

I want to urge all Members of the House to adopt his amendment. With respect to full transcripts of the FOMC meetings, all this is doing is simply codifying a current practice. It is simply to make sure that there is a transparency, at least this level of transparency, that the Fed doesn't backslide.

With respect to the dual mandate, the truth is the Fed has many mandates and they all ought to be examined. The Fed has been around for 100 years. It is time to poke under the hood. That is why we are having the Centennial Monetary Commission, and I think it is important that we take a good look to see if, at times, these are working at cross purposes.

So I thank the gentleman from Iowa for his leadership. I urge all Members to adopt his amendment.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WALKER) having assumed the chair, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3189) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to establish requirements for policy rules and blackout periods of the Federal Open Market Committee, to establish requirements for certain activities of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and to amend title 31, United States Code, to reform the manner in which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System is audited, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 529, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 3189 is postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE AURORA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce in Aurora, Illinois.

For their dedication to hiring veterans in our community, the group recently received the Three Star Chamber of Valor Award by the United States Chamber of Commerce. They were recognized for their participation in the Hiring Our Heroes program and for encouraging local businesses to provide access to good-paying jobs for the men and women who have served our country in uniform.

Of course, they didn't do it on their own, so I would like to join the Chamber in recognizing a few local businesses who have taken the lead in hiring and supporting veterans: Old Second Bank, Alarm Detection Systems, and The Studio at 46 West, a veteran-owned business.

I would also like to join the Chamber in recognizing the Roosevelt Aurora Post No. 84 of the American Legion for their work in serving the community.

I would like to thank the members of the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce and all of the local businesses in our community who have made hiring veterans a priority.

VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. 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 gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, last week, after many of us had returned to our homes across the country, while our constituents were enjoying the beginning of their weekend, Paris fell victim to one of the most violent terrorist attacks in recent memory.

Nohemi Gonzalez, an American student studying architecture abroad, was among those killed.

A day earlier, in Beirut, dozens of innocent lives were cut short in a coordinated attack on that city.

Earlier this year, an attack at Garissa University in Kenya left 147 dead.

And just yesterday, a suicide bomber killed 34 people in Yola, Nigeria. That attack was followed by two more today, driving the number of lives lost there to 49.

Before we go any further, Mr. Speaker, I would ask for a moment of silence

to remember the lives of those who have been lost.

Mr. Speaker, the world is facing an incredible wave of violence with the single purpose of stoking fear. It is the kind of fear that keeps us from solving problems and that paralyzes us into inaction. It is the kind of fear that we are hearing in the calls to block refugees from seeking shelter here in the United States, violating all of our values because of an immediate emotional reaction.

The individuals who committed these atrocious acts of violence are counting on us to fall into that kind of fear, and that is why it is so important not to.

We must stand with our allies in Paris. We must stand with the innocent in Beirut and Garissa and Nigeria. We must stand firm in our role as world leaders and as part of an international coalition dedicated to bringing down ISIS.

We must stand for the values that have always been paramount in the United States, and one of those values is opening our doors to those seeking safety.

We cannot turn our backs to the humanitarian crisis facing the Syrian refugees. They are fleeing a conflict they are not responsible for and want no part in. They have lost their homes, their jobs, and members of their families. The only thing that many of them are seeking is a chance to start over. The vast majority of these refugees are women and children.

Even more importantly, agencies involved with allowing them to enter will prioritize survivors of violence and torture and those with severe illnesses.

If we can do it safely, verifying the identities and backgrounds of those seeking safety here in the United States, and developing systems to ensure that we don't let in anyone seeking to harm us, then we must help these refugees. It is not just our responsibility as a world leader; it is the right thing to do as a nation of immigrants.

While we can't remove every risk, we do have an intensive screening process in place, and refugees receive the greatest scrutiny of any individual coming here. The FBI's Terrorist Screening Center, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the National Counterterrorism Center are all involved in the process of clearing these people.

As recent events have shown us, the threat of ISIS is real. The terror that they spread across the world, the violence they perpetrate, and their disregard for innocent human life are all despicable.

We have a chance right now to build something positive from these tragedies. We must unify as a global community against the evil of ISIS and in support of peace and freedom and humanity.

