

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virginia Tech's Coach Frank Beamer, who, after 29 years, will retire at the end of this season as a football coach, mentor, friend, and role model on and off the field.

Coach Beamer was a 3-year starting cornerback for the Hokies, and after taking over as the Hokies' head coach in 1987, he built the football program at his alma mater into a national power. Coach Beamer stands as the winningest active Division I football coach and the sixth all-time, with 279 career wins.

Mr. Speaker, during his 29 years at Virginia Tech, he has 237 victories and has guided the Hokies to four ACC titles, 3 Big East championships, 6 appearances in BCS bowl games, and has posted 13 seasons with 10 or more wins. At the end of this month, Virginia Tech will play in a bowl game for the 23rd consecutive year under Beamer's lead, the longest current streak in college football recognized by the NCAA.

Beamer has been the face of the Hokie football team and the Virginia Tech community as a whole for many years, and he will certainly be missed.

Thank you, Coach Beamer, for all that you have contributed to Virginia Tech, to Blacksburg, and to the game of college football.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF D. PATRICK CURLEY AND HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO 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 career of D. Patrick Curley and his 50 years of service to western New York.

Pat Curley was born and raised in Buffalo. After a stop at Boston College to earn a mathematics degree, he returned home and became an instructor at D'Youville and Canisius Colleges.

In 1977, Pat started a consulting company where, for decades, he helped western New York businesses stay competitive in the global marketplace.

Pat served on the board of the New York Power Authority and was elected to three terms on the Orchard Park Town Board. He has served in leadership positions for more than two dozen charitable organizations; and for the past 46 years, he has been a member of the Orchard Park Volunteer Fire Company, where he has responded to more than 5,000 emergency calls.

Pat has had a varied career, but the common thread in his life and his work has been his love for his family and western New York.

So, Pat, on behalf of a grateful community, please enjoy your well-earned retirement.

#### CONGRATULATIONS OSSEO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Osseo High School football team for winning the Minnesota State title with a tight victory over East Ridge in the championship game.

The Orioles showed heart with close victories in both the semifinals and in the title game. With only 24 seconds left on the clock, Osseo scored the game-tying touchdown, and the successful extra point gave them the victory and State championship.

Osseo's State run had the entire town buzzing as they sent off the team with a parade before the championship game.

Mr. Speaker, winning a State title is only possible with years of dedication and hard work. At the same time, these student athletes must focus off the field as well, at the same time, in order to succeed in the classroom and make a positive impact in the school community.

The families, friends, and fans of the players at Osseo High School should all be very proud of their fantastic season.

Congratulations to the Orioles on their successful State championship.

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#### TAKE ACTION TO END GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR NATION

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, December 2, the Nation was devastated by another mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. On December 2, there were three mass shootings in the United States. The fact that this violence is routine and ordinary is incomprehensible.

Mr. Speaker, it is particularly incomprehensible that people who are on the no-fly list are able to legally purchase assault weapons. How is it that someone considered too dangerous to fly is able to purchase an assault weapon? There is a solution, though, Mr. Speaker. A bill proposed by PETER KING of New York will not allow people on the no-fly list to purchase weapons without a sufficient background check.

Mr. Speaker, gun violence in our Nation kills nearly 90 people every day, roughly 32,000 people a year. I am a gun owner, but there are reasonable approaches to keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals while still protecting our Second Amendment rights.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support legislation that will end daily shootings and protect our citizens.

#### FRIVOLOUS ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS STALL HOUSE BUSINESS

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

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, responsibly funding the government on time is one of the most basic and fundamental tasks of Members of Congress.

This entire year, Republicans have been at the table pushing the work through the committee process to determine how best to allocate this funding. And coming into this week, there was healthy debate and negotiations on moving forward with these plans.

However, yesterday, the partisan dialogue we witnessed from a number of my colleagues across the aisle was nothing more than a ruse. Five separate motions to adjourn in order to stall a bipartisan bill to tighten our visa system and protect our Nation's security, with purely political procedural votes to push their own gun control agendas is simply ridiculous. It wasted at least 3 hours of legislative time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time when Americans need their Representatives to come to the table and stop letting politics get in the way of actually getting the people's work done around this place.

#### DENYING FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES TO DANGEROUS TERRORISTS

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to echo the demands of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, for a vote on the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act of 2015.

Passing this bill transcends politics. It is about ensuring the safety and security of families, communities, and the country we represent.

In the past 2 years, 94 percent of individuals we suspect of planning terror attacks have been able to successfully pass background checks and purchase deadly weapons. We are sitting idly by as those planning to do harm to our citizens obtain the tools to do just that. That we would choose to do nothing to stop it is simply unfathomable to me.

We have a chance today to close a loophole in our laws before it is exploited, before we find ourselves standing on this floor once again for another moment of silence. The families who have lost loved ones to gun violence and the victims themselves deserve more than a deafening silence emanating from this Chamber.

#### 65 PERCENT SAY MEDIA HAS "NEGATIVE EFFECT" ON COUNTRY

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Americans' distrust of national news

outlets continues to rise because of the media's persistent bias and one-sided coverage.

