

shooting, just 365 days ago tomorrow, brought down a symbol of racism and hate that hung for more than a century.

Mr. Speaker, let our actions and collective resolve in the wake of Charleston serve as an example for long-overdue action on guns in the wake of Orlando. The American people need us to be united, to come together strong.

I want to thank Columbus, Ohio, in my district, for being Columbus strong against hatred, discrimination, and the violence against our LGBT community and other communities.

I am Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY, and I am asking this House and Speaker RYAN to do the same.

HONORING MARIE WHITACRE

(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, today, I rise to honor a great friend in northern California, Marie Whitacre. She certainly was not a giant in stature, if you knew her, but she was a giant in the real estate industry in northern California. She passed away on June 9.

Marie moved to northern California in 1978, leaving southern California to become the executive officer of the Shasta Association of REALTORS. She continued to serve our area in that role for the majority of her 52-year career.

Not only was Marie one of the first women executives in the area, but she also brought tremendous success to her association, making it one of California's top real estate advocacy groups before she decided to step down from the position in 2007.

I knew Marie personally as a friend, as a lady with a kind, nice touch but also the ability to get things done during my time serving in office as well as working with her and her association. Indeed, it was a pleasure, and we will miss her.

Marie is survived by her brother, Mike; sister, Sally; husband, Harlan; and son, Tom.

Indeed, she made a big impression on her clientele in the north State. We will miss her. God bless her and her family.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FARM CREDIT

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 100th anniversary of Farm Credit organizations here in the United States. Over the last century, these organizations have provided critical funding for new farmers, farmers who have been in business, and families for many, many years.

I know that in my own family situation, my father was on the board of directors of the Land Bank in Stockton,

California. When my wife and I wanted to start our own ranch, for the first 2 years, we relied upon the Farm Credit associations.

And so it is all across America, as farmers try to continue their business to provide the food for our Nation and around the world, the Farm Credit organizations are there to make sure that the money is available for the operations of those farms and ranches.

SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, the President and Vice President of the United States, rightly so, have gone to Orlando, Florida, to be with the Senate delegation and Congresswoman CORRINE BROWN, our colleague whose district was impacted by this heinous terrorist act.

I thank him for that, and I thank him for bringing this country together, recognizing that we are not here to blame Muslims, we are not here to blame people of different faith; we are here to draw together. I want the Muslim community to know that we stand with them in their outrage over this incident and their recognition of the values of their faith.

Let me also say that we honor and mourn those from the Latino community who died in this tragic and heinous act, and we want to do something about it. Congresswoman BROWN and I have introduced H.R. 5470, which requires that before anyone gets an assault weapon, they must answer questions about evidence and recent contacts by Federal law enforcement authorities that they have been engaged in. It must be verified.

Let me finally say, Mr. Speaker, that we want the Nation to be secure, but we also want justice in our criminal justice system. I am looking forward to moving that legislation forward because we must be balanced: security and justice and equality for people in the criminal justice system.

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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND ITS IMPACT ON COMMERCIAL APPLICATIONS

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the importance of scientific research and its impact on commercial applications.

Here is a great example. Scientists have been working to understand dark matter. Dark matter is heavy enough to hold the galaxies together through its gravitational pull, yet it has not been detected by current technology, such as by telescopic observation. Re-

search has led to experiments that would detect dark matter as it scatters from ordinary particles.

Princeton University physicists and collaborators who are working on this problem needed to use a rare isotope of the inert gas argon. A National Science Foundation award to Princeton enabled the university group to test samples of underground gases to locate the required argon. In doing so, they discovered a source from a private company where the argon is captured during a CO₂ extraction process. In addition to the extraction process, we also found that it captures helium. This new helium supply is expected to replace more than 15 percent of the commercial helium that is provided by the Bureau of Land Management. We have all used helium in balloons and to make our voices high and squeaky, but there are industrial, medical, and scientific processes that use helium as well.

We need to provide funding to the National Science Foundation and to other scientific research organizations to continue making such discoveries and help keep America strong.

END THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN SILENCE

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this picture of these murdered children was from 3 years ago, but the mass murders continue, and the American people are saying, "Enough," and they are demanding that this Congress put an end to our epidemic on gun silence; but, for nearly two decades, there has been a gag order in place that has prevented scientific research into the causes and cures of gun violence.

