

have called on Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf to suspend efforts to bring Syrian refugees to Pennsylvania until there are verifiable and robust mechanisms in place to properly screen all participants for potential security risks.

To facilitate the thorough screening needed, I am supporting legislation prompting the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence and the FBI, to provide new security assurances before admitting refugees into the country and for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a sweeping review of security gaps in the current refugee review process. This measure addresses both shortcomings in our existing programs and ensures a role for congressional oversight.

Mr. Speaker, the refugee crisis the world faces is a symptom of a larger problem: militant Islam and the efforts of groups like ISIS to destabilize and destroy others. We need a long-term solution to this problem, and that includes defeating ISIS.

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 10 o'clock and 48 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.

PRAAYER

Reverend Christopher Weidner, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

O God, You are our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

We remember Your servant leaders who have come before us, speaking light out of darkness, fashioning order out of chaos, and, mindful of the voiceless, daring decision and deploying power for the life of our Nation and the care of the Earth.

Move us by their witness, O God, and guide us by Your wisdom in every opportunity that comes before us now.

And when our way is uncertain, untraveled, or unclear, when failure or fatigue drive us apart, restore our footing, reconnect us, by the gravity of Your grace.

Remember us as one body, Members of this one House, faithful in our one service.

Give us courage, inspire our imagination, nudge us to dare the possible in Your gift of today with our gifts for tomorrow, in Your holy name, we pray.

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 Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ASHFORD 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 CHRISTOPHER WEIDNER

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome and introduce our guest chaplain for today, Pastor Christopher L. Weidner, the pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania.

In 1985, Pastor Chris was ordained as a minister of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. For 30 years, he has played an active and important role in our local community, engaging in programs such as the companionship ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council Finance Committee, the Bear Creek Lutheran Camp board of directors, and he has helped provide affordable housing for seniors through the St. Luke Knolls program. Additionally, he volunteers his time as a hospital chaplain.

This coming Sunday, after 20 years, Pastor Chris will serve his final worship service at St. Luke's. We wish him blessings on the next chapter in his ministry.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome Pastor Christopher L. Weidner to the people's House today and offer our most heartfelt thanks for leading us in prayer this morning as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TERROR WILL NOT PREVAIL

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

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the world stands with the people of France this week.

The events in Paris were horrifying. All of us were shaken by them. Yet we know that whenever terror like this strikes, the world community will rally together. Terror will not prevail. But these events should serve as a reminder: there is still evil out there. We cannot ignore it. We cannot contain it. We must defeat it. And we must protect our people.

The country is uneasy and unsettled, and they have every right to be—not because of what they are hearing from politicians, but what they have seen with their own eyes. All of us here, Republicans and Democrats, are hearing these concerns in our offices.

People understand the plight of those fleeing the Middle East, but they also want basic assurances for the safety of this country.

We are a compassionate nation. We always have been, and we always will be. But we also must remember that our first priority is to protect the American people. We can be compassionate, and we can also be safe.

That is what the bill that we are bringing up tomorrow is all about. It calls for a new standard of verification for refugees from Syria and Iraq. It would mean a pause in the program until we can be certain beyond any doubt that those coming here are not a threat. It is that simple. I don't think it is too much to ask.

I also want to point out that we will not have a religious test, only a security one. If the intelligence and law enforcement community cannot certify a person presents no threat, then they should not be allowed in. This is common sense, and it is our obligation.

Let me also say to Members and to the country that we cannot lose sight of the bigger threat in Syria. The refugee crisis is just a consequence of a failed policy in that region. The ultimate solution is a plan to defeat ISIS.

That is why we are sending to the President a bill this week that requires him to finally propose an overarching strategy to deal with Syria and the terrorist threat in that region. This threat is not going away until we acknowledge and confront the real danger that exists.

There is a long road ahead, but today, for this moment, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation tomorrow and to help keep America safe.

HONORING DR. ROBERT HEANEY

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Dr. Robert Heaney on the occasion of his 87th birthday. It is an honor to share a birthday, November 10, with such a distinguished member of our community.

Dr. Heaney is a world-renowned researcher in vitamin D deficiency. He is one of the most published researchers in the United States. He has published

over 400 original papers, chapters, and reviews on science and education. His accomplishments speak to his perseverance and commitment to innovation in his field.

From 1971 to 1984, Dr. Heaney served as Professor Emeritus and Vice-President of Health Sciences for my law school alma mater, Creighton University, in Omaha.

In addition to his own achievements in his own field, he is no stranger to nutrition policy. Dr. Heaney helped redefine nutritional requirements by providing the link between malnutrition and long-term health problems. Most recently, he served as research director of Grassroots Health, a nonprofit organization committed to solving global vitamin D deficiency.

