

## 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NORCROSS 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

## EAST BEND SMALL TOWN CHRISTMAS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, November 28, residents in Yadkin County gathered for the annual Small Town Christmas celebration at the East Bend fire station.

Although East Bend is a small community, its citizens know how to start the holiday season off right. The firefighters and Ladies Auxiliary group worked hard to get the station ready, and their efforts were appreciated by everyone who attended.

The evening began with a devotional and the lighting of the Christmas tree. While the chicken stew and pinto beans that followed were certainly delicious, the focus on faith was the real draw.

It is easy to get distracted during the days and weeks leading up to Christmas. So it was uplifting to see the community of East Bend once again take time to reflect on this season of grace and let the Lord's infinite joy fill their hearts.

It was a pleasure to be a part of their celebration, and I commend them for it.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF KATE MCCARTHY

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday friends, family, and admirers of Kate McCarthy will gather in the shadow of Mount Hood that she loved. They will share stories of young Kate as a smart, free-spirited woman, educated at Portland's Reed College, working on Mount Hood's historic Timberline Lodge the day it opened in 1937 with President Roosevelt. Her family will regale with tales of challenges of managing four interesting children, shall we say.

The central narrative will be her knowledge, stewardship, and love of special places like the Columbia River Gorge, her advocacy and leadership for sound land use and above all, Mount Hood.

She challenged me to focus on the entire responsibility for protecting that mountain, leading not just to 120,000 acres of wilderness, but enacting a comprehensive vision for its protection.

She was a passionate, committed visionary whose influence will be felt and seen for generations.

## DON'T FUND UNESCO BECAUSE IT HAS RECOGNIZED A NON-EXISTENT PALESTINIAN STATE

(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, Secretary Kerry has been pressuring the Israeli Government to relent in its opposition to U.S. funding for UNESCO.

It is a shame Secretary Kerry isn't using the full weight of his office to hold Abu Mazen and the corrupt Palestinian Authority accountable for their incitement to violence and their continued efforts to de-legitimize and isolate the Jewish state at the U.N. while pursuing unilateral state recognition.

But, with all due respect to the Israeli Government's newfound position, which undoubtedly was achieved under duress, this is a matter of U.S. law and Congress' clear desire to force fundamental reforms at the broken U.N. system.

Our laws are clear. No taxpayer dollars can be used to fund any agency at the U.N. that admits a nonexistent state of Palestine. UNESCO did, so, therefore, no U.S. dollars.

I urge Congress not to relent, but to stand with me and defend our jurisdiction and continue to uphold both the letter and the spirit of the law.

## TERRORIST GUN LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, these are very anxious times here in America with good reason. We have an urgent national security issue at hand that allows somebody who is on the terrorist watch list to legally purchase a firearm.

How can somebody who pledges allegiance to ISIS be allowed to purchase a gun here in America?

We would never give a set of keys to somebody who was drunk to get behind the wheel. How is it that we allow someone a license to go and purchase a firearm?

We allow them to go and purchase a firearm in this country who are on the terrorist watch list. Would the same fight be taking place if they wanted to get onto an airliner, saying: Hey, let's let he or she on. They are on the terrorist watch list. I want them to fly with me.

That is the insanity we are dealing with. Over the course of the next few weeks, we have the ability to make a commonsense, simple approach to reducing the chance of terrorism here in America; that is, to keep those who are on the terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm.

Let's come together, bipartisan, and pass this approach.

## PRESIDENT OBAMA BROKE THE LAW WITH THE BERGDAHL DEAL

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in May 2014, the President shocked the world by announcing that he had negotiated with terrorists to secure the disgraced Sergeant Bergdahl's release from the Taliban.

Yesterday the House Armed Services Committee, led by Chairman MAC THORBERRY, issued an in-depth report dealing with the President's secret negotiations. The report verified that the transfer violated several laws.

The American public was misled about the efforts to arrange the terrorists' pardon before it took place. Senior officials within the Department of Defense that were best equipped to evaluate the national security risk with this specific transfer were excluded from the process.

The President failed to take significant precautions to eliminate the risks posed by the Taliban Five, putting all American families as targets of more murderous attacks.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

We should all appreciate the six American heroes from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, who were killed in action while searching for Bergdahl to leave no one behind.

