

SEPTEMBER 11 TRIBUTE

(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, on the 15th anniversary of the murderous attacks of September 11, former Vice President Dick Cheney with Liz Cheney detailed how the next President will face greater risks to American families and a weaker military than ever before, in an op-ed published in *The Wall Street Journal*, with the President's legacy of weakness:

"The President who came into office promising to end wars has made war more likely by diminishing America's strength and deterrence ability. He doesn't seem to understand that the credible threat of military force gives substance and meaning to our diplomacy . . .

"Among the most important lessons of 9/11 was that terrorists must be denied safe havens from which to plan and launch attacks against us. On President Obama's watch, terrorist safe havens have expanded around the globe . . .

"Generations before have met and defeated grave threats to our great Nation. American strength, leadership, and ideals were crucial to the Allied victory in World War II and the defeat of Soviet communism during the cold war. It will be up to today's generation to restore American preeminence so that we can defend our freedom and defeat Islamic terror."

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

TRIBUTE TO MASTER DEPUTY BRANDON COLLINS

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

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today truly saddened. I rise to speak the name of a slain police officer in our community for the third time in just a few short months. Johnson County Sheriff Master Deputy Brandon Collins was hit by a car while making a traffic stop early Sunday morning and tragically killed.

He leaves behind his wife and two daughters, who are suffering an unimaginable loss. Deputy Collins was only 44 years old and was just about to celebrate his 21st year with his department serving our community.

Brooke and I want to extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends. You are all, and will remain, in our thoughts and prayers.

As we mourn with our entire community, Deputy Collins' death is a devastating reminder, especially in light of yesterday being the 15th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, that our first responders risk their lives all

the time to protect us and keep us safe. We owe them a debt of gratitude we will never be able to repay.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless Deputy Collins, and may he rest in peace.

A DAY SEARED INTO OUR MEMORY

(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, yesterday, September 11, is a day that will live in our memory forever. For those old enough to remember Pearl Harbor, that was a day that was seared into their memory. For those in the early 1960s, November 1963, the day that President Kennedy was shot will live in their memory forever. Everyone remembers where they were when they heard the news.

But September 11, 2001, was a day that changed our world forever. Ultimately, we know that on that day, as the first plane hit the World Trade Center, we thought it was a terrible accident. When the second plane came in and hit that tower, we knew that it was something vastly different. We were under attack, and, frankly, our way of life was under attack.

We are trained, Mr. Speaker, as young children to run away from danger, but our first responders are trained the opposite—to run towards it. And so that fateful day, as people were exiting the World Trade Center, we had our first responders who were running in to try to save as many people as possible.

What was also interesting is that on Flight 93, we had citizens on that plane who realized what was going on as they got word to their loved ones and put the lives of Americans in front of their own. That plane was coming, most likely, to this building right here, Mr. Speaker.

So on the day after September 11, I want to make sure that Americans realize that we thank our first responders, and we thank those who are in uniform, those in our intelligence community who are trying to protect and save the United States of America from ever experiencing that type of attack again.

Again, God bless America. God bless our first responders and those in uniform.

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9/11 ANNIVERSARY

(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, yesterday being the 15th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, I just wanted to commend the people of northern California, of my district, for the efforts they made to remember that and to also say thank you to our

firefighters all up and down the district.

The city of Chico had much positive participation as well, starting in the morning with the Optimist Club of Oroville and Chico saying, Let's take the firefighters to breakfast. They did so. There was a lot of great participation on that. It was one way to start the day—by saying thank you again to our first responders.

The city of Chico, along with their fire department, led by Chief Bill Hack, was able to have a very, very moving and well-done 9/11 commemoration starting at the Elks Club because the fire station was no longer large enough to house all the people that were participating, which is a good thing. They used great solemnity to honor the firefighters that were lost 15 years ago as well as remembering that those first responders need to be respected and properly taken care of.

We commend, again, the city of Chico and the fire department for making the community part of this, culminating in the bell-ringing at the 9/11 Memorial they have onsite at Station 5.

And there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the brand new building they have with a 9/11 memorial inside as well.

God bless our first responders and our firefighters. Good job, city of Chico, for making the 15th anniversary of 9/11 a good public event.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 214(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20944), I hereby appoint Dr. Philip B. Stark of Berkeley, California to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

SEPTEMBER 12, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 803(a) of the Congressional Recognition for Excellence in Arts Education Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)), I am pleased to appoint Mr. Steven L. Roberts of St. Louis, Missouri to the Congressional Award Board.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI,
Democratic Leader.

LAMEDUCK SESSION

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to be recognized to address you on the floor of the House of Representatives this evening, as we move toward a September session that perhaps gets concluded in a way that we go back to the November elections and, hopefully, we are bridged over any great big decisions that might come in a lameduck session.

Something that I wanted to address to you, Mr. Speaker, is the circumstances of lameduck sessions. I look back on the history of them and it is hard for me to find happy conclusions that are drawn during lameduck sessions.

I recall that Thomas Jefferson once made the statement that "large initiatives should not be advanced on slender majorities." What he meant by that was, if you have a large initiative and it is going to move this country and it is going to stress a lot of people in this country, then, if you move that large initiative and its margins are essentially close to a jump ball, you are going to have almost half the people unhappy—maybe more than half the people who are unhappy.

