

crimes and hate-filled incidents stand as a dark cloud over our democracy. The recent spike in hate crimes is attributable, in part, to racially charged rhetoric that characterized the 2016 election cycle and the rise of ‘alt-right’ white nationalist extremism. This is a moment that calls for Federal, State, and local officials to use every tool in their arsenal to fully investigate and prosecute these incidents when they occur.”

And we from the Congressional Black Caucus say, as well, to eradicate this from our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the 2016 presidential election was an exceptionally bitter fight between Republicans and Democrats. The election highlighted many of the existing divides between many Americans and the underlying frustrations that we have been wrestling with as a people. Couple this with the resentful partisanship that we have experienced in Congress, and it is quite clear that there are deep rifts dividing our country. However, one of the biggest consequences of this partisan bickering and inability to compromise has been the increase in the frequency of hate crimes across America.

The latest figures from the Southern Poverty Law Center estimate that there have been nearly 1,372 bias incidents between the day after the election and February 7, when these statistics were last reported. SPLC is collecting self-reported data from across the country in an effort to monitor “bias incidents”—or acts of hostility that are motivated by racism or other prejudices—across the United States. While it is important to acknowledge the limitations of self-reported data, this trend is consistent with several other incidents reported nationwide that have challenged the notion that we are living in a post-racial society.

For example, several nooses were found throughout our nation’s capital this month—one near an elementary school, another in the African American Museum of History and Culture, and on American University’s campus. On June 2, a Muslim couple was allegedly harassed in Oregon and told to go back to their country. More prominently, two men in Portland were stabbed to death and another wounded when they tried to intervene on behalf of two women, one of whom was wearing a hijab, who were being verbally assaulted by a man yelling slurs.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a few of the horrendous incidents being reported in the wake of this election and the hateful rhetoric that has come to define the political narrative. However, I am here to join my colleagues not only to denounce these actions and hateful words, but also to remind ourselves that we are better than this. We are better than this as a people and a nation, and we must all do our part to discourage this behavior and hold these violators accountable. Until we all take active roles within our society and democracy, we cannot reasonably expect our society to overcome these challenges and emerge a stronger society. I am proud to join my colleagues tonight in sending a clear message that these acts of hatred and violence will not be tolerated. Not today, not ever.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING PULSE NIGHTCLUB VICTIMS IN ORLANDO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, as I stand here tonight before you, in my hometown of Orlando, thousands of people are gathered at Lake Eola Park like they were 1 year ago to mourn, honor, and pay tribute to the 49 lives we lost on January 12, 2016. We were with them earlier today. We would love to be with them tonight, as we were last year, but we are here doing the job we were elected to do.

I am joined tonight by my colleague—I am absolutely honored to serve with him—Representative DARREN SOTO. We stand here tonight on the floor of the House of Representatives together so the world will not forget the lives we lost in the Pulse nightclub shooting.

It was supposed to be like any other Saturday night for the men and women inside the Pulse nightclub. I can only imagine the excitement they shared that evening as they celebrated birthdays and friendships. Mr. Speaker, they were out for what my bishop likes to call late-night fellowship.

Then, at 2:20 a.m., when everyone was closing their tabs for the night and about to head home, it was then that an ISIS-inspired gunman, motivated by hate, walked into the club and opened fire. Within a matter of minutes, he was able to kill 49 people and wound so many others. The innocent men and women in the club didn’t stand a chance against him that night.

We lost 49 lives. Their full potential will never be known, and we will always wonder, when we think about their lives, what could have been. Many others continue to recover from their visible and invisible wounds.

In the days and weeks following the Nation’s deadliest mass shooting, we saw our community come together in beautiful ways. We mourned with those who lost their loved ones. We came out in droves to donate blood for the survivors who needed it. We showed support and gratitude for our law enforcement officers, our first responders, and the nurses and doctors who acted with courage and bravery in the face of unimaginable tragedy.

We embraced and celebrated the diversity that makes Orlando “The City Beautiful.” We showed the world that we are a city who defeats hate with love.

