

about, just in closing, what can we do. We must do more, we must care more, and we must understand more about the diverse cultures that make up this Nation.

A long time ago, as director of community affairs for the Village of Matteson, it has been 19 years now I have worked with a team hosting diversity dinners in our area to grow friendships and nurture relations among residents of the south suburbs of Chicago.

Tonight as we discuss race relations in America, I want to reflect on what I see as the way to bridge the differences we experience in understanding in different communities.

Earlier this year, I along with colleagues, Democrat and Republican, hosted the Second Annual Congressional Diversity Dinner. Forty Members of Congress—Black, White, Asian, and Hispanic from both parties, including both Republican and Democratic leadership—showed up and enjoyed a meal with their colleagues. During the dinner, we weren't Democrats or Republicans. We were colleagues with some great stories to share.

At this year's dinner, I saw a microcosm of our Nation, a crowd made up of Members from coast to coast with truly diverse backgrounds coming together to enjoy each other's company. If we can put aside our racial and partisan blinders to break bread together, I am confident we can find ways to work together. That is what America wants and needs, and that type of leadership is the kind of leadership we deserve.

Today we have the opportunity to celebrate diversity and show that America is only strengthened when we embrace the fact that we are a beautiful, I will say, pot of stew. There is much that communities can do to stanch out the rhetoric that divides us and find creative ways to bring people together. It was a small action, but that was what the diversity dinner sought to do.

Now it is time for us to come together to address the reforms needed to rebuild trust between communities. Let's show the American people that we are a diverse people, we are proud of it, and we celebrate it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this has been a challenging year for race relations in the United States. Between the recent events at college campuses across the country and several incidents involving law enforcement, it is clear that strong racial tensions still exist within our communities.

Renewed efforts to disenfranchise select groups of voters by gutting the Voting Rights Act or segregating neighborhoods in violation of the Fair Housing Act have contributed to the divisive elements of our society. These efforts run counter to everything that we as a nation have tried to eliminate in bringing diverse individuals together under common values—and there is still much work to be done.

The fight for racial equality and inclusion has been a constant struggle for individuals of color throughout our long history. Despite important victories during the Civil Rights era, a new struggle has emerged in our time to tackle more subtle and implicit racial biases that exist within our society.

Recognizing these challenges and maintaining open and civil dialogue is the only way that we can seek to end these senseless divisions once and for all. While it is also important to learn from the lessons of our past, how we decide to move forward will truly come to define the future of our nation.

As we look to overcome our differences, we must reflect on our values and determine what kind of future we would like to see for our children. Do we want to leave behind a divided nation where individuals quarrel over race or socioeconomic status? Or do we want to live in a nation united under equal opportunity and justice for each and every American? I, for one, choose to support an equal and just America.

Mr. Speaker, there will continue to be challenges ahead. However, the lessons that we carry with us into the future will help guide our decisions to build for a stronger and more prosperous America. I urge my colleagues to speak out against this blatant discrimination so that we can heal our country and move forward as a nation.

#### FIGHTING TERRORISM AROUND THE WORLD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. 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 gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to host this Special Order tonight.

Less than 100 hours ago, we were provided another tragic reminder of the world that we live in, a world where radical terrorists are engaged in a violent war against the U.S. and our allies. Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences go to our ally, France, here this evening.

□ 2130

Prior to Friday night's events in Paris, tonight's Special Order was going to focus on recent incidents of terrorist-led violence across Israel. Yet Friday night's events are not dissimilar from the escalation of violence we have seen across Israel in recent months and in other places of the world.

The attacks have been indiscriminate in their targets. The attacks have been intended to instill fear. And the at-

tacks are a direct affront to the daily lives and the way of life of innocent, peaceful civilians.

I want to share with you the words of Prime Minister Netanyahu this weekend:

"In Israel, as in France, terrorism is terrorism, and standing behind it is radical Islam and its desire to destroy its victims. The time has come for the world to wake up and unite in order to defeat terrorism. The time has come for countries to condemn terrorism against us to the same degree that they condemn terrorism everywhere else in the world.

"We should remember—we are not to blame for the terrorism directed against us, just as the French are not to blame for the terrorism directed against them. The terrorists who attack us have the same murderous intent as those in Paris."

Mr. Speaker, we know that ISIS has claimed responsibility for the Paris attacks, but while we can condemn those attacks here this evening, it seems very evident to me, and I think Americans all across this country, as we ask, I think, the same question: Are we safe, and are the policies of this administration and its foreign policy and the refugee admissions policy making us safer, or are they cause for concern and require more discernment and a more scrutinizing eye by this Congress and the American people?