The 1997 omnibus budget bill contained language that was made for the gun lobby. It targeted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the intended effect of prohibiting any federally funded research on the serious public health issue of gun violence. Sadly, the pro-gun lobby was successful in its efforts to censor science—this despite the fact that guns have taken more lives in this country since 1968 than were lost in all of the wars this Nation has ever fought.

So I urge my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 2612, to restore funding—to lift the gag rule—for research on gun violence and prevention, because, on this issue, the science is literally killing us.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FARM CREDIT SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise, first, to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Farm Credit System in America.

The Farm Credit System in America was set 100 years ago to provide lending opportunities for American farmers, ranchers, dairymen—those who tilled the soil, those who put food on America's dinner table every night. Through the success of the Farm Credit organizations throughout this country, we celebrate now 100 years of that successful ability to make loans to those who are young, who are older farmers, who are starting out, who have been farming for generations—to those who in every region of America do best, which is to produce the healthiest, the most nutritious, the most bountiful crops anywhere grown in the world so that American consumers and their families can enjoy those food products at the lowest cost value possible.

Clearly, we know that the success of American agriculture is, in large part, due to the success of the Farm Credit organizations across this country. We commend them for their efforts and celebrate 100 years of making America the most productive agricultural country in the world.

TERROR ATTACK IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise, sadly, to address the terror attack that occurred last Sunday in Orlando, Florida.

Today, the President and the Vice President are journeying to Orlando to mourn with those families and friends who felt this terrible tragedy that has reverberated across America.

As we mourn the loss of those lives, we stand with the LGBT community and decry all crimes of hate against all people in America and throughout the world.

Sadly, in my district, there have been multiple instances of hate crimes committed, in part, against the Sikh community and against other communities. In the wake of the deadliest shooting in U.S. history, issues like hate crimes, access to weapons, and the threat of terrorism are at the forefront of Americans' thoughts.

As Members of Congress, we have to ask ourselves: At what point are we going to have an honest discussion about the continuation of hate crimes that happen throughout our country? When is enough enough? If now is not the time, then when is the time?

The deadly shootings that took place in Orlando, we know, could have happened anywhere in the United States. The reality is that we do not have a consensus here in this House on the appropriate policies that are needed to prevent it from happening again. It is time that we stop playing politics if we are ever going to have an honest discussion, a conversation, about preventing hate crimes in America. Sound bites and blaming others do not translate into improving policies that make Americans safer. It simply doesn't.

I urge my colleagues, on a bipartisan basis, to thoughtfully discuss and to

hold hearings on these very important issues so that we can pass meaningful legislation. Yes, if we pass meaningful legislation, it will have to be, by its very nature, bipartisan. Pass it, and send it to the President's desk so that it can be signed into law. Hopefully, we will point back to a time when we won't have to stand for a moment of silence for a tragedy that occurred in some part of America. Americans, I believe, want us to do better, and we owe them that.

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SYSTEM

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, finally, I rise, as I have on a regular basis, to update Members of the House on the situation that faces California's water system—the devastating drought that now has gone beyond 4 years.

Today, the Shasta Lake and Folsom Lake, which are part of the Central Valley's project—two major reservoirs in the Sacramento River watershed—have enough water to supply 100 percent water allocations to farmers in the Sacramento Valley and to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, along with wildlife refuges in the San Joaquin Valley. We had hoped for an El Niño year. We didn't get it, but we did get between 80 and 95 percent of our normal supply, which is much better than the 5 percent of snow and rain that we received the year before.

Notwithstanding that fact, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service are now proposing new efforts in recent weeks to recover species, which will impact Reclamation's ability to deliver the water that they had previously allocated. In the spring, the way the Federal and State water projects work, is that, in April, the snow depths are measured—that is about the end of our snow in California—as is the precipitation during our rain time period of the year, and they measure how much water is available to be allocated for all of the water contractors, both in the Federal service areas and in the State service areas.

Yet, if the action that is being proposed 2 months later by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and by NMFS—as a part of the NOAA Federal agency—is taken, it would be unprecedented that 2 months after allocations have been made, based upon what we believe the snow to be in the mountains and the rain we receive this winter, the allocations somehow would be taken back or dramatically cut back.