One year after the shooting, the wounds are still fresh and the scars are still not fully healed, but our community is resilient and united in the face of this tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Florida, (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida, Representative VAL DEMINGS. First of all, I thank her for her service in law enforcement and also for her husband, Jerry Demings’ service in law enforcement and to remember the 1-year mark of the Pulse nightclub shooting.

□ 2030

I wrote a poem entitled: “Our Pulse Still Beats.”

Inspiration from a brother lost too soon
A place for his memory to play the tune
Alas his pulse ceased
A safe place for a rainbow of people
Full expression was presented throughout
this steeple
They all danced to the pulsating sounds
Then came a night of celebration
For many friends from many nations
On the move to impulsive grooves
In the midst of the night a dark figure entered
Hate-filled heart and soul a splintered
His guns pulsating death.
Horrors, and cries, as bullets fly
Some they ran and some they died
Their pulses ceased to be
Brave officers infiltrated the scene
A melee ensued amidst the smoke and gleam
And in the end terror was silenced, the repulsive vanquished
Medics and firefighters quickly came to the rescue
Seeking out those who cried out with fading hues
Come quick he is still breathing, wait she has a pulse
In makeshift ambulances staining ER floors in red
One by one saved from the dead
On the monitor, pulses finally steady beep, beep, beep
In the morn Orlando awakes in sadness
But comes together as One above the madness
The pulse of the city is unspeakable grief and unbreakable love
From everywhere we came to the Center, the Bloodbank, the Lake, and the Streets
We gave our time, our pennies, our blood, our hugs, and our eats
Donors with a strong pulse are needed to replenish our stock
Makeshift monuments grew before our eyes
We gathered at Dr. Phillips for those we lost and those still alive
As the bell rang 49 times, sorrow became the natural impulse, but so was unity
This emotion, this grief, this love was felt around the world
By mothers and fathers, boys and girls
A community pulsating with sadness and defiant hope
Our happy little tourist town known for magic
Became the site of history’s most violent shooting, tragic
But our community’s pulse still beats
One year later one community stronger
Our pulse still beats
For those who survived

Our pulse still beats
 And for those we lost
 Our love still remains
 For the 49 angels our love still remains
 Though pain will ever be in our hearts
 Our love still remains.

Mrs. DEMINGS. I want to thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO) for that very beautiful and inspiring poem that really captures not only the tragedy that occurred in Orlando at the Pulse Nightclub that night, but the heroic acts, how our community came together, and really provides the hope that our community needs in moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, no one can tell the story better than the family members who lost their loved ones that night, the survivors who were within the club that night. At this time, we would like to share some of the letters from family members and survivors.

The first letter that I would like to share comes from a mother who, if you were watching at all during the early hours of this tragic incident, this particular mother was going around asking anyone who she could about her son, trying to find him, trying to get word of him. I would like to share a mother's story from Christine Leinonen.

"My son was one of the 49 people killed at Pulse Nightclub on June 12 of 2016. Those were 49 humans who collectively could have lived another 2,500 years. That is longer than we have had civilization. They were moms, dads, siblings, kids, straight, gay, Latino, Asian, Caucasian. They were your constituents. They deserved better than to die in a flurry of bullets.

"My son Chris was a happy, quirky, goofy young man and had been from baby on. He was every mother's dream to hit the kid lottery. He was an only child, and I never married. I couldn't have loved him more.

"He became a licensed mental health therapist. He loved his work and his personal life.

"Chris had many friends. Chris and his boyfriend, Juan, were one of at least three couples to die together that night: another Juan and two Luises. Chris was one of two Christophers to die that night and at least six Christophers who died or survived. The magnitude of the killing is that there were so many names repeated.

"My son was a loving and giving person. He was someone who was going to be my right-hand man as I became old and incapacitated. Now I have no one.

"Chris lived his life with love and kindness. He was a walking, talking United Nations, inclusive of all; not by design, but because he cared about character, not race, gender, sexuality, or ethnicity. He lived a life of inclusion. You would have loved him if you knew him, whether he was your child or friend or cousin or coworker. The world has a little less joy without him in it.

"Hugs and kisses, Christopher's mom."

And at this time, I would like to yield to my colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO), who will continue to share.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman DEMINGS for sharing Chris' story.