A recent Pew Research Center survey found that nearly two-thirds, or 65 percent, of Americans believe the national news media has a negative effect on our country. This is because the media slants stories with their opinions instead of reporting the facts.

For example, the media often praises President Obama's regulations involving climate change, but their reports fail to cite the costs of extreme environmental regulations and the loss of jobs. National news stories also fail to mention that these regulations would have little impact on global warming.

Americans will continue to believe the media has a negative impact on the country until the media provides the American people with the facts, rather than tells them what to think.

#### TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, my constituents in San Bernardino County are still reeling from the horror of last week's attack in the city of San Bernardino, as is everybody throughout the Nation. Fourteen people died, at least 21 were injured, and thousands are asking: What now?

There are people who are afraid that their office, shopping plaza, or community could be next, which is why already country officials in my area and elsewhere are seeking ways to tighten and improve security so that an attack like this does not happen again. They cannot be alone in this endeavor. It is time for Congress to act.

We cannot let terrorists on our own U.S. terrorist watch list buy guns. If you are considered too dangerous to board a plane, you are too dangerous to buy a gun. That is why closing this loophole is just common sense. Yet, over the past 11 years, 2,000 suspected terrorists have walked out of stores with a lethal firearm. Ninety percent of them have been able to buy guns, no questions asked. We have left a huge hole in our counterterrorism efforts, and it is time we close it.

#### HONORING MIAMI DADE COLLEGE MEDICAL CAMPUS PRESIDENT DR. ARMANDO FERRER

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Armando Ferrer, retiring from his post as President of the Medical Campus of Miami Dade College, a state-of-the-art complex in the heart of Miami's health district. Dr. Ferrer has worked at Miami Dade College for over 30 years, including as Dean of both the North and Kendall Campuses.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, Miami Dade College, my alma mater, ranks first in the Nation in awarding health profession and nursing degrees, and Dr. Ferrer's tenure as President of the Medical Campus is a key feature of that success. I thank Armando for his many years of dedicated teaching and professional development efforts in service to the students of Miami Dade College. It is through these students that he leaves a positive and lasting legacy throughout our community.

Congratulations, and Godspeed, Armando Ferrer.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE PARIS CONFERENCE

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

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's efforts in Paris to work together with world leaders to combat and address climate change.

The impacts of climate change are real. And as the consequences are being felt here at home and around the world, now is the time to make history.

By taking action here in Congress, the United States has an opportunity to lead by example, while protecting the health of our communities and our environment. This involves supporting efforts like the Clean Power Plan, which will reduce carbon emissions by more than 30 percent by 2030; by promoting critical investments in renewable energy, while eliminating our dependence on fossil fuels; and supporting innovative new technologies to keep up in a global economy. These are steps we must take or risk being left behind by the rest of the world.

For the first time in history, the United States has the opportunity to work together with the world's largest emitters, including China, India, and Brazil, to build the foundation upon which we can take real action to address climate change. We must capitalize on this historic step and be a leader in this fight.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA, A TOOL OF FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, terrorists have used Twitter to convert thousands of young American minds and recruit new jihadists for ISIS.

Federal law prohibits giving aid or helping a designated foreign terrorist organization. These FTOs use Twitter, an American company, as a tool, and no one is adequately stopping them.

Why are American companies and the U.S. Government allowing social media platforms to be hijacked by terrorists?

Some say shutting down terrorists' social media accounts would be violating free speech. That is nonsense. They are wrong. The United States Supreme Court has already ruled there are no constitutional protections for foreign terrorist organizations to incite violence. Allowing terrorists to wage their cyber war with America has helped radicalize thousands of foreign fighters and raise millions of dollars online.

Today, the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed my bill, co-authored by my friend, Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia, the Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act. This bill requires the administration to come up with a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorists' cyber war and use of social media.

Private American companies should not be operating as the war propaganda mouthpiece of designated foreign terrorist organizations like ISIS.

And that is just the way it is.

#### CONGRESS MUST ACT TO KEEP GUNS AND EXPLOSIVES OUT OF THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS

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

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the House Republicans to allow a debate and a vote on an important bill that would address a terrorist threat in America and help keep our families safe.

We must address the loophole in the law that allows someone who has been identified as a terrorist to obtain a firearm or explosive license. Many of these folks are not allowed to board airplanes, yet they can walk into a gun store and buy a firearm. And after the Paris and San Bernardino attacks, no loophole is more glaring than the one that has allowed 2,000 terrorists to buy deadly weapons in the U.S. over the past 11 years.

I urge my GOP colleagues to stop blocking this bill. We must act to keep guns and explosives out of the hands of terrorists, and we must do so as urgently and quickly as possible.

#### RECOGNIZING PATRICK PROKOP

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Patrick Prokop.

After 38 years as a meteorologist, 35 of which were spent in Savannah, Georgia, Pat Prokop is retiring.

He started his broadcasting career in 1977 and, through the years, worked in Kansas, Missouri, and Georgia. He was an advocate for letting science do the talking and never missed an opportunity to educate people about the weather.

Pat announced his retirement on November 25 and said he is looking forward to spending more time volunteering, marathon training, and traveling. He also said he plans to enjoy