# REAUTHORIZE THE JAMES ZADROGA ACT

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

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the James Zadroga Act, the 9/11 Victims Health and Compensation Act, is up for renewal, surprise to everyone. It passed 5 years ago with a 5-year limit to be re-enacted in this Congress.

What has happened? Absolutely nothing. We keep waiting. We were told that the 9/11 victims compensation bill, the Zadroga Act, would be on the transportation bill. It was mysteriously withdrawn at the last moment. We don't know when this bill will pass.

What has happened to this place? What has happened to the spirit of bipartisanship to get this bill passed?

How can you, on the Republican side, go so low as to use this bill as grease to pass other legislation? That is what is being done right now.

The 9/11 Victims Act is being used as grease to pass other bills. It is outrageous. It is disrespectful to the men and women who gave all to serve this country, people who have stage 4 cancer today and are dying. It gives them no more solace to know that their country is not standing by them.

We continue to say "never forget," yet we continue to forget in this Christmastime, in this holiday season, those who are suffering.

Give them peace of heart and mind, and pass this bill.

## A TRIBUTE TO MEG MECCARIELLO

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

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Meg Lawyer-Meccariello, who fought a hard battle against mesothelioma, an asbestos-related cancer.

Early in my term I met Meg in my office in Washington when she came to share the story of her sister, Mary Jo Lawyer Spano, who lost her life in her courageous battle with mesothelioma.

Meg shared how mesothelioma had tragically impacted her family, claiming the lives of Mary Jo and her father and leaving Meg and her sisters with unnerving diagnoses.

I vividly remember Meg's frustration and disparity by the information and lack of awareness about mesothelioma.

Despite all of this, Meg was a tremendous advocate for finding a cure for this terrible disease. Meg was instrumental in the introduction of legislation named in her sister's honor which would create the Nation's first mesothelioma patient registry.

I will continue to champion this legislation in Congress, now in memory of both Mary Jo and Meg. Meg lived with hope, strength, and grace, and she left this world a better place.

The Meccariello and Lawyer families are in our prayers.

# ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, Sandy Hook, Colorado Springs, San Bernardino. How many mass shootings or terrorist attacks will it take for Congress to act to reduce gun violence?

We are not talking about infringing upon our important Second Amendment rights, no gun registries, or privacy evaluations. No. We are talking about commonsense reforms to make it harder for terrorists and criminals to get the weapons that allow them to kill people: universal background checks, closing the gun show loophole, making sure that people on the terrorist watch list can't quietly assemble arsenals to do the American people harm.

No congressional action can end gun violence, but we can reduce it. We can save lives. We can prevent mass shootings. We can prevent terrorists from assembling the weapons they need to kill innocent Americans.

Enough is enough.

## NO-FLY LIST AND SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(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, well, they are at it again. Earlier this year we saw the administration work to deny veterans because they may be on an arbitrary list for having sought financial help services, be threatened as incompetent to exercise gun ownership rights.

Now, with the left seeking any excuse to deny Second Amendment rights to Americans, there is much effort underway to use a no-fly list or even a selectee list to not only deny travel and flight rights to falsely listed American citizens with little or no due process to remove one's name from that list, but to extend denial of gun ownership rights as well.

The no-fly list can and should be a good tool for protecting against terror strikes, but needs criteria revision for a due process for those that have been wrongly listed to have an open chance to face their accusation.

As it is now, First, Fourth, and Fifth, let alone now the Second, Amendment constitutional protections are in danger of being denied for those citizens that are falsely listed because their name sounds like the name of someone actually who bears being watched or, in the hands of an aggressive gun control administration, the use of IRS-type tactics against people the powers that be don't like.

Such lists are dangerous to basic liberty. Let's first fix the process for how the no-fly list tool is used and revised before adding more restrictions, ones

that would not have even captured the San Bernardino shooters, to this list being added, the Democrat gun control Christmas or holiday period list.

□ 0915

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 644, TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 2250, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 560 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 560

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 644) to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the conference report to its adoption without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate; and (2) one motion to recommit if applicable.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a single motion offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendments. The Senate amendments and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), my friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 644,