This year alone, there have been at least 49 alleged supporters of ISIS in America charged with related crimes, and it is reported that there is an estimated 20,000 foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria likely holding Western passports.

In May, FBI Director James Comey said:

Thousands in the U.S. may be consuming ISIS propaganda on the Internet.

Tonight, in light of the horrific terrorist attack in Paris and the escalating violence in Israel, as we stand to express our solidarity with our friends and allies affected by violent and extreme acts of terror, we must also be thinking about what we as Americans can do to defeat—not contain—but eliminate radical jihadists and terrorists who are hell-bent on undermining the U.S., our allies, and our way of life.

A little bit later I will speak more on my views on our present foreign policy and the refugee admissions policy, but we have over the course of the next hour many Members from across the United States of America condemning indiscriminate terrorist attacks, radical Islamic jihad, and violence across the world.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to our first speaker this evening, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. ELLMERS).

Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina. I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his leadership on this issue and for holding this very important leadership hour talking about the issues that obviously affect our allies in the world but also the safety of the American people.

As we are discussing these issues and the views that are taking place and the discussion and the debate that is going to be had on this issue, I think it is important, again, that we remember this is an American national security issue, and we in the House have to be as vigilant and as strong as we can be on the issue.

The attacks carried out on Friday by radical Islamic extremists can only be described as barbaric, and we are responding with force. Yet, this morning, the President announced at a G-20 summit in Turkey that there "wouldn't be any major changes to the approach taken against ISIS."

The President's passive approach has proven to be no deterrent to these Islamic extremists, and it is time that he implement a clear and comprehensive strategy to completely destroy ISIS abroad, on their soil, so that we are not fighting them on ours.

This is an issue of American national security. Additionally, this is why again and again I have repeatedly called on the need to secure our border and repair our broken immigration system to keep these threats out.

It has never been a matter of if, but a matter of when, we might face this type of attack here at home. Time has shown that it is up to us in the House to be the voice of strength for the American people.

As we work together to determine a stronger path forward, we will proudly stand with our allies—as they did with us—against these extreme forces of evil.

We will continue to hold the people of France in our prayers.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I would like to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her participation.

I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY.)

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for leading this important Special Order today.

We stand with our allies across the world who have repeatedly and recently experienced violent acts of terrorism, specifically in Israel and France. We pray for the victims and their families, and we stand united in our efforts to bring these attackers, these terrorists, to justice.

It is clear that we are at war with radical Islam. How do you expect to destroy your enemy if you can't even identify them or call them by name? They know who we are. They call us the infidels. And they will quit at no cost to destroy us all. We must identify and attack our enemy.

The world is safer when America chooses to lead. We must put forward a coordinated and comprehensive strategy to eliminate ISIS, not a policy of containment. We can no longer underestimate the desire and ability for them to attack us in our homes. Our men and women in uniform will destroy the enemy, wherever they are, if

we give them clear guidance and a strategy which they can enforce.

These acts of terrorism seek to make us less free. They are carried out on the mission of instilling fear, uncertainty, and hate. But the terrorists do not get to win. Americans and those other countries that promote freedom and democracy will continue to live our lives, go to work, provide for our families, and advocate for those same freedoms around the world.

Now is the time to have faith in God, hug your loved ones a little tighter, and continue our commitment to eliminate the threat of ISIS, radical Islam, and other terrorist organizations around the world.

God bless our servicemembers, and God bless America.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I want to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY).

Mr. HARDY. I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his efforts to host us here this evening and for the opportunity to speak.

As the events of Paris unfolded over the weekend, I watched in horror with the rest of the world as violent terror once again touched the soil of America's oldest allies. I echo the cares and concerns of the world that terror is growing. And we must stand united against it. Terror does not respect borders or nationalities. Its effects are felt in the smallest village and in the world's most recognizable cities.

Nearly 500 innocent people were killed or injured in Paris this weekend, only 10 months after the extremists attacked the Charlie Hebdo offices, murdering 17. Last week, 43 people were killed and 239 were injured by a suicide bomber in Beirut. Mounting evidence shows that terrorists were likely involved in the deaths of 224 people aboard a Russian jet that went down in Egypt last month. In Israel, our friends have been battling this increased violence for weeks, with no predictable end in sight.

Each of these events happened in the last 2 months, and there are countless other victims of hate around the world whose loss too often goes unnoticed. Those losses have continuously happened over the past 6 to 7 years, and some of them seem to fall on deaf ears and unseeing eyes.