The only goal of ISIS is to destroy life. By giving refugees the opportunity to escape, we can save them.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join all of my colleagues in prayer for the lives that were lost in Paris and elsewhere and for the hundreds more that were injured in the attacks. I pray for solace for those who have lost their loved ones and friends. I pray for peace around the world. I pray for the good that we can do, as a country, that will build consensus with coalitions and partners around the world.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WATSON COLEMAN for her leadership in tonight's special order as we grapple with the horrendous terrorist attacks in Paris and Beruit as well as today's attack in Nigeria, claimed by Boko Haram.

In the past week alone, we have seen lives lost in Nigeria, France and Beruit.

Our prayers are with the victims and their families.

The Paris, France attacks last Friday, November 13, which claimed 128 lives and many more injured, as we know was claimed by ISIS.

There were also 43 killed during a suicide bombing in Beruit, Lebanon with over 200 injured.

Just today in Yola, Adamawa State, Nigeria, authorities inform us that an 11 year old suicide bomber targeted a market and detonated a bomb killing her, 30 others and injuring over 70 market goers.

The terrorist group Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attacks as retaliation for President Buhari's commitment for combatting violent extremism in Nigeria.

The recent events underscore that we cannot let fear rule us but rather we must fight back against those who threaten our well being and security.

At the same time, we must work on creating resources for victims of terror and those who have been displaced as a result of conflict and sectarian violence.

This is why I introduced H. Res. 528, legislation that enjoyed bipartisan support of my colleagues including Representatives CHU from California, DOLD from Illinois, HAHN from California, KELLY from Illinois, FUDGE from Ohio, WATSON COLEMAN from New Jersey, SEWELL from Alabama, BERNIE THOMPSON from Mississippi and my good friend Ms. WILSON of course from Florida.

My resolution seeks to create a Victims of Terror Protection Fund for the displaced refugees, migrants and victims of Boko Haram's terror in the region.

It is our American value to fight for those who are seeking refuge and needing protection.

As founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Nigerian Caucus, I have been spending a lot of time on this issue since the Chibok incident.

The past week has been a very trying time for the world family as we grapple with the reality of terrorists wreaking havoc in our world.

One only needs to look at the current news events across the globe to appreciate the imperative of countering violent extremism, empowering and protecting victims of terror, refugees and displaced persons.

In the past three months alone, ISIS has claimed responsibility for crimes, atrocities and terroristic attacks, claiming lives in Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Beirut and Paris.

Daesh-ISIL also known as ISIS and other terrorist networks that have pled allegiance to ISIS such as Boko Haram today pose the gravest extremist threat faced by our generation and those of our children.

But we must not be moved by their evil ways, for eventually, the arc of the moral universe always tips on the side of justice, of peace, of equity of the rule of law.

This is why I remain steadfast in my commitment to combatting violent extremism and protecting victims.

As a result of terrorism in the region and Boko Haram in particular in Nigeria, recent reports inform us that Nigeria has the highest number of displaced persons in Africa and the third largest in the world following Syria and Columbia.

The recent coordinated attacks in Paris, following military interventions by at least two United Nations Security Council permanent members: Russia and France, highlights the fact that we are dealing with an enemy of humanity and compels us to launch an international and coordinated strategy to diminish ISIS to protect our children and our children's children.

The recent events underscore the importance of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to degrade and permanently destroy ISIS and its vitriolic ideology that is inflicting pain on innocent people.

The humanitarian crises triggered by sectarian and ideological violence has plagued our world at a disheartening rate, comparable to or surpassing the numbers from World War II according to some estimates.

According to one United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) annual Global Trends report, which is based on data compiled by governments and non-governmental partner organizations, and from the organization's own records, over 60 million people have been forcibly displaced across the globe.

Moreover, according to a report by the International Displacement Monitor Center, an estimated 3,300,000 persons have been displaced and 5,500 killed as a result of the violence wreaked by Boko Haram.

One United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report asserts that as the most populous nation in Africa with 174,000,000 persons, 1,500,000 people have fled their homes to escape Boko Haram.

In April, 2014, 276 girls were terrorized and kidnapped from their dormitories in Chibok by Boko Haram.

In addition to the still missing Chibok girls, approximately 3,300,000 persons are displaced in the Lake Chad Basin which sits on the edge of the Sahara which encompasses Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria.