So that large initiative should not be advanced on a slender majority, because you get so much pushback, you don't get public buy-in. If you have a large initiative, you need to have a public that embraces it; one that, hopefully, we can get to a supermajority on large initiatives, because then we go forward in lockstep in defending and promoting those decisions that were made by this country.

Worse than advancing a large decision on a slender majority is pushing large decisions in lameduck sessions. The reality of it is, however long and nobly Members of the House and Members of the Senate have served and however long and nobly the President of the United States may have served, when they are leaving town after the election, for them to come back here after the November election and push large initiatives in a lameduck session, they are not held accountable for it any longer. You have the people that are retiring, those that we voted out of office, and a President who is term-limited altogether packaging things up and shoving them at us, the American people, sometime after November 8 and before Christmas, where we have cliffhangers that go on until Christmas Eve.

I remember Christmas Eve in about 2009. In fact, it was 2009. The

ObamaCare legislation was hanging in the balance in the United States Senate. There, I recall my communications with the esteemed gentleman who is now the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I said: Procedurally, you are down to the last piece here. This is the eve of Christmas Eve day, December 23.

I had sent an email over, which often and almost immediately is responded to by my senior Senator, and I said: Procedurally, you are going to hold ObamaCare until 9 o'clock tomorrow night on Christmas Eve. But it looks like the question is: Will the ObamaCare legislation be brought before the Senate before—earlier in the morning on the 24th—so that everybody can catch their plane and fly back home and get home in time for Christmas?

The price for sacrificing God-given American liberty to move a leftist agenda, Mr. Speaker, was what was going on over in the Senate. They brought this leverage right up until Christmas Eve day. But the deal was they had a couple of judicial appointments that they wanted to get in a vote on, as I understood, that could come along in January, as a promise that they allowed the ObamaCare legislation to be voted on before 9 o'clock on December 24, Christmas Eve day.

That agreement was reached and the Senate conferenced in some negotiated fashion or another and the last delay that was hanging onto God-given American liberty in the face of ObamaCare's hook, crook, and legislative shenanigans, which they used to pass that through the House and Senate—in components, by the way—the last one was removed and they allowed that vote earlier in the day so the Senators could get to the airport, get on a plane, fly home, and be with their families on Christmas Eve.

I said: If you are going to take away a God-given American liberty, then make them pay that price. Hold that vote up until 9 o'clock on Christmas Eve. Let them stay in Washington, D.C., on Christmas Eve. If they love their socialized medicine that much, let them pay that price of being away from their families to impose that on the American people.

But that wasn't the agreement. So I sent the email back, which said: What are we going to do now?

The answer I received was: We are going to pray. We are going to pray for a legislative victory in the special election in the Senate race in Massachusetts. Scott Brown.

I thought that was a bit of a reach, to have the audacity to ask for that. We ended up with that. Scott Brown, for a time, did delay the socialized medicine program that we call ObamaCare. George Washington could not have called it the Affordable Care Act because George Washington could not tell a lie. It is not the Affordable Care Act.

It came upon us in a lameduck session. Probably the worst example of a

lameduck session that we have seen. Well, at least it was a December session rather than a lameduck session because it technically was not an election year.

Now we are sitting in an election year. We will elect a new President. By the time the sun comes on the morning of November 9, odds are we will know clearly who the next President of the United States is going to be. We will probably have a good idea that evening before we go to bed. Maybe the polls will give us a strong indication going into that day and the exit polls during the day will be released as the polls close and give us a sense of how this thing breaks across the country.

It is an exciting time. Whether the next President of the United States is going to be Hillary Clinton or whether it is going to be Donald Trump is a question that no one at this point knows. Now, this Congress will take conclusive acts predicated upon a presumption of one or the other, or, acting as if they don't have any consideration for who will be the next President and asking that those decisions be made, supported, ratified by people who are going home, retired by their own choice, retired by the voters, or retired, in the case of Barack Obama, by term limits.

So what good could possibly happen in a lameduck session on large decisions that might bring forward—and I am not going down through the list, Mr. Speaker, because if I do that, that will add to the level of expectation on what might come.

It is wrong for this Congress to make large decisions, especially on slender majorities, and it is wrong for this Congress to make decisions that are predicated by a presumption of who will be the next President of the United States. And it is really wrong to come into this Congress and make big decisions in here while people are on the way out the door; deciding votes while they are on the way out the door to go home for their retirement, whether it is by choice, whether it is by the voters, or by constitutional term limit, whatever the case may be. That lameduck session should be used only to do that which couldn't be accomplished before the election and that which must be done before the new Congress is sworn in in the first week of January 2017.

We have that period of time. We can prepare for that. But it looks to me like there are some people in this Congress who are salivating over the idea of being able to exercise more leverage by moving an agenda through in a lameduck session that will be at the disadvantage of the will of the voters.

If you can't put that up here on the floor for a vote in the House of Representatives between now and November 8; if you can't sell it to the American people, Democrats and Republicans; if you can't get the support of one of the likely next Presidents of the United States, then who are we to impose it on the American people now?