No matter the location, the fact is that too many parents in these nations worry if their children will come home safe at night. It is times like these that defenders of freedom need to remember the common threads that bind us together against the power of evil. France was not the beginning, nor will it be the end.

On the heels of this tragedy, ISIS has taken credit and released a video promising that something "worse is coming." Something worse is coming. We should not neglect that threat.

Our own CIA Director said earlier today that he "anticipates this is not

the only operation that ISIL has in the pipeline. The Paris attack is not something that was planned in a matter of days."

The President has stated a shared goal that we want to "degrade and destroy" ISIS. While that is the goal of all, in the meantime, we are obligated to the American people to contain and control these crazed attackers.

ISIS has expanded to Egypt, Yemen, Afghanistan, and to Pakistan. Teenagers from England and Europe have attempted to, or successfully supported, ISIS on the ground. As sickening as these actions are, it is more terrifying to think that those recruits might bring their new training back home. How long until we see terrorism touching our U.S. soil again?

This is not just a threat to the eastern hemisphere. This is a global threat that requires a global response. The U.S. cannot be the only one involved, but we also cannot fail to act. When America fails to lead, there is too often a vacuum that we have seen filled with the nightmares of hateful leaders who disregard innocent lives in their quest for power and control.

We must be vigilant for the sake of life in America and across the world. We must continue to fight these extremists and stand as a united front against the rising tide of evil.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Nevada for participating in tonight's Special Order.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I want to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his hard work and leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, tonight, this Hoosier rises in solidarity with our French brethren.

Fourteen years ago, on September 11, when radical terrorists struck at the heart of the United States, France stood by us. In one of America's darkest hours, when no words seemed to adequately express the shock and sadness we felt, it was our French allies who famously evoked the phrase: "We are all Americans."

Sadly, last Friday evening, on November 13, 2015, France was similarly subjected to multiple acts of terror in Paris. Now, it is our turn to offer our support to the fallen, to their families, and to all of France. Today, Mr. Speaker, we Americans stand with the people of France.

Our ties with France date back hundreds of years, to the days of the American Revolutionary War. Our shared values, our respect for liberty, equality, and democracy, have bound our two great nations through centuries of conflict and peace.

So, tonight, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana, I send my sincere thoughts and prayers to the Parisians so devastated by this atrocity. Together, we will restore France. Together, we will defend civilization against barbarianism, and together we can endeavor to eliminate ISIS.

In the wake of this sorrow, we must reflect on what led to this attack on innocent civilians. And then we must, as we say in the Marines, “adapt, improvise, and overcome.”

We must find ways to prevent future attacks from occurring on our soil and the soil of our allies across the Atlantic. This won't be without risk. Leadership never is. At this critical juncture, I hope Congress stands ready to support the administration, to encourage its development of a winning strategy that doesn't purport to merely contain ISIS but instead turns the tide of radicalism in the region and eradicates this radical brand of terror.

□ 2130

This is no time for half measures, Mr. Speaker. It will be imperative for the United States to coordinate with France and our other NATO allies on a joint strategy to defeat ISIS, to eliminate this evil.

This is, of course, no time for political posturing, empty rhetoric or gamesmanship. It is a time for unity. I look forward to working with my colleagues and working with our Commander in Chief on a war strategy that will annihilate the radical Islamic state, keep the American people safe, and return Syria to its people.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight we stand with our brothers and sisters in Israel and France to express our support and our commitment to these, our allies overseas.

We have witnessed the violence in Israel in recent weeks whipped up by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority, knowing now that radical Islamic militants are determined to continue their assault on the democracies of the world and western civilization.

On Friday, the 13th, the world witnessed an unspeakable tragedy brought about by ISIS. This is a terrorist organization that has repeatedly plagued the Middle East with gruesome beheadings, violent killings, the rape of women, and the enslavement of children.

Now they have unleashed a terror rampage on our ally, France, and they promise to bring it to America as well.

Our President has called this slaughter “a setback.” So now Congress must recognize both the gravity and the tragedy of what has recently occurred and respond accordingly.

What will it take, I ask, for this administration to admit that we are in a life-and-death struggle with radical Islam?

Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu once gave this admonition: Know thy enemy. The enemy must be identified in order to defeat him.

My thoughts and prayers are with the victims of the recent terrorist attacks, and I hope that the United States will stand by them and the peo-

ple of Israel as well as France during these times.

To the people of France: I am very sorry—Je suis vraiment desole.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from New York (Mr. ZELDIN).

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in solidarity with the people of France in the aftermath of last Friday's horrific terror attacks in Paris.

