

in the future the ability to dispute rulings by the Corps before spending thousands and thousands of dollars for permits.

The Federal Government's arguments in this case were unconvincing at best and repugnant at worst. Army Corps lawyers contended that Hawkes had an alternative to the expensive permit application. They argued the company could simply begin their operations without a permit, face the wrath of the Environmental Protection Agency, and attempt to argue in court that a permit isn't necessary. The problem with these alternatives is that Hawkes would be facing fines as much as \$37,500 a day by operating without a permit.

In their 8-0 decision, the Court rightly sided with reason and sanity. American citizens and private companies should not be at the mercy of a bureaucracy that is effectively extorting them to have their day in court.

On the surface, this court case was about a peat company in Minnesota trying to sell some turf to golf courses, but it represents much more than that. We have a government that is too large, spends too much, and interferes with the private sector, especially at a time when our economy is stagnant and millions of Americans are struggling to find the work they are eager to take on. We have the ability to return the government's role in the economy to its original and appropriate place by creating the conditions for economic growth for all Americans rather than attempting to pick winners and losers through a centrally planned economy.

Yesterday, Speaker RYAN introduced a proposal by House Republicans that provides a better way toward economic prosperity for all Americans. One of those ways is to reduce the regulatory and administrative burdens placed on the private sector. If we modernize the regulatory framework, provide real and aggressive oversight of major regulations by requiring an up-or-down vote by Congress, and give the American people a larger role in the development of the Federal rules and regulations that affect them, we can set our economy on a path towards prosperity. More importantly, we can make sure all Americans have the opportunity to improve their lives, to live out their own version of the American Dream, and allow their children and grandchildren to inherit a more confident and prosperous Nation.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with other Members of this body and tens of millions of Americans in every corner of our Nation, to express my profound sympathy and heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the 49 beau-

tiful young people of Orlando whose lives were stolen Sunday morning. We may never know the kind of hatred, what kind of sickness moves an individual so vehemently with such unchecked racism and homophobia to commit mass murder allegedly in the name of one or more terrorist causes.

My mind constantly returns to those who lost their lives at the Pulse, along with the 53 who were wounded, in an attempt to understand how one individual came to have the power to wreak such destruction and havoc. These innocent souls now join those lost at Blacksburg, Virginia; Newtown, Connecticut; Killeen, Texas; San Ysidro, California; San Bernardino, California; Edmund, Oklahoma; Fort Hood, Texas; Binghamton, New York; and Aurora, Colorado, as victims of modern warfare.

So far 2016 has seen 136 mass shootings, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

How can we countenance the continued ownership, availability, and use of semiautomatic weapons such as the AR-15? What legitimate purpose can they serve? What legitimate need do they fulfill? How many more must die before we rise up as a Nation and reinstate the ban on such weapons in civilian life? Would that have an impact? Would such a ban save lives?

We don't have to guess. We can look to the experience of Australia, a nation with some significant parallels to the United States. In 1996, after the worst mass shooting in Australian history, then-Prime Minister John Howard led the battle for what was to become the National Firearms Agreement, which banned certain semiautomatic and self-loading rifles and shotguns and required all firearm license applicants to show a genuine reason for owning a gun, which couldn't include self-defense.

The country instituted a mandatory federally financed gun buyback program, which led to the repurchase of 700,000 guns, which halved the number of gun-owning households and reduced the number of guns in circulation by about 20 percent. The firearm homicide rate fell by 59 percent and the firearm suicide rate fell by 65 percent without increases in other types of deaths. Australia hasn't had another mass shooting on that scale since.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close on another even more critical note: addressing the deadly end result of racism, homophobia, and male chauvinism.

The self-serving notion that any individual or group is superior to another has plagued America from our earliest days as a Nation. Slavery was a cancer on our people. Justified by the crudest, cruelest, most vicious ideology, which proclaimed persons of African or Native American ancestry to be inferior and subhuman and persons of European ancestry to be their natural masters, it was the basis of a vicious system of social oppression and economic exploitation. No people will endure such op-

pression and exploitation forever. Indeed, it inevitably led to the deadliest and most divisive war in our Nation's history: the Civil War. 204,070 people died in battle or from injury in battle, and 414,152 died from disease or accident, a total of 618,000 souls.

