Holy Spirit, and may You give them visions, dreams, and new ideas that will shape the course of history for Your glory.

May they display in every decision the States united and not divided. Jesus, let us be one with each other just as we are one with You.

I pray for their families, that You would bless them in their sacrifice and service. I declare healing, grace, wholeness, and peace for all of our Representatives and our Nation today.

Let Your kingdom come, and let Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote

on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CARNEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CARNEY 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND WILLIAM VANDERBUSH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Mrs. NOEM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NOEM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Reverend Bill Vanderbush for serving as guest chaplain of this body today.

When I was a little girl living on a ranch in South Dakota, every Sunday morning, my dad would load us up in a big Oldsmobile four-door diesel car and drive us the long way into town to church. And every Sunday morning he religiously would turn on the radio to KWAT, and we would listen to the sound of Henry Vanderbush's voice fill the car all the way to town.

My dad loved Henry Vanderbush. He was proudly known as the "cow barn preacher," and he spoke to us every single Sunday growing up. When I hear his voice today still, my eyes fill with tears thinking of my dad and how much he loved him.

In a God-ordained meeting a few years ago, I had the opportunity to meet Bill Vanderbush, his son, on an airplane. They have prayed for me; they have encouraged; they have lifted me up, and they have been wonderful friends and prayer partners throughout that.

I want to thank him for coming today and opening this House floor with prayer.

I ask God to continuously bless him and his ministry. They are working to expand it, not only just to people in the country, but people in the city and people across the world. They carry a burden for people's hearts in their souls, and I appreciate them and ask God to richly bless them and their family.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

AN AMERICAN HERO

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

Mr. STEWART. Mr. Speaker, I sit by an American hero, my friend, SAM JOHNSON, to recognize three American heroes in my own hometown: a brave police officer and two sisters, Bre and Kaylie Lasley.

Last week, a man broke into their house and began to viciously attack these two sisters with a knife. They defended each other, they supported each other, and they fought for each other's lives.

Fortunately, a police officer was in the area and, when he heard their screams, he ran to the rescue. Just seconds before this intruder was expected to take Bre's life, this heroic police officer entered the scene and saved her.

Speaking of this officer, Bre said: "Right when we made eye contact, I knew that I was safe. It's a miracle that he had so much composure. He was our angel."

I am proud to serve in a country where police officers put their lives on the line every single day to save us. I am proud to serve in a country where we know that the country isn't great because of the actions of the government; it is great because of heroic and courageous actions of individuals, which is why I would like to present this police officer with my first Profile of Courage award.

MANUFACTURING DAY

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, October 2, is Manufacturing Day, a day to celebrate the American manufacturing industry that has made our country great and to highlight emerging opportunities in the field of advanced manufacturing.

My home State of Rhode Island is the birthplace of the American industrial revolution. It was in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where Samuel Slater opened our country's first successful cotton spinning factory that marked the beginning of a new era in American innovation.

From the textile mills in Woonsocket to the shipyards in Newport, good-paying manufacturing jobs helped build a thriving middle class in Rhode Island and all across our country.

Today, advanced manufacturing fields like 3-D printing, medical device production, and renewable energy offer the promise of new opportunities to a