We must not forget these girls, refugees and displaced persons and must work to provide the support they will need to recover from the trauma they have suffered.

The victims will be in dire need of humanitarian assistance which the Victims of Terror Protection Fund can provide.

The Victims of Terror Protection Fund should be modeled after the cases of Khazistan and Equatorial Guinea where prior kleptocracy initiatives have been created to benefit communities and victims in need of support.

A kleptocracy is when a government in power exploits or steals national resources,

which unfortunately has happened all too often across the globe.

The United States Department of Justice through its Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative has identified the forfeited "Abacha loot," funds stolen by former Nigerian dictator Sanni Abacha.

As we understand it the "Abacha loot" is the largest kleptocracy forfeiture action ever brought in the United States resulting in a \$450,000,000 judgment of the forfeited assets facilitated by Justice's remarkable Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative.

The Abacha Administration embezzled Nigerian public funds under among other false claims, that the Administration was investing in national security measures to protect Nigeria and the Nigerian people.

As we all see now, as a result of or in part because of the Abacha Administration's failure to invest in and implement security measures, the security in Nigeria and the region is tenuous, with the country and region currently under continuous threat by the ISIS affiliated group Boko Haram.

Boko Haram and other sectarian terrorists have trafficked, kidnapped, murdered and caused the displacement of millions of children, women and men.

Recovered victims displaced by terrorist activity as well as refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons fleeing for their lives will be in dire need of protection and support.

A Victim of Terror Protection Fund can supply health aid, educational support, employment training, economic empowerment, dignity and overall improved social welfare of these victims.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly democratically elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

Boko Haram and ISIS are existential threats to the human rights, well being and security of the Nigerian people, their regional neighbors and the global community in general with their penchant to commit genocide.

Part of the strategy to help address the scourge of Boko Haram's atrocity would be through the creation of a Victim of Terror Protection Fund and accessibility of military technical assistance to Nigeria and its regional neighbors pursuant to the UN Security Council and neighboring African countries call for accelerated military collaboration to combat this extremist group.

I commend the U.S. Administration's announcement that it is deploying 300 U.S. troops to Africa to set up a drone base to track fighters from Boko Haram, which continues to seek to destabilize Nigeria and neighboring countries during its blood thirsty assault on innocent people.

The U.S. forces' presence will be critical to combatting Boko Haram, which now appears to continue to wage its vicious insurgency in Nigeria and now spilling into neighboring Cameroon, Chad and Niger and leaving an estimated 20,000 people dead.

Our global strategy for ending the suffering, preventing displacement and creating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons in Africa requires a multi-pronged strategy

which would involve a sustained humanitarian response, government and civil society capacity building, and the creation of resilient political and security infrastructures and landscapes.

My proposed Victims of Terror Protection Fund is one of the strategies for addressing the growing African migrant and refugee crisis.

I commend President Obama's and President Buhari's commitment to Nigerian security and their collective efforts to tighten vigilance in vulnerable places.

I hope the United States continues to build a stronger alliance with President Buhari and Nigeria.

To succeed, at all our objectives to protect victims and combat violent extremism, in Nigeria, Syria and around the world, we must have continued U.S. support in protecting victims of terror, technical training, logistical and infrastructural capabilities and professionalizing its military force to battle Boko Haram.

POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for talking about Ms. Gonzalez, who was from our area. She actually was from a city called El Monte, California, and that is where my first cousin, Norma Macias, is a councilwoman there at that city.

□ 1930

Right now, as we are speaking, they are holding a vigil for her, a memorial for her. She was a young lady on a semester abroad wanting to change the world by good design and using green products, et cetera. So thank you for mentioning her. I am sure the Gonzalez family will be very touched.

And, of course, thank you for mentioning the whole issue of the refugees because we are a beacon. We are a shining beacon of the world. These are people who are fleeing these types of terrorist attacks.

So I hope that we do have a good resolution to allow these refugees to go to all the countries until we figure out what is going on in the Middle East and they can return home. Home is where they really want to be. Thank you. I thank my great colleague from New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address an issue that unfortunately reaches into households in each and every State, every city, and every neighborhood in this great Nation. It is the issue of poverty.