Despite an abundance of water in the Shasta Reservoir—it is almost full—the National Marine Fisheries Service is considering a temperature control plan that would limit releases of only 8,000 cubic feet per second of water. Now the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is asking that we allow more water out, and, of course, the National Marine Fisheries Service is asking that we restrict water to reserve a cold water pool. The constraints, which are required by existing regulations, have

the following implications if, in fact, these actions are taken:

One, it would prevent farmers in the Sacramento Valley from diverting water already promised by Reclamation. Unheard of;

It would limit Reclamation's ability to export water to meet its commitment to the Exchange Contractors and to senior water rights holders in the San Joaquin Valley. It has not happened before;

It could lead to Reclamation's having to make releases from Friant Dam, which is in my service area, to meet other contractors' needs and reduce water previously promised to farmers in the Friant system, who, over the last 2 years, have received a zero water allocation. In April, Reclamation said they could get 35 percent of their normal water. Then, in May, it was increased by another 30 percent to 65 percent. Now they are talking about cutting it in half, maybe. Unacceptable;

It would also be unlikely that Reclamation could supply the meager 5 percent of allocation that was made for south-of-delta agricultural water service contractors. Let me tell you that these contractors, for over 2 years, have had a zero water allocation. Hundreds of thousands of acres, as a result of that, have gone unplanted—fallow.

These are devastating impacts for farmers, farmworkers, and the farm communities that I represent that work so hard every day to put food on America's dinner table. That is the consequence. Reclamation would be required to, once again, drain the reserves in the Folsom Reservoir, the Folsom Dam. These consequences, in my view, are unacceptable and should not occur.

While the National Marine Fisheries Service is proposing water to be held in Shasta through the summer and fall, the Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting additional outflow, during the summer, for increasing the habitat for delta smelt.

□ 1430

These conflicting requests make no sense. They make no sense to the person on the street. They make no sense if you try to explain it to people enjoying their dinner at their dinner table. And they certainly don't make any sense to the farmers, the farmworkers, and the farm communities.

The request, I might add, is outside of the requirements of the 2008 biological opinion—I called them the flawed biological opinions—under the Endangered Species Act, and it is in direct contradiction to the requests made by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Further, the Fish and Wildlife Service has failed to conduct the statutory analysis on the outflow request; and when they made the request, it was made without adequate scientific support under the environmental review process.

If I sound frustrated, I have good reason to be frustrated.

Additionally, the Fish and Wildlife Service is also failing to implement a comprehensive plan for species recovery. In testimony, the head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, when I asked over a month ago if they had a recovery plan, said: Well, yes.

I said: Well, what is it?

He said: Well, it is 20 years old, so it is really out of date.

I said: Well, then, you really don't have a plan.

And they acknowledged that.

Part of the comprehensive recovery plan does include provisions like those in legislation that we voted on yesterday in the Natural Resources Committee, the Save Our Salmon Act, of which I am a cosponsor. This act would begin to limit the impacts of predator species that are one of the principal causes of the decline of salmon and smelt in the delta. So the Save Our Salmon Act needs to be heard here on the floor, and I hope it will be passed and ultimately signed into law.

So the requirements made by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service are unprecedented, I say again; and the impacts, intended or not, are real. They will be severe throughout California, especially in the San Joaquin Valley that I represent a part of, affecting as much as 6 million acres of productive, prime agricultural land that produces half the Nation's fruits and vegetables. That is the number one citrus State in the Nation, the number one dairy State in the Nation, number one production in wine and grapes. The product lines, 300 commodities, go on and on and on. That is how devastating these decisions could be if, in fact, they were granted.

So I urge the administration to reject these harmful actions. Common sense, at some time, must be applied. Let's prevent this train wreck from happening. Let's get to work on fixing a broken water system in California that was designed for 20 million people. Today we have 41 million people living in California. It was designed for the agriculture we had in the sixties.

Today, we are far more productive in our agricultural efforts, and it was never designed in a way to provide for environmental water as it is being requested today. So it is a broken water system because, when we have continuous dry years, it cannot serve all the demands that are placed upon it for our people, for our farms, and to ensure that we have the ability to maintain the environment for future generations to come.

I yield back the balance of my time.