Yet here we have these evils lingering in our society today. They continue to express themselves in so many different ways.

What kind of deranged mind leads itself to believe that it can pass judgment on other individuals or groups? What kind of mind raised in the United States places itself above our constitutional declarations of equality for all? What kind of mind finds the basis to declare other individuals or groups defective or inferior? What kind of mind declares other individuals unworthy or unqualified to share the protections of our Constitution? What kind of mind asserts they are above judgment by a member of another group? What kind of mind envisions a world where one people are superior to another people and believes that such notions can lead to anything other than enduring conflict, death, and destruction?

Mr. Speaker, these kinds of thoughts can no longer linger. The answer rests, to a real degree, with us.

CALLING ON SENATE ACTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ZELDIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Senate to act now to send to the President's desk several important bills that I have introduced in this Chamber, which have all now passed this House.

In Congress, I have been working hard to pursue my New Era of American Strength agenda to protect America's security at home and abroad, help grow our economy, support our veterans and first responders, improve the quality of education, repair our Nation's infrastructure, improve health care in America, and safeguard our environment.

Working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House and Senate, I have been able to secure a number of important victories for my district. These include a 5-year fully funded transportation bill, including my Safe Bridges Act, which was passed and signed into law.

My proposal to allow States to opt out of Common Core without penalty from the Federal Government was also passed and signed into law.

Working with Peconic Bay Medical Center, I was able to open a new veterans healthcare clinic in Manorville.

I also helped lead the effort to permanently reauthorize the Zadroga Act for our 9/11 first responders and stop the Medical Device Excise Tax for 2 years.

Additionally, my office has successfully resolved over 3,000 cases in favor of New York's First Congressional District constituents.

While I am very proud of the victories I have been able to secure thus far for New York's First Congressional District, I have introduced a number of other bills that have now passed this House.

The Senate should act to pass all of the following bills:

My Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act, which is H.R. 4314. With the rise of terrorism across the world, the need for an improved security clearance process and increased border security has become even more apparent. The free movement of those who would commit horrific acts of terror is one of the greatest threats to America's safety, both at home and abroad. My bipartisan bill, H.R. 4314, would help close gaps in foreign borders by establishing international security standards while also guaranteeing that U.S. resources are utilized in the most efficient way possible wherever they are needed the most. H.R. 4314 would also put in place a monitoring system to screen for infectious diseases abroad, like Zika, in order to contain and prevent any potential outbreaks.

The Senate should also pass my three bills for our Nation's veterans: H.R. 2460, H.R. 1569, and H.R. 1187. One of my greatest priorities is ensuring that the veterans of our Armed Forces receive the treatment and benefits that they have earned and deserve. In Congress, I have introduced several pieces of legislation to provide for our heroes, including H.R. 2460, which would provide adult day health care for disabled veterans at no cost; H.R. 1569, to require the VA to pay accrued benefits to the estate of deceased veterans; and H.R. 1187, to eliminate the loan limit that the VA can guarantee for a veteran. Passing all these bills, all of which have received enormous support from Democrats and Republicans alike, are essential to increase our veterans care and assistance.

I also introduced a bill to save Plum Island: H.R. 1887. This island is a critical natural, cultural, and historical treasure that has been cherished by our local community since before the 1700s. Rather than allow the Federal Government to sell the island to the highest bidder, H.R. 1887 would safeguard the island from development to preserve this beautiful land, almost all of which is completely undeveloped. Additionally, we can ensure good-paying research jobs are on the island while allowing public access for more Long Islanders and others to experience this great land that is right in our own backyard.