Poverty is a plague that weighs on a central tenet that our Nation was built on, and that is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I received a letter just this last month from our Democratic whip, STENY HOYER, discussing a recent report released by the U.S. Census Bu-

reau that found that 46.7 million Americans—15 percent of Americans—are living in poverty. How can we tell a family to pursue happiness when the rug is constantly being pulled out from under them?

Mr. Speaker, 15 percent, 46.7 million, is more than all the Californians and Arizonans put together. We cannot allow that to continue. We know that the effects of poverty hit every aspect of one's life.

It hits minorities disproportionately. Poverty affects minorities. 26 percent of African Americans live below the poverty line, and 23 percent of Latinos live below the poverty line.

We also see those types of percentages when we look at lower educational attainment and lower overall wages. As the number of first- and second-generation children rises, so does the amount of these children affected and born into poverty.

Nearly one in three children in the schools in my district are affected by poverty. It is hard to learn when you haven't had a meal. It is hard to learn when you don't have a roof over your head. It is hard where you are sharing a house with 15 or 16 people, most of them not related to you.

There are social programs such as SNAP and the Community Supplemental Food program. There are ways in which we can combat the effects of poverty. I don't believe that families who are benefiting from those programs are looking for a free handout.

There are Members of both Chambers who at one time or another received public assistance in times of need. One of them was a single mother of not one, but two, children while working and attending college. I think it goes without saying that these individuals are not lazy or looking for handouts.

Now, we shouldn't shame or judge other individuals in our society, but there is a negative stigma about being enrolled in welfare programs. We shame families who don't have the means to lift themselves out of the cycle of poverty. But then we don't want to give them that helping hand, that aid, that they need in order to do that.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the real shame—the real shame—is that we are a nation of unbridled wealth, bountiful wealth, and still over 46 million people are in poverty.

With the rising costs of housing and food, families in the United States are stretching each dollar more and more. Many find it difficult to save money at the end of the month, and saving for their son's or daughter's education is, quite frankly, an unattainable dream.

When I was growing up, I was told that, if I worked hard, if I did well in school, and if I saved my money, it was possible to be successful in America.

But, Mr. Speaker, every day these days it gets harder and harder to be successful in America. Those in poverty find themselves working hard, planning for the future, and doing ev-

erything that we tell them to do, and still they fall short, unable to attain the pursuit of happiness.

There should be absolutely no reason, if a person puts in hard work 40 hours a week, that they should be living in poverty. How can we expect families working minimum wage—and I will add that is not a liveable wage—to afford child care and save for their children's college education?

Honestly, it is nearly impossible. Yet, I see so many examples in my district of people who overcome all of the hurdles and the barriers that we are placing in front of them.

We can alleviate, we can remove, those barriers. We can have an impact on the poverty of our communities. Last month, during National Work and Family Month, Democratic leadership led a Working Families Day of Action to highlight important legislation to improve the living conditions for all families here in America.

I joined 113 of my colleagues in co-sponsoring a resolution which called for this House to address some of the issues important to some of the most disadvantaged demographics of people in our Nation. This resolution addressed commonsense measures, such as sensible working accommodations for pregnant women, equal protections for workers in the workplace, and increasing the minimum wage to a liveable wage.

You see, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the 46 million Americans living in poverty, we are talking about people from all walks of life. We are talking about the homeless. We are talking about children in our schools. We are talking about our senior citizens. We are talking about single parents, blue collar workers. We are talking about our immigrants.

All of these groups are stuck—stuck—in a vicious cycle of poverty and disadvantaged situations. These aren't radical ideas. These are sensible, American ideas where hard work is rewarded with equal compensation and protections. I believe that, as lawmakers—but, more importantly, as Americans—we owe it to the families of this Nation to enact legislation in which each and every person has a means to succeed.

Tonight I am going to go over some of the statistics that we have with respect to poverty in America. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, 46.7 million people are living in poverty.

The poverty rate was established in the 1960s, and it is based solely on an individual's cash earnings. It sets the poverty threshold at \$24,250 for a family of four. However, that rate does not take into consideration the cost of living in different regions of America. Try living in my region on \$24,250 for four people.

The Census Bureau recently established a new measure on which to gauge actual poverty rates. The Supplemental Poverty Measure establishes a new poverty rate by incorporating