

to practice his or her faith has been subordinated to the sensibilities of individuals who do not share their faith in God.

In Mississippi, we saw it in August when a high school band from Brandon, Mississippi, was forbidden from playing the hymn "How Great Thou Art" at a football game. We saw it in September in Lamar County as a teacher was ridiculed and disciplined for posting a voluntary prayer list in her classroom.

Just last week, I, along with 45 other Members, joined Congressman FORBES and Senator LANKFORD in support of Coach Kennedy of Bremerton High School in Washington State. Coach Kennedy's 8-year tradition of walking to the 50 yard line after the conclusion of football games to say a quiet prayer was banned last month due to the school district's concern that his actions could be construed as an endorsement of religion.

Recently we have even seen a Marine Corps base in Hawaii come under fire for having a road sign read, "God bless the military, their families, and the citizens who work with them." Wow, even our United States Marines are attacked for exercising their faith.

Mr. Speaker, opponents of religious freedom have been energized by recent decisions made by the United States Supreme Court as well as lower courts, both of which have placed the cultural views of a small group ahead of the thoughts, feelings, and rights of the vast majority of Americans.

Judicial activism at all levels of the Federal judiciary has resulted in the systematic rewriting of centuries-old societal norms, and this must end. Time and again our courts have waded into waters which the Constitution specifically vests in the legislative branch. What is at stake here is nothing less than the future of our country's religious liberties, the religious liberties upon which our very Nation was founded.

Those who have would have God completely removed from public discourse—be it marriage, health care, or the right of schoolchildren to pray or play religious music during football game halftimes are pleased with the first part of the amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion." However, they conveniently ignore the second part: "or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This amendment was enacted by our framers to protect religion from government, not the reverse.

Mr. Speaker, families are struggling to keep it together. Single-parent households are at an all-time high. Poverty, incarceration, teenage pregnancy, and drug usage are all around us. When and where prayer is needed the most, it is no longer allowed or is forbidden. How can we try to remove from the public sphere the one thing that holds us together, and that is our religion?

We can no longer simply leave our religion at the church doors. It is our re-

sponsibility to live out our values and beliefs in our everyday lives. Edmund Burke said it best: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

I support the free expression of religion in all quarters of our society, and I stand with Coach Kennedy, the band from Brandon, the teacher in Lamar County, and every other American who has been stripped of their religious freedoms. I am committed to protecting our right to express our faith without fear of governmental intrusion or retaliation, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

With that, Mr. Speaker, God bless America.

KRISTALLNACHT 77TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Monday, November 9, marks the 77th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the event that would foreshadow the crimes against humanity that the Nazis would commit against 6 million Jews and other religious and ethnic minorities.

Inspired by incitement from the Nazi Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels, regime members, and party loyalists issued orders to local officials to target and attack the Jewish community. Often disguised in plain clothes to perpetuate the false narrative that these were spontaneous attacks and the expression of the public sentiment toward the Jews, the pogroms of Kristallnacht had an immediate and chilling impact.

Mr. Speaker, mobs roamed the streets freely attacking Jews in their houses, destroying their businesses, and forcing them to perform public acts of humiliation. Nearly 300 synagogues were destroyed while Jewish artifacts and archives were confiscated.

Approximately 7,500 Jewish-owned businesses and shops were vandalized and looted; and to add to the disgrace and punishment of having their livelihoods taken from them and destroyed, the Jews were blamed for the events of Kristallnacht, and they were fined for damages—the then equivalent of \$400 million. Over 30,000 Jews were arrested and then transferred to some of the Nazi's most gruesome and notorious concentration camp sites during the events of Kristallnacht.

Nearly 100 Jews were killed on the night of November 9, 1938, and into the morning the next day.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, this was only the beginning. Facing little public backlash, the Nazi regime took the events of Kristallnacht as a signal of support for their cruel treatment of the Jewish community and quickly imposed restrictions against the Jews that would lead up to the Holocaust.

□ 1115

Mr. Speaker, Kristallnacht is a solemn reminder of what can happen when

people allow anti-Semitism, incitement, and hatred to carry on unabated. Kristallnacht was the manifestation of fear and scapegoating and was not only allowed to take place, but was the direct result of a people's indifference to the hatred of a religious minority. And indifference is, indeed, all that is needed for evil to take root, for evil to expand.

That is precisely why we must commemorate these tragic events that mar our collective past and that mark one of humanity's darkest periods, and why we must rededicate ourselves to the vow of: "Never again."

This is particularly important in today's environment, as Israel finds itself plagued by a new round of terror and violence that has been spurred upon by incitement and anti-Israel indoctrination from the Palestinian authority and its so-called leaders.

In the past month and a half, there have been nearly 60 random knife attacks against Israeli citizens, five shootings, and six car ramming. Yet, where is the condemnation from the international community? Instead of speaking out against these attacks, the United Nations Human Rights Council invited Abu Mazen, and he used his platforms to spew out his harmful and inciting rhetoric. Responsible nations must condemn, not ignore, Abu Mazen's words and his actions.