I also commend the French for their swift leadership in decisively and powerfully taking immediate action. They are delivering justice to those responsible for the cowardly attack on their innocent people.

This latest attack wasn't just on France. No. This was an attack on all free nations targeted and threatened by the brutal and savage tactics of Islamic terrorists who oppose the basic freedoms and liberties of the free world.

This is not an isolated incident or a final stand. Far from it. It could be France today and the United States tomorrow.

I should point out that there is but one mandatory function constitutionally of the Federal Government. That is to provide for our national defense. This is a constitutional duty and a moral imperative that trumps any day of the week the charity of opening our doors to a Syrian who will blow himself or herself up on our streets in the name of Allah.

I say, if an ISIS member wants to meet Allah, that we give them every opportunity to do so with a bomb from the air or a round of ammo from the end of a Navy SEAL rifle that you would never want to be on the wrong end of if you are the bad guy.

The good news is this: It doesn't require an occupation or an enduring ground operation. I don't want that. No one wants that. But it does mean that our entire strategy must evolve quickly and effectively.

We may have help from very motivated and a diverse capability of French, British, German, and now even Russians. We must understand that losing is not an option.

What we can't do is put 50 Special Operations Forces on the ground in Syria, in the middle of a war zone, and then tell them they are not there on a combat operation. You can't tell that to them, their family, the entire free world. It is just divorced from the reality of what they will face every day on the ground.

If you aren't going to send our servicemembers to win, do not send them at all.

I would be happy to support a strategy to win if I actually believed the President had one.

First and foremost, ID the threat. You cannot defeat a threat that you cannot or will not identify.

Next, execute a strategy to win, not just tread water. It is not about getting them jobs. It is about wiping them off

the face of the Earth. You annihilate the enemy. You don't contain it, especially not this enemy.

You eliminate the threat. You don't literally, as a matter of policy, escort that threat across our borders.

Here at home we must not move forward with the President's plan to bring in several tens of thousands of refugees, especially and so importantly, because we cannot identify who the bad ones are.

Not one Syrian refugee should be brought into America without knowing with confidence that they do not pose a threat. We must not bury our heads in the sand or try to click our heels together to an alternate reality.

Last week was Veterans Day. We were again reminded of the sacrifices that have been made through generations to protect our way of life. Let's honor their memory, treasure American greatness, stand up for freedom, and make sure what happened in Paris on Friday does not happen on our own home turf tomorrow.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. That was excellent. Thank you, Mr. ZELDIN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my deepest sympathies and condolences from the citizens of Ohio's Ninth Congressional District to the people of France, our longstanding brothers and sisters in liberty. To all whose loved ones were killed or hurt in the barbaric attacks in Paris last weekend, we offer our prayers of comfort and consolation.

Our sincerest thanks are extended to the law enforcement officials who bravely brought order, the health officials who ministered to those who tragically lost their lives, and to the hundreds suffering injury.

Around the world, freedom-loving people are repeating the words of *La Marseillaise*, the national anthem of France. This powerful song of liberty against tyranny roused that nation when it was written at the start of the French Revolution, just a few years after America's own fight for liberty.

One verse seems especially appropriate to recite tonight. Translated into English, it says: Sacred love of the Fatherland: Liberty, cherished liberty, fight with thy defenders. Fight with thy defenders.

This is a message for the world today. America is fighting alongside those who defend liberty. Surely, France.

We stand with those who fight for liberty—Combats avec tes défenseurs.

The American people have long cherished and defended the spirit of liberty alongside the people of France, and there is no greater symbol of that in our harbor, New York Harbor, than the Statue of Liberty, which reminds us always of the triumph of freedom over subjugated people.

In modern times, France has been a founding member of NATO and a permanent member of the United Nations

Security Council, and we will work together to defeat this enemy as we have together defeated Nazism, communism, and now, as well, this new threat.

We will have the finest intelligence assets that our nations have placed on the ground in countries around the world.

We have used our intelligence assets here at home to keep out and prevent those who would harm our people from coming inside our borders. We always worry. We keep trying to make the security even better. But we have come a long way since 9/11.

Each American can play an important role by reporting suspect behavior they observe, and you can help our law enforcement officials ferret out dangerous elements that could prey upon our own people.

On the home front, every citizen can help by paying attention to what you see and, if suspicious, report it to your local law enforcement officials and, in an emergency, to 911.

Also important is strengthening the bonds of community, at home, at work, at school. Build bridges in your own community, including religious confessions. Let's build bridges across religious confessions in this country. Let no denomination feel isolated or abandoned at this tense time.

