

has given to the board, her fellow Members, and the Former Members of Congress staff has guided and grown the Association, and we are a better organization thanks to her."

Thank you, Barbara.

Ms. KENNELLY. As I accept this award—and we are not going to read the names of the memorial that we are going to have this afternoon—I think we all ought to just stand for a moment and just say a small prayer for what happened in Orlando.

Thank you.

Mr. STEARNS. Thank you, Barbara. And let me just conclude before we leave here to say we have a lunch today—and I hope all of you will come—to bestow the 2016 Distinguished Service Award on the current Senators and Representatives who are retiring after the 114th Congress. Our Association has decided that every 2 years, we will take our Distinguished Service Award and dedicate it to the retiring Members as an opportunity to thank them for their public service and to let them know that, through our Association, their service can continue.

And since we cannot hand a plaque to all of these people, we have decided to award a \$1,000 scholarship in their name to a graduating high school senior from a D.C. school. We invited students to compete for this scholarship by writing an essay about civic responsibility and what it means to be a citizen. Out of the many really outstanding submissions we received, we selected a very impressive individual who is graduating and is heading to Harvard. His name is Nicholas Stauffer-Mason, and he and his mother will join us for lunch later today. I hope all of you will attend.

Thank you, everybody, for this opportunity.

Mr. FROST. The Chair again wishes to thank the former Members of the House for their presence here today and also the leadership of the House of Representatives for hosting us once again in this revered Chamber.

Before terminating these proceedings, the Chair would like to invite those former Members who did not respond when the roll was called to give their names to the Reading Clerk for inclusion in the roll.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Father Mina D. Essak, St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Troy, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for our lives, our health, and the opportunity to serve our beloved United States of America. Send Your spirit for protec-

tion of her inhabitants as she continues to exist as the most powerful nation in the world.

Send Your spirit to touch the hearts of our Nation's leaders.

Endow the spirit of wisdom on President Obama and the Members here today with familiar words: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Accept the great goodness they strive for: trust, justice, and peace in our great Nation. Inspire our leaders with new approaches to increase the prosperity of those whom they represent. Grant each Member talent with which to multiply their fruits.

May we please You, O God, this day. Hear us, Almighty God.

Amen.

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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. KELLY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND FATHER MINA D. ESSAK

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Father Mina and the Coptic community he represents in southeast Michigan. Egypt's Coptic Christians have been a staple in my district since they held their first liturgy at St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Troy almost 40 years.

Father Mina is an engineer by trade, but in 1991, he accepted God's calling and became a priest to serve the then-small congregation of Coptic Christians in southeast Michigan. Under the leadership of Father Mina, the Coptic community has grown from a handful of families to over 750 today.

The Copts are my neighbors and friends. They are our nurses, schoolteachers, public servants, and business leaders. The Copts represent what America represents. Their story is America's story: the story of people who dreamed of a better life, the story

of people who left everything they had ever known to come to this country for a new beginning.

I am proud to represent this vibrant and welcoming community, and, under the leadership of Father Mina and Father Maximus, the Copts will continue to serve an important role in southeast Michigan for a long time.

I want to thank, again, Father Maximus and Father Mina for leading the House in prayer today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE U.S. ARMY

(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, yesterday was the 241st birthday of the United States Army, a celebration for the strongest fighting force in the world. There are now more countries liberated and thriving in peace and democracy than in the history of the world because of the American military.

It is an honor to represent Fort Jackson in the Midlands of South Carolina, the largest initial entry training facility of the Army. I was grateful to meet the incoming commanding general of Fort Jackson, Brigadier General Pete Johnson. I appreciate departing Brigadier General Roger Cloutier, who served in the tradition of Major General Bradley Becker.

This is also a special day for my family, as the son of a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps, as a grateful 31-year veteran of the Army Reserves and the South Carolina Army National Guard. I especially appreciate the Guard service of my sons, Alan in Iraq, Julian in Egypt, and Hunter in Afghanistan. My fourth son, Addison, served as a Navy doctor with the Army Rangers in Iraq.

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

Happy 241st birthday, U.S. Army.

ORLANDO

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

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, my heart goes out to the victims of the tragedy in Orlando. This act of terror and hate has reverberated across our Nation with a goal to divide us and instill fear against those who simply wish to express themselves and live their lives freely.

We cannot let fear lead us to single out an entire community or take our

focus away from fighting terrorism. We cannot allow politics to distract us from coming together and passing commonsense gun reform.

We must stand up against hate in all of its forms and the weapons that allow our enemies to too easily violently express it. That is something we all stand for.

We must act. The victims and their families of Orlando deserve no less.

