

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PITTENGER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As our Nation continues to mourn the deaths of the past days, send Your spirit of consolation upon us.

Bless the Members of this people's House with wisdom and the courage to address the pressing difficulties of our time. As they continue the work of this assembly, guide them to grow in understanding in attaining solutions to our Nation's needs.

Continue to bless those, as well, charged with protecting and serving our country. They, too, need wisdom and insight into the pressure points of insecurity among our citizens. Lord, have mercy.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of California 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.

THE WALKING VETERAN

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I had the pleasure of meeting Thomas Wayne Hudson. Known on Facebook as The Walking Veteran, Mr. Hudson is walking across the country to raise awareness for the issues facing

veterans as they transition from military life to civilian status.

Mr. Hudson, who is a disabled veteran, started his journey in Las Vegas on May 2, and plans to finish on Veterans Day here in the Nation's Capital.

While walking with him, I quickly became inspired by his dedication to his fellow veterans. Despite returning to civilian life, Mr. Hudson has dedicated his time, energy, and resources to help fellow veterans, and his mission is a testament to the never-ending spirit and selflessness of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Hudson told me that a big part of the reason for the walk is to catch the attention of our Nation's elected officials. The Walking Veteran deserves our attention and support, and I am pleased to share his story with my colleagues in the House. I encourage all to follow Mr. Hudson's journey.

CONGRESS MUST ACT

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in demanding votes on two commonsense, bipartisan pieces of legislation that are overwhelmingly supported by the American people.

First, without a completed background check, we cannot identify criminals, domestic abusers, and other individuals too dangerous to own a gun. Right now, Federal law only requires criminal background checks at federally licensed gun dealers. Criminals can bypass the background check system altogether by going online or to a gun show. H.R. 1217, the bipartisan King-Thompson bill, closes this loophole, requiring background checks for all commercial gun sales regardless of where the sale is made.

Second, if you are too dangerous to fly, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in America. When it is easier for a suspected terrorist to buy a gun than board a plane, something is wrong. H.R. 1076, the bipartisan no fly, no buy legislation, authored in part by Congressman PETER KING, would prevent suspected terrorists from purchasing guns.

Congress must act on these very simple, straightforward, bipartisan bills.

REMEMBERING MARIAN BERGESON

(Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday, Marian Bergeson passed away at the age of 90.

Marian was a true pioneer. She was the first woman to serve in both the California State Assembly and State Senate, and she paved the way for so many women in California to pursue public service. Marian herself was a tireless public servant who advocated

for education, small business, and transportation.

My friend State Senator Pat Bates summed it up when she said: "Few people have influenced Orange County and California politics more effectively than Marian did."

Marian also had a real zest for life. She celebrated her 90th birthday by jumping out of an airplane for the sixth time.

The entire Orange County community joins her husband, Garth, and their three children in mourning, but I hope they will find comfort in knowing her legacy will live on for years to come.

AN URGENT REQUEST FOR THE LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I didn't come to the floor with prepared remarks today. I just came with a very urgent request.

I ask that the Republican leadership hold a vote on our commonsense, bipartisan, pro-Second Amendment background check legislation and no fly, no buy legislation. Ninety percent of the American people support it. It is pro-Second Amendment. It is bipartisan. The background check now has 187 co-authors. But more important, most important, it works.

Every day, 170 felons are stopped from buying firearms because of the background check. You don't know if a person who is trying to buy a firearm is a criminal, a domestic abuser, or is dangerously mentally ill unless you do a background check.

Please, Mr. Speaker, please Republican leadership, bring these two bills to the floor. Criminals, domestic abusers, potential terrorists, and the dangerously mentally ill should not be able to legally and easily purchase firearms.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE CARL ROGERS ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to rise and to make notice of Representative Carl Rogers, State representative from Georgia, who is ending his 22-year career in the State legislature. I want to congratulate him on his retirement. He has served the Gainesville, Hall County area for 22 years. He has served under four Governors, including the last being under his friend, Governor Nathan Deal.

Carl was the epitome of a citizen legislator. He knew his people, and he knew what was best; and sometimes,

whether he was making calls that people understood or even calls that people were critical of, Carl was always the same.

