

Financial Corporation, who is headquartered in my district. I was joined by many of my colleagues, including Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Representative EMANUEL CLEAVER, former Governor Luis Fortuno, industry leaders, and community activists.

The decision to become a homeowner is one of the most important decisions, and it commits a person. It commits a family. It commits us towards getting to the middle class. For people in the bottom 40 percent of annual income level, wealth creation is almost exclusively in homeownership.

According to the National Association of Home Builders, “the primary residence represents the largest asset category” in our country, accounting for 30 percent of our Nation’s total assets. The importance of homeownership is even greater for the middle class: 62 percent of the median homeowner’s assets and 42 percent of their total wealth lies in their home.

Not to mention that access to home equity, being able to pull out some of that equity you have built up, provides families with financial stability when there are financial stresses going on in the family. It is an emergency fund in some cases, and it helps to start a business, it helps to fund college for our children. Homeownership is a key to creating stable, economically successful households and to provide security for existing and future generations.

Households with wealth are able to weather financial shocks and increase upward economic mobility for themselves and for future generations. In fact, analysis provided by First American’s Chief Economist, Mark Fleming, highlighted homeownership trends based on household formation rates among Latino and African American Communities. The research identified the importance of homeownership-based wealth formation as the key, the key to wealth creation for middle- and low-income Americans. Providing Americans with equal opportunity to pursue that homeownership is a challenge, and it is very challenging in the Latino, African American, and other minority communities.

This last recession of 5 or 6 years—this really terrible, difficult recession for so many people—saw in the Latino community two-thirds, 66 percent, of the wealth across our Nation within the Latino community went away.

I hope that my colleagues will help us in building back to homeownership for all of our communities in America.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition and acknowledgement of Restoration Tuesday and to recognize the 60th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. There has been, Mr. Speaker, a renewed

and relentless assault on our sacred right to vote in the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

Since elections are held on Tuesdays, my colleagues in the Democratic House caucus and I have declared that every Tuesday that the House is in session shall be declared as Restoration Tuesday. So I stand before you and this august body today in hopes of giving a voice to those who have been excluded from our political process. My hope is that all the Members, Members from both sides of the aisle, will join me and over 140 Members of this august body in supporting the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

This Voting Rights Advancement Act not only restores the Voting Rights Act of 1965, but it advances it. It gives more protection to more people in more States and is, indeed, what our Founding Fathers would have wanted when they declared that our electoral process would be fair.

I think that the events of last week—we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in my district, in Montgomery, Alabama, last week. The Montgomery Bus Boycott—the 381 days when people refused to sit and use the buses in Montgomery, breaking desegregation of the bus systems in Montgomery—it stands forever as a powerful testimony of the will of disenfranchised people to work collectively to achieve extraordinary social change.

Sixty years ago, Mr. Speaker, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus, and her bold stand against racial discrimination sparked a city-wide boycott. I was in Montgomery to commemorate that occasion, along with several Members of this House. I want to thank Congressman BUTTERFIELD and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN for joining me last week in that celebration, along with Congressman JOHN LEWIS, who forever stands as a beacon, a reminder of what it takes to show strength in the face of discrimination.

Mr. Speaker, I say to all of my colleagues, what will we do to progress this wonderful legacy of social change and democracy? So many average, ordinary Americans have stood up for that proposition in the face of tremendous adversity.

So it is my hope that on this Restoration Tuesday, we will remember their legacy, the legacy of Americans who stand up for social change, and we will do what we know is right to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We can do that today, Mr. Speaker, by joining with all of the 140 or so Members of Congress who have already signed on to the Voting Rights Advancement Act; by remembering that on Tuesdays across this country, people go to vote, and they should do so without barriers, knowing that their polling stations will not be changed, knowing that if they are disabled, they will still be able to get into the ballot

box in order to vote. It is so important that we all recognize that modern day barriers still exists to voting, Mr. Speaker.

Mere words are not enough to restore the vote to millions of Americans who have wrongly been shut out of the Democratic process. The voice of those excluded cannot be unheard. The Voting Rights Advancement Act that I introduced alongside Representatives JUDY CHU and LINDA SÁNCHEZ contains a modern-day formula that will determine jurisdictions which should have Federal protections, Federal pre-clearance requirements.

I stand here before you to call on Congress to pass this bill to restore the Voting Rights Act of 1965. We cannot return to the days where only some votes matter. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, all voices, all votes matter. Our vote is our voice, and our voices must be heard.

DENY GUN SALES TO SUSPECTED TERRORISTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, Federal law prohibits nine categories of dangerous individuals from purchasing a firearm. This includes convicted felons, domestic abusers, and the seriously mentally ill. Yet, while we prevent those on the terrorist watch list from boarding planes, they are welcome in gun stores.