Last month, Secretary Kerry said that leaders need to lead; and, this week, this body stood up and said enough is enough.

The House passed a resolution I offered, alongside my south Florida colleague, Congressman TED DEUTCH, that condemned the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attacks from within the Palestinian authority.

The House also passed a resolution that encouraged our government to do more in the fight against anti-Semitism and to work more closely with the governments of Europe to step up their efforts to battle the alarming rise of anti-Semitism across the continent.

And we need to do more at home, especially on our college campuses. Too often, Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is being disguised as an anti-Israel political attack, manifested primarily through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, the BDS movement.

We have a moral obligation to stand up against these acts.

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 o'clock and 18 minutes 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

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God, our Creator, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You brought light from darkness and order from chaos. During ongoing contentious debates, lead our lawmakers, using their daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat, to strive together for Your glory. May the fruits of their labor redound to the benefit of our Nation.

As a community of colleagues, possessed of multiple layers of friendships unknown to the public eye, this assembly takes special notice today of the passing of Howard Coble, the much-loved and respected Member of 30 years from North Carolina. A gentleman to the core, may we all strive to embody his grace, class, and respect for this institution and for those among whom we engage in the work to be done here. May he rest in peace.

And may everything done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Ms. CHU) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF HOWARD COBLE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today we mourn the loss of Howard Coble, a dedicated public servant and a champion for his constituents in North Carolina's Sixth District for 30 years. He never

backed down from a challenge to do what was right for North Carolina and always pushed Washington to work better for those he represented.

Howard was the essence of what it means to be a Southern gentleman, someone who simply exuded kindness, charm, and compassion. He was a man of integrity and principle, a Representative who stood for what is right and who fought on behalf of what makes America great.

He will be missed, but his legacy of service and devotion to North Carolina will continue to be the standard that current and future leaders follow.

Howard, we miss you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POWER ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, we depend on immigrant workers to take some of the toughest jobs. They pick our food, clean our houses, and wash our cars. As U.S. workers, they deserve to freely exercise their labor rights; yet when immigrants want to organize for fair pay or decent working conditions, they are often silenced by unscrupulous employers who retaliate through harassment, abuse, and threats of immigration enforcement.

This is unacceptable. When I hear about it, I think of Asuncion Valdivia, who died after 10 hours of grape picking in 105 degree heat. Asuncion did not have the opportunity to report a violation. We cannot allow any voice to be stifled, especially when that voice is speaking out against dangerous or unfair practices.

That is why I am introducing the POWER Act this week. This bill expands U visa eligibility for victims of retaliation, strengthens labor agencies' investigative powers, and allows a stay of removal for workers who filed a workplace claim.

We must protect our workers, no matter who they are.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL'S BOYS' SOCCER TEAM

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marian High School boys' soccer team. For the first time in the school's 51-year history, the Knights won a State title. Last weekend, the Knights claimed the Class 1A State boys' soccer championship with a 3-0 victory.

The win also earned Head Coach Ben Householter his first State championship in 18 years as head coach. He was also named the Northern Indiana Conference Coach of the Year. All season long, Marian competed against the best of the best, finishing with 20 wins and only 2 losses.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today a very proud Hoosier. Marian High School is a great school, and the team, the coach, the teachers, and the entire student body should be proud today. I want to recognize the parents, who sacrifice so much for their kids to play in sports programs.

The achievement that this is today is something these students will have for a lifetime. On behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District of the State of Indiana, I applaud Coach Householter and the entire team for their determination and hard work. I congratulate them all on an amazing season.

NEW STARTS AND SMALL STARTS PROGRAM

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts and Small Starts program, which provides critical grant funding for the creation or extension of existing fixed guideway transit systems.

Funding for these projects has facilitated the creation of dozens of new or extended public transportation systems in rural, suburban, and urban communities all across this country.

By creating good-paying construction jobs and connecting job-seeking commuters with employers, New Starts offers significant benefits to communities that are in need of rail expansion.

In New Hampshire and across New England, we have been working collaboratively with our neighboring States to create a unified vision for our region's rail networks.

I was pleased to host a rail summit just a few weeks ago that brought together regional stakeholders and officials from the Federal Railroad Administration, the FTA, and New England States.

As we continue to work on the highway bill this week, I urge my colleagues to support Congressmen LIPINSKI, NADLER, and DOLD's amendment, which will restore much-needed local flexibility for New Start projects.

NORTH CAROLINA HAS LOST A FAVORITE SON

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

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, last night on election day in North Carolina, we lost one of our favorite sons, Howard Coble, a man who served in these Halls for three full decades, yet his heart always belonged to the constituents of The Old North State. I am honored to stand with my colleagues today and others in acknowledging our Congressman.