Carl's wife, Linda, has stood by him all these years. They have been married 49 years. Now she is getting him home. For those of us who know Carl, sometimes we think that will be good or bad, but Linda has had Carl for that many years, and she is wonderful.

On one special note, Mr. Speaker, Carl's public service transcends, but it is what the man does in private that means a lot. When I was in Iraq in 2008, separated from my family at Christmas, one night I got a text from my wife. When my family was celebrating Christmas without me, Carl showed up on my front doorstep with Christmas presents for my children.

Carl Rogers, you will be missed sorely in the Georgia Legislature, but I still count you as one of my dearest friends.

RECENT TRAGEDIES ARE TIED TOGETHER

(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, Dallas, Texas; Falcon Heights, Minnesota; Baton Rouge, Louisiana—these are not individual incidents occurring in a vacuum outside the orbits of each other. These tragedies are tied together by the threads of anger and fear. They filled me with horror, with sadness, and grief.

I know that we as a nation cannot allow ourselves to grow numb to this. Each of these deaths, each of these innocent lives lost, should cause each of us great sorrow and pain. They should pain us not just for the simple loss of human life, but also for the realization that their deaths—and the more than 90 people who die from gunfire each day in this Nation—are the painful signs that something is profoundly wrong in our society.

Let us begin the healing and let us unite by passing no fly, no buy and universal background checks. As the President has said, "We are better than this."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

U.S. TERRITORIES INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2016

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 5322) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. TERMINATION OF EXEMPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(a)) is amended by striking paragraph (1).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND SAFE HARBOR.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) SAFE HARBOR.—With respect to a company that is exempt under section 6(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(a)(1)) on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, the amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) EXTENSION OF SAFE HARBOR.—The Securities and Exchange Commission, by rule and regulation upon its own motion, or by order upon application, may conditionally or unconditionally, under section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-6(c)), further delay the effective date for a company described in paragraph (2) for a maximum of three years following the initial three-year period if, before the end of the initial three-year period, the Commission determines that such a rule, regulation, motion, or order is necessary or appropriate in the public interest and for the protection of investors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. HURT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5322, the U.S. Territories Investor Protection Act, and thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for her leadership on this issue.

This measure would amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to terminate an exemption for investment companies located in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and any other possession of the United States. Under cur-

rent law, such companies are exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act if their shares are sold exclusively to residents of the territory in which they are located.

This bill is about leveling the playing field, and it ensures that investment companies in Puerto Rico, Guam, and elsewhere are subject to the same rules as their mainland counterparts. Moreover, when the Investment Company Act was enacted, it was difficult and cost prohibitive for the SEC to travel to, inspect, and provide oversight for these companies. Now modern technologies allow the SEC to seamlessly gather information, and it is time that we update this law.

When this measure was considered during the recent Committee on Financial Services markup, it received unanimous support, passing out of the committee by a vote of 59-0. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues support this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Investment Company Act of 1940 governs investment companies such as mutual funds, closed-end funds, unit investment trusts, and exchange-traded funds. Its purpose is to protect investors in such funds and to provide for impartial oversight of these companies.

Among other things, the 1940 act regulates the type of activities that such companies can undertake and establishes standards for their conduct. In doing so, it describes investment companies' functions and their structure; regulates various transactions among affiliated persons; limits the amount of leverage they can undertake; outlines accounting, recordkeeping, and auditing requirements of funds; and describes how securities may be redeemed and repurchased. These matters sound technical, but they provide fundamental protections for investors in U.S. investment companies.

Due to a historical artifact, however, all funds that are located and organized in and sold only to residents of U.S. territories are exempted from the 1940 act. The reason for such an exemption was that, at the time the act was being considered in 1940, the U.S. territories were deemed to be too distant from Washington, D.C., thus making travel to them cost prohibitive. Obviously, the cost of air travel is no longer cost prohibitive and not a reason to exempt territories from the 1940 act.

As a result of this exemption, investment companies located in U.S. territories can sell products to the residents and not be subject to the oversight, disclosure, and conflict-of-interest requirements that such companies located in the mainland U.S. are subject to.

□ 1415

The outcome is that those located in the U.S. territories have been subject