

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 15th, I am not recorded on any votes because I was absent due to family reasons. If I had been present, I would have voted: "Yea", on rollcall 694, passage of H. Res. 536—Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 15th, 2015, I was absent during rollcall vote No. 694. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 536—Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GROTHMAN). The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

APPOINTING THE DAY FOR THE CONVENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 76) appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 76

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the second regular session of the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress shall begin at noon on Monday, January 4, 2016.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS TO RECEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a privileged concurrent res-

olution and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 102

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

UNESCO

(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, the Obama administration is making a push to get Congress to give the President the authority to waive a legal prohibition on U.S. contributions to UNESCO. If the U.S. waives this prohibition and resumes payments to UNESCO, it will erode our credibility, and it will give the Palestinians and the U.N. the green light to continue the scheme to unilaterally declare a Palestinian state without direct negotiations with the democratic Jewish State of Israel.

If you add what our yearly contribution would be plus arrears, the American taxpayers, our constituents, could be on the hook for over half a billion dollars in just a couple of years.

Mr. Speaker, we know that our law has worked to prevent the Palestinians from joining other specialized agencies at the U.N., but if Congress relents on this issue, the Palestinians will say: Let's continue to bypass Israel and go to the U.N. for recognition.

I will continue to vehemently oppose this waiver, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my colleagues to stand with me.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of two members of my community who lost their lives in the attack on San Bernardino.

Sierra Clayborn was a bright and kind young woman. She was a graduate of the University of California, River-

side, with a degree in biochemistry. Sierra's friends described her as always smiling and always offering an encouraging word. She loved to make people laugh.

Damian Meins will be remembered as a selfless, gentle, and intelligent man. He enjoyed traveling, painting, and serving others, which included dressing up as Santa Claus for school pictures. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and their two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday we remembered the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School; today we honor the victims at San Bernardino. My question to this body is: Will we do anything to protect our communities from gun violence tomorrow?

REMEMBERING RUDY ESCOBAR, COMMANDER OF THE MACON COUNTY HONOR GUARD

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Rudy Escobar, an honored friend and veteran, who passed away on December 8 of this year at the age of 88.

For over two decades, Mr. Escobar served as the commander of the Macon County Honor Guard in the service of central Illinois veterans. His dedication to his brothers and sisters in uniform was truly remarkable, and he will be missed by many in the Macon County community.

Mr. Speaker, for most of his life, Mr. Escobar worked tirelessly on behalf of his fellow veterans. After his service in World War II as a China Marine, he returned home and cofounded the Macon County Honor Guard, which has since performed over 3,000 honor ceremonies at military funerals.

Active in his community, it became customary for him to voluntarily transport fellow veterans to and from the VA medical center in Danville, Illinois. He was also a member of the American Legion and the VFW posts.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Escobar was a loving husband, father, and grandfather; and most of all, he was a devoted veteran. His commitment to the military community will always be remembered.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, Mohawk Valley, New York, March 13, 2013: Michael Ransear, 57 years old; Michael Renshaw, 51.

Santa Barbara, California, May 23, 2014: Katherine Cooper, 22 years old; Christopher Michaels-Martinez, 20; Cheng Yuan Hong, 20; Weihang Wang, 20; Veronika Weiss, 19; George Chen, 19 years old.

Roseburg, Oregon, October 1, 2015: Lawrence Levine, 67 years old; Kim

Saltmarsh Dietz, 59; Sarena Dawn Moore, 44; Jason Johnson, 33; Treven Taylor Anspach, 20 years old; Lucero Alcaraz, 19; Lucas Eibel, 18 years old; Quinn Cooper, 18 years old; Rebecca Carnes, 18.

Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 19, 2013: Greg Griego, 51 years old; Sarah Griego, 40; Zephania Griego, 9.

EPA VIOLATES LAW WITH WOTUS PROMOTION

(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, this week the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, found that the Environmental Protection Agency broke Federal laws by promoting its highly controversial waters of the United States rule.

While I agree that the Clean Water Act needs clarifying, this rule would drastically expand Federal jurisdiction beyond the historical limits of the law and would apply to State and ephemeral waters. The rule would greatly increase the costs of permitting and trigger new environmental reviews and litigation.

Thankfully, this disastrous rule was put on hold nationwide by a Federal Court ruling earlier this year. In its finding, the GAO said that this was an attempt by the EPA to spread “covert propaganda” by directing Internet users to the Web sites of environmental groups in support of the WOTUS rule.