A coworker of mine, Ramses Tinoco, who survived the Pulse Nightclub shooting, sent me this letter entitled "Everlasting Unity."

"My name is Ramses Tinoco, and I am a Pulse Nightclub shooting survivor. I thank God for giving me the opportunity to continue with my life so that I can spread empowerment, compassion, love, and unity.

"I want to express my feelings and point of view. Realistically, as a community and nation, we all suffered a tragic attack of terror on this one-year remembrance of June 12, 2016. Today, this is known as the biggest mass shooting in American history. Here at the doorsteps of Pulse Nightclub, let's take in consistent consideration of the ones who ultimately suffered the most: the victims, families of the deceased, the injured survivors, the other survivors who were there and escaped by God's grace, and the community who stood by, grieved in the aftermath.

"As a community, we have been given an opportunity to rebuild ourselves as stronger individuals and help those that are falling behind in depression, anguish, lament, and grief. As a community, we must show that constantly we are not alone, we are united more than ever, and, above all, that we are better than yesterday.

"This attack was a terrible and unfortunate tragedy to live through. It was an ultimate reminder that there is still a lot of discrimination and hate in this world. However, we must engage, learn from it, and utilize it to confront and prevent future fear in our community and ultimately the rest of the world. We can't be stronger if we fuel hate and negativity. We can't be stronger by pointing fingers and censoring others based on their race, financial status, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs.

"Our world is facing some hard times. Everyone is becoming a victim. How can we stop this and end the fear? We must stand up and speak out for our rights, for our peace and protection, and for the safety of our country. Above all, we need to engage solidarity and equality for the love of humanity. We can begin to make this world a better place, right here, right now. It starts with you going out and doing something nice for someone. We need to live in a world free of fear. That time begins now.

"Ramses Tinoco" of Orlando, Florida.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SOTO for his remarks.

I would like to continue to share letters from the survivors of Pulse. The next letter that I will share comes from Brandon Wolf.

"It is hard to believe it has been a year. That Saturday night was like any

other: loud music, skinny jeans, cheap drinks. Alongside my best friends, Drew Leinonen and Juan Guerrero, I was as free as ever. Standing outside on the patio, in his typical way, Drew tossed his arm around my shoulders and spoke his last words to me: 'You know what we never say enough? That we love each other.'"

Those were the last words that Drew spoke that evening.

"... I learned a lesson from Orlando's recovery: that equality and unity aren't trophies, and the journey we are on isn't over. We can't take our eyes off the prize or forget what lies ahead.

"We have to disarm hate. Silence it. Snuff it out. Replace it with the same message Drew had for me: love.

"Brandon Wolf."

At this time, I yield to my colleague from Florida (Mr. SOTO) to share another letter regarding this tragic incident.

Mr. SOTO. I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) for sharing Brandon's story.

Next we have a story from a friend.

"My name is Jim McDermott, and I am a good friend of Chris Brodman who was the first survivor of the Pulse massacre to pass away of a rare brain aneurysm on September 11 of last year. Chris came to Orlando and made it his home in the fall of 2007. His outgoing, natural interest in other people and their stories made him quite popular in our community—and we are still grieving his loss to this day. It is hard to imagine that his constant, wonderful smile is not around anymore to brighten our days.

"He was and is the best friend one could ever have.

"Chris was celebrating at Pulse a few days late because he had to work on the actual day of his birthday itself. He was lingering with friends, enjoying the festive atmosphere of the club that was one of his favorites, when the attack began. In what I find to be an example of his character, Chris pushed his friends to safety over the back fence first before escaping himself. Not one person who knows him finds this to be a surprise, as Chris was always our protector, our confidante, and our hero.

"As we come upon the one-year mark of the assault on Pulse, we wanted to remind the world of his heroism and his day-to-day loving example of how a great person can affect your life for the better. Chris loved people that were utterly themselves and unique. He prized authenticity and loyalty wherever he went. He had high standards, and he lived by them, and it made us want to live up to them as well.

"I know in my heart that he would want us to bridge the divides that separate us. He believed strongly in forgiveness and kindness. He was open to new ideas and new ways of thinking if it would lead people to a better life. My favorite recent picture of him was after the shooting where he proudly held up

a sign at the LGBT Center downtown saying: 'Love always wins.'