TUPELO POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

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

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the incredible work being done by the Tupelo Police Athletic League.

The Police Athletic League is a national organization that allows members of the police force to expand community outreach and connect with young people and their parents through athletics and other school-related activities. This organization has reduced juvenile crime and teaches our youth to appreciate and trust police officers.

During the National Police Athletic League conference, Major Anthony Hill of the Tupelo Police Department was named the national 2016 Male Volunteer of the Year. Additionally, Tupelo Police Department Lieutenant Michael Russell was appointed to the Police Athletic League national executive board.

I want to thank Major Anthony Hill and Lieutenant Michael Russell, among others, not only for their dedication to this program, but for their work to leave Tupelo a better place than they found it.

I have worked with both of these officers firsthand as a city prosecutor, and I have seen the love and dedication they have for their community and the youth, and the countless hours of overtime, nights, and weekends they spent away from their families to make sure they help our youth.

Police officers across the country make countless sacrifices to both protect and improve our communities.

Thank you for all you do, Major Hill and Lieutenant Russell.

HATE CONTINUES TO FESTER

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

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, 49 dead Americans: sons, daughters, husbands, wives, friends.

Whatever his ideology, whatever gun he used, this killer was driven by hate toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community.

Just as hate struck the LGBT community at the UpStairs Lounge in New Orleans or at Uncle Charlie's in New York City or the BeBar nightclub here

in Washington or the hundreds and hundreds other attacks that occur each year, it is because of the inaction of bodies like this, the Congress of the United States, to address discrimination, to ignore cries for equality, that this hate continues to fester.

The LGBT community deals with this fear and hate every single day, all for wanting to live and love and be who they are. And who they are, just like every member of the LGBT community, are sons, daughters, husbands, wives, and friends.

ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month.

More than 80,000 Americans die as a result of Alzheimer's each and every year, which makes it the sixth leading cause of death among our Nation's senior citizens.

With over 5 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's, research toward finding a cure, as well as the rehabilitation of patients, is crucial to eliminating this debilitating disease. That is why I am a cosponsor of the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which will increase access to care for those with Alzheimer's and ease the burden on their families.

Mr. Speaker, Alzheimer's and dementia have affected everyone in this country, in every congressional district across the country, in some way, shape, or form. A strong congressional response is critical to helping those struggling with this disease as well as their family and friends.

This month, I call on my colleagues to pass the HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, and I ask them to join me in raising awareness for this very important issue.

WE NEED MOMENTS OF SUSTAINED ACTION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, the murder of 49 innocent people at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando last Sunday once again demonstrates the urgency of addressing gun violence in this country.

While I appreciate the moment of silence we observed earlier this week, what we really need are moments of sustained action to ensure that this never happens again.

We should immediately close the terror gap so individuals on the terrorist watch list cannot legally purchase a gun. If you are too dangerous to get on an airplane, you are too dangerous to own a gun.

We should move quickly to prohibit the sale and possession of weapons of

war, like the assault rifle that the Orlando gunman used.

We should also close the hate crimes loophole so that anyone convicted of a hate crime is prohibited from buying or owning a gun.

We should close the Charleston loophole so gun sales cannot go forward until a background check is completed.

These are commonsense measures that would immediately reduce the incidence of gun violence in this country.

It is on all of us, as the people's elected representatives, to take action today. Choosing to do nothing is an insult to the victims of these attacks and a danger to the safety of those we represent. There is no more solemn responsibility that we have than to protect the people we represent.

Let's get to work.

FARM CREDIT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Farm Credit on its 100th anniversary.

On July 17, 1916, the Federal Farm Loan Act was signed into law, thus creating the Farm Credit System. Since then, Farm Credit has provided our Nation's rural communities with the financial tools they sorely need.

At a national level, Farm Credit has provided more than \$260 billion in credit to more than 500,000 rural customers. In my district, the Farm Credit System serves over 544 borrowers and customers, providing roughly \$160 million in credit.

As a large animal veterinarian, I have seen firsthand how Farm Credit has served generations of young farmers and ranchers who rely on these tools available to start successful businesses, businesses that keep American farming strong.

Without the Farm Credit System, our farmers in Florida and the Nation would not have access to the much-needed credit required to farm so that they can feed not just America, but the world.

DERELICTION OF DUTY

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, on June 12, the worse mass shooting in the history of this great Republic took place in Orlando, Florida. It was an egregious act of terror, a vicious hate crime directed at the LGBT community, and an attack on our democracy.

In times like this, the American people deserve real congressional leadership. The American people deserve legislation to prevent suspected terrorists on the no-fly list from being able to purchase weapons of war that are not used to hunt deer, but are used to hunt