

demonstrated by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to reduce corruption and rebuild the economy.

Make no mistake, Afghanistan faces many challenges in the years ahead. But with the help of the United States of America, the international community, the tenacity of the Afghan leaders, and some good luck, the Afghan people can hope for peace and greater prosperity in the future.

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: NO CLIMATE CASUALTIES

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, bullet holes are still visible in the walls of cafes, and the graves are fresh for those lives that were stolen by ISIS fighters in the streets of Paris. Meanwhile, the President is in Paris talking about his priority—the real threat—climate change.

While America has been unable or unwilling to defeat ISIS, it has been front and center in the war on climate change. Former CIA Director Mike Morrell said: “And we didn’t go after oil wells—actually hitting oil wells that ISIS controls because we didn’t want to do environmental damage. . . .”

The President has decided that the threat to the environment is more serious to him than the threat of ISIS terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, oil funds ISIS’ murderous reign of terror, but the President’s new limited war doctrine has one rule of engagement: no climate casualties.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for bombs to rain down over the ISIS war chest. Stop the flow of the blood oil. Not one more life should be lost because of a negligent and backwards strategy of a limited war based on climate change, an environmental-waged war that promotes not harming the environment over harming people.

And that is just the way it is.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday this House rose once again to observe a moment of silence for victims of gun violence, this time for the police officer, the veteran, and the mother of two who were gunned down in Colorado Springs nearly 3 years after 20 schoolchildren and 6 brave educators were shot to death at Sandy Hook Elementary School in my district. It is time for moments of silence to end. It is time for action.

Gun violence is a public health crisis that deserves this House to take action now. That is why we should establish a select committee on gun violence prevention.

We are all understandably concerned about terrorism; yet, this House just yesterday blocked action to prevent terrorists, those on the Terrorist Watchlist, from acquiring deadly weapons to kill Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this House to truly honor victims of gun violence. I invite my colleagues to join us next week for the 3rd Annual National Vigil to Prevent Gun Violence on Wednesday, December 9. The vigil will be held at St. Mark’s Church on Capitol Hill.

Please come and join me. Stand with the families and the victims of gun violence from my district and across the country.

RECIPROCAL DEPOSITS

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, to realize their American Dream, many Minnesotans rely on access to financial products like business loans and mortgages. Not only do these financial instruments benefit individuals and families, but they help build healthy communities.

Unfortunately, in some rural and urban areas, outdated regulations threaten the ability of our community banks to offer these important financial products.

Together with Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, I have introduced legislation that will address this problem. H.R. 4116 allows certain community banks to trade large bank deposits over a secure network.

This will enable depositors to do business with local community banks while still maintaining FDIC insurance instead of seeing important and necessary financial capital that could be used for local projects, purchases, and investment leave local communities.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is good for Minnesota. And please forgive my bias, but I happen to believe what is good for Minnesota is good for our country.

FIGHTING FOR WORKING AMERICANS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are willing to shut down government in a battle to protect riders that hurt working-class Americans.

During these budget and appropriation debates, Republicans have fought tooth and nail to cut investments in important programs for working families, yet they are willing to spend billions on tax expenditures for wealthy corporations.

On top of that, Mr. Speaker, they want to add riders that gut consumer protections, labor rights, environmental protections, and a woman’s right to choose.

A recent poll found that nearly seven in ten Americans agree with the fol-

lowing statement: “I feel angry because our political system seems to only be working for the insiders with money and power.”

As Members of Congress, I urge colleagues on all sides to come together and heed the American people’s wishes and to put their interests up front. We need to make sure that we can pass a budget bill that isn’t loaded up with policy riders and more things that would confuse the basic issues.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot abide proposals attacking the National Labor Relations Board and a worker’s right to organize. We cannot abide efforts to undermine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which is helping Americans meet their financial needs.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up for the American consumer. I urge all parties to come together to reach these important goals.

RETIREMENT OF CHARLOTTE DIETRICH, POTTER COUNTY PLANNING DIRECTOR

(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 today to congratulate Charlotte Dietrich on her upcoming retirement as planning director of Potter County, located in Pennsylvania’s Fifth Congressional District.

Charlotte was promoted to that position in April of 2001 and had previously served as a secretary for Potter County.

In her more than 14 years as planning director, Potter County became the only county in Pennsylvania to have a Wellhead Protection Plan in place for each water authority in the county, mapping each source of water, which is perhaps our most important natural resource.

Additionally, under Charlotte’s leadership, the county’s planning department worked to address issues surrounding the development of wind power in the county, along with a huge expansion of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation.

A Potter County commissioner recently called Charlotte a born planner. I know those skills have been a great asset for the county in the past decade with so many big changes.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Charlotte the best of luck in retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Houston, one of our Nation’s leading public research universities, on its recent string of success inside and outside the classroom.

The University of Houston was designated as a tier 1 research university by the Carnegie Foundation, making it only one of three tier 1 public universities in Texas and one of only three Hispanic-serving institutions that are also tier 1 in the entire country.