We stand with the people of France. We feel their loss. We stand with you as partners in liberty and forever keep in our hearts the enduring call: Liberty, equality, and fraternity—liberte, egalite, fraternite.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York mentioned a minute ago about our constitutional obligation and the moral imperatives that we have to defend our homeland and our national defense, and I couldn't agree with him more.

In that spirit, I want to start to conclude my comments by saying something I think most agree with, and that is we need to enhance our intelligence and our vetting process of those who come to our country, including potential Syrian refugees, to reflect the seriousness of threats posed by ISIS.

I want to go into a little bit of information that is easy to come by if you have paid attention to this issue, as I have, and the reality of the situation on the ground in Syria.

As a result of over 4 years of Syrian civil war, we are seeing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, and we can and we will, as America, continue to be a leader in the provision of aid and relief. But we can't afford to put the cart before the horse when it comes to admission policies here.

This year alone over half a million Syrian people are seeking refuge in Europe, and our European allies are looking to us for assistance. However, it is gravely concerning, I think, when your FBI Director, in this case, James Comey, said earlier this year that our government is unable to conduct thor-

ough background checks on the 10,000 Syrian refugees that the administration will allow in the United States. His quote: We have no record of them, and you can only query what you have collected.

Mr. Speaker, the concerns and objections that I am raising aren't just mine. They are the multitude of phone calls and e-mails that my office has received today and I suspect all Members have received today.

It is not isolationist. It is not anti-humanitarian. It is common sense, and it is in the name of making sure that we are protecting our people and securing our homeland from threats.

It is not unreasonable to conduct due diligence on who is coming into our country, and we can't move forward with a policy of admit first and ask later. We have to close the gaps in our screening process of refugees entering into our country.

The Homeland Security Committee chairman, Mr. MCCAUL, recently introduced legislation H.R. 3573, the Refugee Resettlement Oversight and Security Act. It would make substantial improvements to our refugee program and enhance congressional oversight of the administration's refugee proposals.

Many don't know that Congress right now does not have much, if any, say over our refugee admission policy. This bill is intended to change that. It would require, amongst other things, GAO to review the security gaps in the current screening process.

The President, as I mentioned, has proposed resettling at least 10,000 Syrian refugees currently residing outside the Syria conflict zone in refugee camps to the U.S. this fiscal year.

I quote from correspondence I had the opportunity to review today that Chairman MCCAUL wrote to the President: "We remain concerned that these resettlements are taking place without appropriate regard for the safety of the American people."

□ 2145

Nothing is more fundamental. Nothing gets at the core of what our Constitution is intended to protect as that statement.

In his correspondence, Mr. Speaker, he cites to a couple pieces of testimony that he received this past summer from various officials. Leaders from the FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the Department of Homeland Security have all said to our Homeland Security Committee that they lack the on-the-ground intelligence necessary to thoroughly vet Syrian refugees who seek to resettle here.

National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen testified on October 21 that you have to rely on a vet. When you are vetting an applicant's information, his opinion is this: "It isn't what we'd like it to be."

FBI Director Comey explained during that same hearing: "If someone has not made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or

their interests reflected in our database, we can query our database until the cows come home, but nothing will show up because we have no record of that person. You can only query what you have collected."

I mentioned a piece of that statement a little earlier. That is the full statement. And it gets to the point that, as we are concerned about our security and we are trusting the administration to properly vet those who seek to come here, we have to rely on intelligence, and our intelligence leaders are offering something less than full confidence that their intelligence on those Syrian refugees is something that we need to look a lot further at. That is what I think we need to do.

Finally, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Johnson said: "It is true that we are not going to know a whole lot about the Syrians that come forth in this process."

Now, I know tomorrow at 5:30, I believe, we will have a confidential briefing from the FBI Director and our Director on Homeland Security.

Mr. Speaker, my point here this evening was just to raise some issues that, frankly, were on the front of my mind and many others in my district and many other Members of Congress even before the tragedy that happened in Paris on Friday. What happened on Friday only reinforces in me and many others that ISIS isn't contained, and, in fact, a strategy of containment is actually a dangerous one; and further, as we are looking at the Syrian admission policy, it cannot be allowed to remain as it presently is. Be it through legislation or be it through this administration's providing us more detail and allowing Congress and the American people to get a better understanding of what is and isn't happening I think would go a long way towards making us feel a lot safer. In fact, if reforms need to be made, if the program needs to be halted at the present time, then that is what should be done.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for participating in the Special Order this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 19 on account of medical leave, recovering from eye surgery.

Mrs. LAWRENCE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in district.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through November 19 on account of medical reason.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's