"In his memory, let us strive to remember not just the victims of this tragedy but the survivors as well. Let us ensure that they are getting the counseling and medical care that they continue to need. We should strive to maintain the loving bubble of hope that has surrounded our city, because of this event, despite all of the strife and division elsewhere in this country. We need to tell, preserve, and remember their stories, for they are worth hearing."

□ 2045

"They have important lessons to teach all of us. Orlando is known as being the premier destination in the world for families of all kinds—a rainbow of diversity that is infused in every aspect of our city beautiful. So today let us protect the loving vision Orlando has become around the world in the face of this tragedy. Let us stay Orlando Strong. And in so doing, we remain the beautiful haven that drew Chris to us.

"And let us never forget the red-haired boy from Shirley, New York, who taught us about unconditional love and friendship from the day he arrived.

"We love you forever, Chris.

"Sincerely,

"Jim McDermott."

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to share a survivor's letter by the name of Joshua McGill.

"My name is Joshua McGill, and I was there the night of the Pulse shooting a year ago.

"Although nothing will ever take away that tragic night for me and the fellow LGBTQ community, not only for Orlando, but for all people around the world that were affected by this form of hate towards our community, I must say that we have not let hate win thus far, and continue to spread love and prayers for one another and for the other families and victims that were either there that night, or affected in some way.

"It has been a true honor in seeing how close everyone has come together. It shows our strength as a whole and the love that we can all provide for one another in a time of need.

"The continuance of all of this gives me hope for my future in the community and in the world. May God bless you and everyone out there.

"I've become a stronger person since then, and if my strength can help others, I want to.

"Thank you for hearing my words.

"Joshua McGill."

Mr. Speaker, I yield again to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), my colleague.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida, Congresswoman DEMINGS, my colleague, for reading the letter of Joshua. How inspiring it really was.

Next we have a statement from our dear friend, Eric Rollings, who is one of

our supervisors of the Orange County Soil and Water Board, and who also is one of our only openly gay elected officials.

"As an openly gay elected official and Orlando resident for 27 years, I know the city and Orange County very well. We are a loving, caring community that supports the rights and pursuit of happiness for all of our residents. One year ago this very day, we were devastated to feel the loss of so many lives from every part of all of Orlando. Yes, Pulse by name was a gay nightclub, but it was attended by everyone and all walks of life felt safe dancing and having a good time for more than a decade.

"As the night became dawn and the horror of the extent of what happened became painfully available by every media outlet, I didn't need to listen to news reports because I live right across the street from Pulse. The sound of the blades from the helicopters above my house cut through June air, day after day, looking for a better camera angle. Out of so much pain came so much love.

"Immediately Orlando went into action. The outpouring of love from everywhere in the world is still so incredible. The help came from faith-based organizations, the small stores, corporate America. Most of all, it came out of love and our neighbors. I hope this never happens to your community or any community, but it most likely will. Let me offer some advice.

"Love thy neighbor, know your neighbor, and take care of your neighbor. Do not wait until another tragedy. Talk to your children about violence. Let's help the persons that suffer from mental illnesses.

"There is a significance and real difference between a city that is tolerant, a city accepting, and a city that embraces the LGBTQ and all its communities and individuals within those communities. I am proud to live in a city and a county that embraces! We are Orlando Strong and we are Orlando United."

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share this last survival letter for tonight. It is from Eric Borrero. It says:

"Dear Congress,

"It is to me how fast one year has gone by. The horrifying emotions and feeling of that night have not fled. Instead, they lay dormant in the recesses of my mind, bubbling up like lava in a moment's notice from unforeseen triggers.

"It is like living on a roller coaster: having great moments over the past year, making things feel absolutely normal; and extreme lows, feeling as if I will never come out of the darkness.

"Even through the disturbing images of the past, I am optimistic about the future I have ahead of me. I can fully grasp that life will never go back to the normal that I once knew, but this experience has helped me focus on what is needed in the world. That is love and inclusion for all people.

"Over the past year, I have had the most amazing support system of friends and family, who have been there for me as I have cried and battled the demons that lay with me when I sleep.