I wish Dr. Heaney a very happy 87th birthday, and here's to many more.

PRESIDENT SHOULD CHANGE COURSE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful this morning that General John Keane testified before a joint hearing of the Foreign Affairs and Homeland Security Committees. General Keane provided an overview:

“ISIS is part of the multigenerational struggle against radical Islam that will likely dominate the first half of the 21st century similar to the fight against communism, which dominated the second half of the 20th century. Fourteen years after 9/11, the U.S. has no comprehensive strategy or a global alliance to defeat radical Islam.”

He explained further:

“What ISIS has accomplished in the last few weeks is unprecedented. While conducting a conventional war in Iraq and Syria, ISIS has staged terrorist attacks on a global scale against the people from countries who are fighting ISIS. The result is almost 900 casualties in 12 days, both killed and wounded, who are Russian, Lebanese, and mostly French in Paris.”

The President should change course and accept the positive counsel of General Keane to defeat ISIS. Actions should be taken to prevent further attacks, since in the last 48 hours ISIS has threatened to attack Washington and Rome.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NOHEMI GONZALEZ

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Nohemi Gonzalez, a 23-year-old Cal State Long Beach student

whose life was cut short Friday night in the terrorist attacks in Paris.

Nohemi was a shining star of the Cal State Long Beach design department. She was in Paris for the semester, studying at the Strate School of Design and traveling Europe. It was her first time abroad. Nohemi has been described as a cheerful soul and a self-driven young woman who had everything at her feet.

My heart goes out to her mother, Beatriz; her longtime boyfriend, Tim; and all of her family and friends. I cannot imagine the pain they are feeling.

This tragedy has brought home the devastation of terrorism, which often seems isolated and worlds away. Her murder has stunned all Americans, but it is particularly painful for the southern California delegation in Congress and the Long Beach and El Monte communities that lost one of their own.

As we grieve for our own loss, we stand in solidarity with Paris and with the families of 129 victims killed in Friday's attacks. As French authorities continue raids to bring the perpetrators of this ungodly violence to justice, our hearts are with the people of France, our loyal friend and our earliest ally.

HONORING SHERIFF DENNY NAU ON HIS RETIREMENT

(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 in recognition of the contributions of Centre County, Pennsylvania, Sheriff Denny Nau, who will retire at the end of this year.

Denny has served in that office for more than two decades after being elected in 1991. Before being elected sheriff, he served as a Pennsylvania State Police trooper. Sheriff Nau is also a marine, joining after graduating high school.

Over his 24 years as Centre County Sheriff, Denny has influenced countless law enforcement officers. In fact, more than 40 of his former deputies are police officers in areas ranging from Altoona to Pittsburgh or are serving as State troopers.

Nau has overseen great growth by the Centre County Sheriff's Office along with transitions to new technology, from typewriters to the use of state-of-the-art software to track cases, to a videoconference system to conduct hearings.

Mr. Speaker, Sheriff Denny Nau has provided a wonderful example of public service as a marine, a Pennsylvania State trooper, and high sheriff of Centre County. I wish my friend the best of luck in his retirement.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York.

There are 5.3 million Americans and their families living with Alzheimer's. That number is expected to triple by 2050. Two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women, and 200,000 are under the age of 65.

In western New York, 55,000 people have Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Last year, the Alzheimer's Association of Western New York provided 10,000 service contacts for these patients and is an invaluable resource to western New York families.

Alzheimer's is a disease whose cause is unknown but whose end is absolutely certain. This House must work together to increase funding for Alzheimer's research, and we must support the caregivers and volunteers who make a difference for millions of Americans and their families.

SYRIAN REFUGEES

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, the most important obligation we have is to keep Americans safe.

As Paris has reminded us, there truly is evil in the world. We know that our seas and our borders alone will not protect us. We must act swiftly and smartly in the face of this evil.

While my heart hurts for innocent people suffering in Syria, our priority must be in keeping Americans safe. That is why I oppose the President's effort to bring refugees to our shores without a real plan to vet them. That is not leadership. That is sticking your head in the sand. And in matters of life and death, we must do better.

□ 1215

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS SCARED

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

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, the House is scared today. You hear it in the voices of my colleagues, and you hear it because the American people are scared as they come to learn the capabilities of these evil psychopaths at ISIS.

But, Mr. Speaker, this House, when we are scared, we do dumb things. We spend time forcing the cafeteria to rename french fries freedom fries. We invade Iraq because we are angry at what comes out of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, on May 13, 1939, the transatlantic liner, the *St. Louis*, sailed from Germany with almost 1,000 souls aboard, all Jews seeking to flee the murderous wrath of Adolf Hitler. This ship went to Cuba with the idea that it would come to the United States, but it was denied entry into the United States.