CHALLENGES FACING THE COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), my good friend and a great Member of Congress.

REESTABLISH INTEGRITY OF ARTICLE I OF THE CONSTITUTION

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, for the past 7½ years, this President has ignored Article I of the Constitution and the will of the American people.

The balance of power detailed in the Constitution is very clear: Congress writes laws; the President executes those laws. But through controversial executive orders and questionable regulations and selective enforcement of laws, the President has time and again bypassed our government's critical system of checks and balances to drive his own personal agenda of Big Government and big regulation.

Congress must reset this balance, reclaim its legislative power, and reestablish the integrity of Article I of the Constitution.

The most blatant attack on our Constitution is his executive order to suspend immigration laws for nearly 4 million people who are in our country illegally. In acting alone, the President has made clear his desire for amnesty for illegal immigrants, in direct violation of the laws of this Nation.

We are a nation of immigrants. But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, we are a nation of laws. This issue will only be resolved when the executive branch enforces existing law and works with the elected Members of Congress instead of sidestepping the Constitution and disrespecting the will of the people.

Mr. Speaker, Americans are desperate for greater security and economic opportunity. This comes with elevating, not undermining, the spirit of self-government, on which our Nation was founded.

This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is an American issue, and it touches the core of our system of government. It is time that we restore and protect Article I of the Constitution and put the people first.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, such an articulate person in Congress is appreciated by all of us, especially so clear thinking. That is exactly the kind of thinking we need in the executive branch.

Mr. Speaker, we have an article just in from Carolyn May today: "441 Syrian Refugees Admitted to the U.S. Since the Orlando Attack, Dozens to Florida." It says:

"The administration has accelerated the pace of resettlement despite warnings from top security officials about potential vulnerabilities in vetting migrants from terror-hotspots like Syria and reports that ISIS operatives have infiltrated the refugee flows.

"In written testimony prepared for a Thursday hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee, CIA Director John Brennan again warned about the potential for ISIS operatives to manipulate the refugee system, as well as other immigration paths."

While our CIA Director from this administration was warning the Senate here on Capitol Hill about ISIS being amongst the Syrian refugees—and ISIS leaders themselves have said, oh, yeah, we are going to have some of our killers amongst the so-called Syrian refugees. Because we don't really know where they are from, and that was pretty clear from testimony sometime back from FBI Director Comey, who said, sure, basically we will vet them, but we have no information to vet them with. Whoever they say they are, wherever they say they are from, especially if they say they are from Syria, we really don't have a good way to disprove or to prove.

So, yeah, we will vet them. But since we have nothing to check with—as he said, you know, we had tremendous information from Iraq. We had the government's own records, but we got nothing to vet the Syrians.

So perhaps this is an area we should believe the Islamic State leaders when they say "we are getting our terrorists in amongst the Syrian refugees." And apparently the CIA Director takes this seriously. And we hope, at some point, the President will as well.

Before people get too harsh in their judgments of the FBI or the FBI agents who had questioned the Orlando shooter, the killer, the murderer, the Islamic radical in Orlando, it is important that we keep in mind that—you know, the 9/11 Commission was composed of Republicans, Democrats, and this bipartisan group used this term, "violent extremism." They only used that three times, because they knew from their good report. They talked about the "enemy" 39 times. This administration doesn't like to talk about an enemy, so it is not appropriate for the FBI nor the National Intelligence Strategy.

And this FBI counterterrorism lexicon was developed in 2009 after this President took office because they wanted to make sure that we don't offend the people who want to kill us and destroy our way of life. So there are terms that are off limits in this administration, in the FBI, in the national intelligence community.

I haven't gotten any updates officially, but from what I understand from friends that work in these areas, there is no real update. You want a quick end to your career in the FBI or in our intelligence agencies, then all you have to use are the terms "jihad," "Muslim," "Islam." If you talk about the Muslim Brotherhood, your career is pretty well over. You don't want to talk about Hamas or Hezbollah. "Al Qaeda," that was used one time in the National Intelligence Strategy that this administration put forth.

But for heaven's sake, even though the radical Islamists are making clear that they want an international caliphate in which everyone bows their knee to Allah and to the twelfth imam, the imam that is going to come back and lead everybody, you sure don't want to say it in this administration.