Another one of my bills, H.R. 3070, would allow striped bass fishing off the coast of Montauk. Just this month, H.R. 3070 passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support. My bill would clarify Federal laws governing the management of the striped bass fishery in the exclusive economic zone between Montauk, New York, and Block Island, Rhode Island. Fishermen are desperately pleading for commonsense re-

lief, and the EEZ Transit Zone Clarification and Access Act is one way that Congress can help.

The Senate should act quickly on all of these essential pieces of legislation. I will continue doing everything in my power to bring home more victories for Long Island through my New Era of American Strength agenda.

□ 1030

A TIME COMES WHEN SILENCE IS BETRAYAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this House that Martin Luther King, Jr. said: A time comes when silence is betrayal.

Early Sunday morning, 49 Americans were murdered and 53 wounded, gunned down at a gay nightclub in Orlando.

As a nation, we grieve for the 49 Americans who were taken from us that day. Our hearts and prayers are with their loved ones and with all those who were wounded. Yet while we grieve, we must also act. This heinous, hateful attack had three important aspects, each of which we must acknowledge and address. Orlando was a hate crime. It was a terrorist attack, and it was committed with a gun that this individual should never have had.

This terrorist attack was a hate crime, and if we ignore that brutal reality, if we are silent about it, then we disrespect the victims of this tragedy, their families, and LGBT Americans across this Nation. So let's be very clear. On Sunday, an individual set out to kill LGBT Americans simply because of who they are. It was a direct attack on the LGBT community in a place where they gathered for safety and fellowship, and it was an attack on the Latino and Hispanic community as well.

As the sister of a gay man, this attack is personal to me, but in reality, this attack is personal to all Americans. It is an attack on our families, our friends, our values. It is an attack on our diversity and our freedom. As Americans, we do not back down from our values. We unite around them. We do not respond to hatred with hatred.

Today it is more important than ever to stand up proudly against discrimination in all forms, whether it is based on sexual orientation, on gender identity, religion, race, or anything else.

This was also a terrorist attack that requires a counterterrorism response. We need to strengthen our intelligence efforts at home and abroad. At home we need to identify potential lone wolf attackers and stop them before they become radicalized. Our political leaders, or those seeking to become political leaders, need to stop singling out Muslim Americans for hatred and violence.

Targeting Muslim Americans with violence and discrimination isn't just un-

American; it makes our entire Nation less safe. It gives ISIS a recruiting tool to radicalize individuals in this country and around the world. It puts families in this country in greater danger, and it puts our troops at greater risk. We need the Muslim communities throughout this country that are standing up against terrorism and against dangerous radical perversions of their faith. We rely on their cooperation to identify potential attackers before they attack.

Finally, we need to close the gaping hole in our laws that allow suspected terrorists who are on the FBI's terrorist watch list to walk into a store and buy a firearm. This issue is only controversial in this House and in Congress. Among our constituents, it is common sense. If you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to own a gun. Quite simply, no fly, no buy.

The time for silence is over. We in Congress have a sworn obligation to protect the people of the United States. Every day we fail to act is a failure to carry out our most basic duty.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the House bring up H.R. 1076, the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the House is in session solely for the purpose of conducting morning-hour debate. Therefore, that unanimous consent request cannot be entertained.

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I will stand here for the remainder of my time to protest the appalling silence of this House and its refusal to act in the face of this terrorist act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

REMEMBERING JERRY McCLOSKEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. MIMI WALTERS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 24, Laguna Niguel councilman and former mayor Jerry McCloskey passed away unexpectedly.

Jerry, a United States Navy veteran, continued his service to the military and his community through his volunteer work with Laguna Niguel Military Support Foundation and the American Legion Post 281. He was also involved in the local Rotary Club, Lions Club and Historical Society, and served as the president of the Orange County Watershed and Environmental Center.

I met Jerry when I ran for city council in 1996, and in all the years I knew Jerry, he truly exemplified what it means to serve. He will be sorely missed.

Jerry leaves behind his beloved wife Marilyn, his two daughters, and his four grandchildren. We join them in their mourning and hope that they can find comfort in knowing that his impact on the Orange County community will live on for decades to come.