The Government Accountability Office found that between 2004 and 2014, individuals on terrorist watch lists tried to purchase guns or explosives 2,233 times. Of those attempts, 2,043, an astounding 91 percent, were approved.

Terrorists are knowingly exploiting this gap. In fact, in 2011, Adam Gadahn, an American-born member of al Qaeda, issued a video urging violent followers to exploit weaknesses in U.S. gun laws.

Adam Gadahn was not alone. In 2009, Daniel Patrick Boyd was arrested and charged with conspiring to murder U.S. military personnel at the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Virginia. Boyd, who was under investigation by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, had amassed an arsenal of assault rifles and had even traveled to the Middle East to meet with militants to plan future attacks.

It is impossible to hear these facts and not think of the recent horrific attacks in Paris. France has extremely strict gun laws, so it is likely that the terrorists in question turned to black market sources for the weapons they used. But here in the United States, suspects on the terrorist watch list can legally purchase firearms. It simply doesn’t make any sense at all.

That is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act. This bill, along with an amendment that I have introduced in the Appropriations Committee, would give

the U.S. Attorney General the authority to block suspects on the terrorist watch list from purchasing firearms.

Given the repeated mass shootings in the United States and the ongoing threat of terrorism, it is hard to believe that four times, Republicans on the Appropriations Committee have said no to closing this dangerous loophole.

In 2011, I introduced my amendment. It was rejected. In 2013, I tried again. It was rejected. Again, in 2014, rejected. Even this year, in 2015, with the tremendous threats we face as a Nation, my amendment was rejected for the fourth time.

Even NRA members agree we should pass this commonsense measure. A 2012 poll found that 76 percent of gun owners, including 71 percent of NRA members, support prohibiting people on terrorist watch lists from purchasing guns. Yet, the NRA's stranglehold on the majority in Congress has prevented my amendment from passing and the bipartisan stand-alone bill from even being considered.

The time has long since come for us to cross the aisle and work together to make our country safer. Let's close this glaring loophole immediately and arm our law enforcement with the ability to deny gun sales to suspected terrorists.

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 45 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 of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Send Your spirit down upon the Members of the people's House. Grant them wisdom, insight, and vision, that the work they do will be for the betterment of our Nation during a time of struggle for so many Americans.

Fear of violence on all fronts, tensions between people of different races or religion or cultures—so many things weigh upon the citizens of this country and the representatives who serve them.

Empower the Members of this House to rise above the din of anger and confusion, fear and contention, to face the issues of these times with equanimity and good judgment. Help them to trust one another and work with those with

whom they have been at odds in times past.

May we all strive to become our better selves and encourage that growth in one another.

May all that is done this day 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 gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. WALORSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. WALORSKI 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.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Budget:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2015.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Office of the Speaker,
Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER, In light of my recent appointment as Chairman of the Human Resource Subcommittee on Ways and Means, I hereby resign my position on the House Budget Committee.

Best Regards,

CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 555

Resolved, That the following named member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Renacci.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

CONGRATULATING THE ALLEGHANY HIGH SCHOOL LADY TROJAN VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the Alleghany High School volleyball team, which recently won the North Carolina 1A State championship. It is the first NCHSAA State championship in the program's history.

Coach Debbie Weaver led the Lady Trojans on their winning campaign. The nine seniors on the team, including MVP Jade Shepherd, have been playing together since fifth grade, and it showed in their performance. They won three out of four games to defeat the defending State champion Princeton Bulldogs.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet these young ladies at the annual Christmas parade in Sparta. It is clear that everyone in Alleghany County is proud of the teamwork, dedication, and perseverance they exhibited on the way to this great achievement.

I commend these young athletes and congratulate them on a job well done.

ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of the darkest days in American history was December 8, 1941. Over 2,400 lives were lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor the previous day. Half our Navy was destroyed, and our allies in Europe were on the verge of collapse. It was a terrifying and uncertain time to be in the world.

The world feels particularly dark these days, too. Things feel more uncertain. And for a country that enjoys the privilege of security, we might be forgiven for this growing anxiety. Fear makes it easy to be nervous and cynical.

We allowed our baser instincts to get the better of us in this country, as we did in 1941. We translated the contagion of xenophobia into national policy with the internment of German and Japanese from my area in internment camps.

We are hearing the same contemptible rhetoric today. It is dishonorable, it is false, and to believe it is to reject the fundamental truth that the American people are ultimately made of finer stuff than fear, blame, and prejudice.

We will get through these troubles, Mr. Speaker. Nothing is above our strength or our endurance as a nation so long as we have the grace and courage to remind ourselves on our darkest