This illegal attempt to gain congressional support for the rule—and to sway public opinion—undermines the integrity of the rulemaking process, and it shows just how unprecedented this vast expansion of the EPA’s power really is.

SAN BERNARDINO SHOOTING VICTIMS

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

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to remember the victims of the tragic terrorist attack in San Bernardino, California.

Among these victims was a young woman from my district named Tin Nguyen. She was from Santa Ana, California. Tin was only 31 years old, and she had been working for the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health for 4 years as a food inspector, and she was planning her wedding to her longtime boyfriend when she was taken on that day of the shooting.

At the age of 8, Tin and her family fled Vietnam. They fled a war, famine, and all sorts of terrible situations to come and find a new life in California. Despite the challenges of being an immigrant, Tin graduated from Valley High School in Santa Ana, and she re-

ceived her undergraduate degree from Cal State, Fullerton.

Last Saturday, family and friends gathered at Saint Barbara’s Catholic Church in Santa Ana to mourn the death of this young woman who was known for her incredible spirit and a heart bigger than the sun. Let us honor the memory of this extraordinary young woman. She gave so much, but her life was tragically cut short by these shootings.

□ 1915

THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM IS NEVER OVER

(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, 224 years ago today the States ratified the first 10 amendments to our Constitution.

These most basic rights remain the bedrock of our society; yet, even today we have seen them come under attack:

Freedom of speech has been attacked by some who prefer not to hear dissenting opinions, forgetting that it applies to all.

The right to bear arms is under constant threat from those who would prefer that only criminals are armed and that law-abiding Americans are defenseless.

Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure has come under attack from our own government, which believes we must sacrifice liberty for security.

Freedom of religion, the very right our Founders sought when they fled their homes overseas, is threatened by those who would coerce Americans to violate their faith in their day-to-day lives.

In every instance, the House of Representatives has fought to preserve these rights, but this serves to remind us that the struggle for freedom is never over, that we must always remain vigilant, and that freedom is but one generation from extinction.

But today we mark this anniversary in celebration of the vision the Founders had. God bless them, and God bless America for having done so.

RECOGNIZING FIRST RESPONDERS AFTER THE MASS SHOOTING IN SAN BERNARDINO

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I am heartbroken and outraged over the mass shooting act of terror that took the lives of innocent people and left many others wounded in the neighboring community of San Bernardino.

These cold-blooded acts of violence in our Nation has to stop. I strongly denounce this act of terror and mourn for the 14 victims of this horrific tragedy,

including Aurora Godoy, a constituent of mine from San Jacinto, California, whose young life was cut far too short.

December 2, 2015, will remain in all of our memories as a tragic day for San Bernardino, the Inland Empire, California, and our Nation. In the face of this tragedy, however, true heroism shined through when law enforcement officials ran towards the danger, risking their own lives to protect the lives of others and when first responders tended to the injuries of the victims.

Our Nation should be proud of the men and women who risked their lives to save our community that day. Thank you to the men and women who wore the badge and took care of the victims.

TRADE DEFICIT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call on my colleagues and the American people to oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the TPP.

This job-outsourcing trade deal, like every one before it, has been sold to the American people with the false promise of jobs in exports. By looking at America’s accounts, you can tell they are all in the red if you take a look at the gaping trade deficits out there and job deficits and the lives of people, how they have been impacted by every single trade deal that has been signed.

Once again, our global trade deficit grew by more than \$40 billion just in October, and it had grown by \$1 billion more than the increase from September. Experts estimate that \$1 billion invested in this country creates 5,000 additional jobs.

For every \$1 billion of trade deficit we have, we lose 5,000 jobs here. When your trade deficit is half a trillion dollars, it is no wonder we have a job deficit across this country.

Since China joined the WTO, the U.S. goods trade deficit with China has reached \$324.4 billion, hundreds of thousands of jobs gone. The same with NAFTA, \$9 trillion in deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject the TPP.

KIRK DOUGLAS’ BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 99th birthday of a great American: Kirk Douglas.

I read about Mr. Douglas’ birthday in the paper where he didn’t receive gifts, but gave gifts. He gave a \$15 million contribution to an Alzheimer’s home in California. He did this on his birthday.

I found out that he has a long history of charitable giving in philanthropy. In Los Angeles, he created 400 different playgrounds, has given money to children’s hospitals, and taken a long effort to help people from all walks of life.