

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; Rebecka 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.

I saw him also in a movie that I saw recently called “Trumbo.” I didn’t realize that he had stood up against blacklisting in Hollywood and had encouraged the hiring of Dalton Trumbo, a blacklisted writer, who saved his career from what was a scourge on the United States Congress and our history of free speech and democracy.

I first learned all of what Kirk Douglas has done when I heard an apology for slavery and Jim Crow, and I found out he had been for an apology for slavery for years. He had an Internet site encouraging people to join a petition and lobbyists to pass an apology for slavery in this country.

These type of things show that Kirk Douglas is the type of person we should emulate and honor. He has had 99 great years. I thank him for his efforts of charitable giving and for his philosophy of forgiveness and understanding.

COCONSPIRATORS IN SUPPORTING TERRORISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, as we consider this week what Congress will fund through September 30 of next year and what we will not fund, the San Bernardino shooting, the radical Islamist terrorist attack there, has awokened a lot of people across the country.

There is an article from December 2, 2015, by Ashley Pratte. The question is: Is ISIS contained or covered up? That is the title.

“With the recent terrorist attacks in Paris carried out by ISIS, Americans are on high alert—and rightfully so. Just hours prior to the attacks Obama said that ISIS was ‘contained.’ Americans everywhere are baffled by Obama’s continued ignorance and lack of strategy when it comes to destroying the Islamic State.

“Yesterday, Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, former head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated on The Lead with Jake Tapper that the White House knowingly ignored a 2012 report about the rise of ISIS because they didn’t mesh well with the re-election ‘narrative.’

“Now it is all starting to make sense. Of course the President believes ISIS is contained, he has been willingly and knowingly ignoring reports about the serious threats that ISIS poses to America and to the world since it wouldn’t help him get re-elected.

“The scary thing is that these aren’t the first reports we have heard from former Obama intelligence officials regarding the White House ignoring their reports on ISIS. This September The Daily Beast published an exclusive story by Shane Harris and Nancy A. Youssef, claiming that over 50 spies say ISIS intelligence was cooked. These 50 intelligence analysts formally filed a complaint that their reports on ISIS

were being ‘inappropriately’ altered by senior officials.

“These are very powerful words. If there truly is a ‘cancer’ at the highest level of command, Americans have a lot to be concerned about when it comes to national defense and security. According to the Daily Beast, the accusations being made suggest that a significant amount of people tracking the inner workings of ISIS think that their reports are being altered to fit a public narrative—echoing the sentiments of Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn.

“It is disturbing to think that our military and intelligence officials aren’t being listened to by the Obama administration simply because it doesn’t fit their narrative. Just yesterday lawmakers on Capitol Hill heard from the chairman of the Pentagon’s Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, that ISIS is not contained, contradicting President Obama’s statements. We now have to question whether or not intelligence reports are still being ignored because of their inconvenience to the administration and because of the looming election year.

“Sadly, these reports from top military and intelligence officials aren’t surprising. Americans have noticed for a while that Obama’s statements on ISIS show how little he knows about the threat they pose or that he is deliberately ignoring the facts. A new CBS poll indicates that only 23% of Americans think Obama has a clear strategy for defeating ISIS, which shows just how little confidence Americans have in their commander-in-chief.

“On Monday, just weeks after the Paris attacks, Obama made mind-boggling remarks at a climate change summit in Paris, where he made it a point to mention that he will beat ISIS by fighting climate change.

“Let’s be honest, ISIS was never a ‘jayvee’ team, it was never ‘contained,’ and it certainly won’t be defeated by resolving to end climate change, but it was a good narrative for the Obama administration spin to quell the fear of the American public. However, this narrative stands in stark contrast with the real narrative, the one being told by military and senior intelligence officials—the one being ignored.”

And we have from the Center for Immigration Studies, Mr. Speaker, an “Analysis of the ‘Visa Waiver Program Improvement Act of 2015,’” this out December 14, 2015.

It reviews the House bill drafted to tighten up the Visa Waiver Program, and it has been reported that this may be included in the omnibus—we will find out tonight—2016 spending bill as a kind of political replacement for the bill passed in November to tighten up the refugee screening.

This article goes on from the Center for Immigration Studies that:

“One key provision makes it out-of-bounds for people who have visited—or who are natives of—Syria or Iraq, or state sponsors of terror to use the

VWP. Another major provision tightens up requirements and certifications by countries to live by the conditions of the participation—including use of fraud-resistant passports and strict timeframes for reporting of lost or stolen documents.

“Dan Cadman, a Center fellow and author of the analysis, said, ‘Congress has at least decided to tackle many of the gaps and problems with the VWP, which has represented for some time the ‘soft underbelly of homeland security’; but there can be no doubt that the U.S. vetting for refugees and asylum seekers still represents a major national security risk, and remains an unaddressed problem.’

“One major problem with the bill is the exception to several requirements that has been carved out for countries in the Schengen visa-free zone, which covers nearly all of northern, western, and central Europe, including hotbeds of terrorist activities in France and Belgium. Cadman writes that ‘this exception is the caveat that undoes the intent of the rule.’”

So, Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that we have got a lot more work to do here to prevent this President’s administration from continuing to allow people into this country without our ability to actually vet them and check them.

There are indications that members of the Visa Waiver Program may only check one in three documents that are provided to them because they just don’t have time.

Well, just when Americans thought we were unsafe, unsecure, that this administration won’t face up to the threat that radical Islam is, that most all of the country understands we are up against except the administration—they won’t mention the words radical Islam—and just when people think they are starting to maybe make the point and get the point across to this administration, we have the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security who stands up for the terrorists.

□ 1930

He stands up for people who want to come into this country and do us harm.

This is an article from Politico, of all places, and the title reads: “DHS chief: ‘Legal limits’ on scrutinizing immigrants’ Web postings.”

The article reads:

“‘We are dealing with private communications and things for which there is an expectation of privacy,’ Jeh Johnson says in an interview.”

Mr. Speaker, that is very interesting. I am glad that the Secretary of Homeland Security understands that the Supreme Court says there is a right to privacy somewhere within the shadow of the penumbra of the Constitution—that is, the Bill of Rights. Yet he doesn’t understand those constitutional protections are not afforded to people who want to come into the United States. They are in another country. I can’t imagine this in anybody’s definition of our U.S. Constitution. No Americans in other countries