

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

days of our essential values and responsibilities as a free and open people.

RECOGNIZING MILLER'S VETS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Miller's Vets, an organization in my district committed to supporting homeless veterans, and express my appreciation for the service and sacrifice our veterans have made on behalf of our country.

Miller's Vets was founded by Robert Miller, Sr., a former St. Joseph County Superior Court judge and a retired lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve, who began the organization to instill confidence and create opportunities for local veterans.

Veterans in the program participate in various services, including color guard, flag raising, and parade marches. Miller's Vets also created a military honors funeral program comprised of 14 local veterans who have been trained to perform honor guard duty at funerals. This program partners with local funeral homes to provide full military service funerals to certain veterans without family or adequate finances to pay for their expenses.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, Miller's Vets restores the honor that these men and women deserve. I am grateful to Miller's Vets for their dedication to providing dignity and hope to our bravest and finest.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Miller's Vets for their tireless dedication to helping and honoring our local veterans.

CLOSING THE TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern for the safety of our country and urge colleagues to act today on sensible gun safety legislation. Time after time, House Republicans have denied any discussion of voting on a measure that will close a dangerous loophole that currently allows suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list to buy guns. Last week alone, House Republicans voted not one time, not two, but three times to block debate on the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Terrorists Act.

According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, since 2004, more than 2,000 suspects on the FBI's terrorist watch list have successfully purchased weapons in the United States. More than 90 percent of all suspected terrorists who attempted to buy a gun walked away with the weapon of their choice.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just common sense: if you are too dangerous to fly, then you are too dangerous to buy a

gun. We must do all that we can to prevent senseless acts of violence in our communities and bring this legislation to a vote today.

RECOGNIZING ONE OF MINNESOTA'S FINEST FAMILIES

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and to honor all Minnesotans and all Americans who served in World War II. I would like to recognize the service of one Minnesota family in particular.

In 1885, Carl Nolte moved to Martin County, Minnesota, with his wife, Louise. They had 12 children and numerous grandchildren. An impressive 36 members of the Nolte family joined the Armed Forces and served in World War II. Fortunately, all 36 family members survived the war. However, two were wounded during their service.

It is often said that those who served in World War II belong to the Greatest Generation. I believe that the heroism and the dedication that this family demonstrated proves this to be true.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank this Minnesota family for their service to our Nation, and I would also like to wish one of them a very happy birthday. This week Loren Wessel of Truman, Minnesota, turns 96 years old. Happy birthday, Loren.

DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, last week, House Republicans voted three times to block debate on Republican Congressman PETER KING's Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, which would close the outrageous loophole that allows suspects who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list to purchase weapons.

Mr. Speaker, 2,000 suspects on the FBI's watch list tried to buy weapons in the U.S. in the last 11 years, and 91 percent of them walked away with a weapon.

Democrats remain committed to blocking dangerous people from having guns. Eighty percent of gun owners support this. It is a bipartisan effort. PETER KING from the Republican Conference wrote this legislation, yet Republicans and the leadership blocked a chance for us to have a simple yes-or-no vote on what most Americans think would be logical, commonsense ways to keep us safe.

Seriously? Terrorist watch list? Buy a gun of your choice whenever you want? We are better than that. This Congress needs to act. I urge my colleagues to join me in stopping this nonsense.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHANCELLOR EUGENE MCKAY OF ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of one of Arkansas' great educators, Chancellor Eugene McKay of Arkansas State University at Beebe. He will be retiring in January after 50 years of service to our State's educational system, particularly in helping assure a ready, skilled workforce.

Chancellor McKay has displayed an unrelenting commitment to education in Arkansas that has been a beacon for quality higher education at Arkansas State University.

First as a professor and then as the chancellor, Dr. McKay was responsible for the university's recognition of having the highest student success rate in Arkansas among both 2- and 4-year institutions.

He has been honored for this work as an educator by the Beebe Chamber of Commerce, that also presented him their lifetime achievement award.

Chancellor McKay made an indelible impact on the lives of Arkansans, faculty, alumni, students, and all of our communities. We will miss him. I extend him my warmest regards and best wishes for his retirement.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT RENEWAL

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, you have told us over and over again that the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will be passed in this year.

Well, the clock is running out. The time is here to live up to our pledge that "we will never forget." We lost 3,000 innocent people on 9/11, but thousands more lost their health care and are sick and dying. They are coming to this Congress praying for their health care.

It is a national disgrace that we have not responded to our responders. Yet everyone agrees. Leaders on both sides of the aisle have pledged to do this before the end of the year. Yet, even when we all agree, we still seem to do nothing. As Jon Stewart so succinctly put it: Congress has become the last responders.

It is time for the last responders to respond to the first responders and give them the health care and support they so justly deserve.

CONGRATULATING CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL AND COACH DALE WEINER

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