For over 90 years, Mr. Speaker, the University of Houston has been providing affordable, world-class education to the people of Houston and Harris County and students throughout the country who come to U of H for its renowned academic programs and professional training.

Our Chancellor Khator is here today in Washington. Thanks to her team and our board of regents for their leadership.

The University of Houston Cougars is one of the top college football teams this season with an 11–1 record, ranked number 17 in the country, and can win the American Athletic Conference and go to a New Year's Day bowl game with a win this weekend.

Mr. Speaker, as a native Houstonian and a graduate of the University of Houston, it makes me proud to see our university succeed and continue to be one of the most important institutions serving our State, city, and our country. Go Cougars.

□ 1230

LET'S GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, let's get our priorities straight when it comes to American leadership. Rather than showing leadership in the fight against ISIS or reassuring our allies in this fight, our current administration is still claiming that our greatest threat to national security is, believe it or not, climate change.

I am all about science, but we need to be realistic as well. The biggest threat, according to them, isn't radical Islam, Russia, Iran, or North Korea. It is a couple of degrees Fahrenheit over the next century or so.

And the remedy is costly. At a cost to whom? At a cost to hardworking Americans. Their government mandates mean higher energy costs for families, less energy reliability, higher manufacturing costs, and smaller take-home paychecks.

I know that most Ohio families can't afford this, Mr. Speaker. Coal plants are already shutting down up and down the Ohio River, costing us jobs and reliable energy. We need American leadership that is willing to lead the fight and defeat ISIS.

This week, the House voted to protect American families and consumers from the administration's price hikes. Let's get our priorities straight, Mr. Speaker, and bring the fight to ISIS, not burden Ohio families.

PROTECT AMERICAN FAMILIES

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, the terrorist attacks in Paris reminded us that ISIS recruits fighters from across the globe and even here at home. Already, the FBI has arrested over 60 Americans connected with ISIS.

The terrorists who attacked Paris got their guns from the black market. But here in the United States, even suspected terrorists are allowed, under Federal law, to freely and legally buy assault weapons, buy guns, and buy explosives.

The GAO reports that, in the last decade, suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list attempted to buy guns and explosives over 2,200 times. And guess what; 91 percent of the time they succeeded.

Now, I know that the gun lobby opposes any effort to toughen background checks; but can we not, at the very least, agree that this is a matter of national security, that when the FBI has reasonable suspicion that someone is connected to terror, we should stop him from buying weapons of mass murder?

To any of my colleagues on the floor today, is there anyone in Congress who actually believes that you should be able to buy a gun while on the terrorist watch list? Is there anyone in America who believes that?

If you are on the terrorist watch list, you shouldn't buy a gun. Can this body please take this meaningful step to protect American families. Let's put it to a vote, and let's do it before we leave here for the holidays.

HONORING OFFICER LLOYD REED

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life, legacy, and work of Officer Lloyd Reed, Jr., who will be remembered for his kind and helpful nature. Officer Reed, a St. Clair Township, Pennsylvania, police officer, was tragically shot and killed last Saturday, November 28, while responding to a domestic dispute.

A graduate of Conemaugh Township High School, he was an avid trout fisherman and a NASCAR and, of course, a Steelers fan.

Officer Reed courageously served his community as a law enforcement officer for 25 years before his life was taken. I offer my prayers and deepest condolences to his loved ones: his friends, his colleagues, and his wife.

All men and women who serve to protect us from harm deserve our deepest gratitude and respect. They choose to risk their lives so that the rest of us can lead peaceful, productive, and meaningful lives.

Officer Reed's life and death are a testament to all those who serve honorably as law enforcement officers.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CONGRESSWOMAN SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm.

Last week, she posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our Nation's highest civilian honor. Congresswoman Chisholm is truly deserving of this honor.

In 1969, she became the first African American woman to serve in Congress. She was the first majority party African American candidate and the first Democratic woman to run for President. She was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Congresswoman Chisholm—or Mrs. C, as we called her—was my mentor and role model. The course of my life changed, when I met Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, as a student in Mills College. At that time, I was the Black Student Union president, and I had invited her to speak her eloquent speech focused on the power of women and people of color to change the world. As she said: If you don't have a seat at the table, bring a folding chair. She explained why it was important for everyone to get involved in the policy-making process, because too often the voices of women and people of color are unheard.

I know that today many of us, including myself, would not be here. We would not have the privilege to serve in this great body had it not been for Shirley Chisholm. She is truly deserving of our Nation's highest honor.

I would also want to wish Mrs. C a very happy belated birthday. She would have turned 91 on the 20th of November.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY'S FINALIZED RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD

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

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's finalized Renewable Fuel Standard, otherwise known as the RFS.

The biofuels industry has created good-paying, technical jobs in rural economies, helped lower gas prices for consumers, protected the environment, and reduced reliance on foreign oil.

On Monday of this week, the EPA finalized RFS levels for 2014, 2015, and 2016. While they are a slight improvement from the proposed rule, they still fall short of congressional intent put into law in 2007. Unfortunately, this decision raises questions about the administration's commitment to rural