"These feelings have not changed since that night, but I remain positive and stand with my LGBTQ and Latinx brothers and sisters for a better future for everyone.

"Regards,

"Eric Borrero."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share that, today, Representative SOTO, Representative STEPHANIE MURPHY, and I introduced a resolution to recognize and mark one year since the Pulse tragedy. We were joined by 143 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, who are standing to show the community of Orlando that we stand with them in support; that Congress will not forget the victims, the survivors, the first responders, and the communities that are shattered by the hands of domestic terrorists; and that we will do everything we can to prevent future mass shootings, and take care of the people who are left standing in the wake of these tragedies.

Mr. Speaker, our community declared June 12, 2017, Orlando United Day, a day of love and kindness. All across our community, people are coming together to honor the victims by volunteering and attending vigils and memorials.

We are a community that will never forget. We won't forget those 49 innocent men and women who were sons, daughters, mothers, husbands, wives, students, teachers, entrepreneurs, and dreamers, who had a lot of life left to live. We are a community that will continue to honor these men and women, not through our words, but through our actions.

Mr. Speaker, I thank God for Representative SOTO, for his service to our community. I am honored to serve with him in the United States Congress. I appreciate the work that he has done for the last several years throughout our community. I was honored to share this Special Order with him.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a list of the names of those who perished in the Pulse Nightclub shooting.

[From www.cityoforlando.net, June 12, 2017]

VICTIM'S NAMES

Stanley Almodovar III, 23 years old; Amanda L. Alvear, 25 years old; Oscar A. Aracena Montero, 26 years old; Rodolfo Ayala Ayala, 33 years old; Antonio Davon Brown, 29 years old; Darryl Roman Burt II, 29 years old; Angel Candelario-Padro, 28 years old; Juan Chavez Martinez, 25 years old; Luis Daniel Conde, 39 years old; Cory James Connell, 21 years old.

Tevin Eugene Crosby, 25 years old; Deonka Deidra Drayton, 32 years old; Simón Adrian Carrillo Fernández, 31 years old; Leroy Valentin Fernandez, 25 years old; Mercedez Marisol Flores, 26 years old; Peter Omy Gonzalez Cruz, 22 years old; Juan Ramon

Guerrero, 22 years old; Paul Terrell Henry, 41 years old; Frank Hernandez, 27 years old; Miguel Angel Honorato, 30 years old.

Javier Jorge Reyes, 40 years old; Jason Benjamin Josaphat, 19 years old; Eddie Jamoldroy Justice, 30 years old; Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25 years old; Christopher Andrew Leinonen, 32 years old; Alejandro Barrios Martinez, 21 years old; Brenda Marquez McCool, 49 years old; Gilberto R. Silva Menendez, 25 years old; Kimberly Jean Morris, 37 years old; Akyra Monet Murray, 18 years old.

Luis Omar Ocasio Capo, 20 years old; Geraldo A. Ortiz Jimenez, 25 years old; Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, 36 years old; Joel Rayon Paniagua, 32 years old; Jean Carlos Mendez Perez, 35 years old; Enrique L. Rios, Jr., 25 years old; Jean Carlos Nieves Rodríguez, 27 years old; Xavier Emmanuel Serrano-Rosado, 35 years old; Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz, 24 years old; Yilmery Rodriguez Solivan, 24 years old.

Edward Sotomayor Jr., 34 years old; Shane Evan Tomlinson, 33 years old; Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old; Martin Benitez Torres, 33 years old; Jonathan A. Camuy Vega, 24 years old; Juan Pablo Rivera Velázquez, 37 years old; Luis Sergio Vielma, 22 years old; Franky Jimmy Delesus Velázquez, 50 years old; Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon, 37 years old; Jerald Arthur Wright, 31 years old.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues' tribute to the victims of that terrible tragic murder spree by a radical Islamist who said he was doing it for the Islamic State. The attorney general herself indicated that we have a tape of him saying he is doing it for the Islamic State.

There is nothing that justifies such an outrageous murder of even one innocent victim, much less the dozens that were mowed down by what could normally, in the old days, be said to have been a crazed killer. But he wasn't so much crazed as he was driven by a radical Islamic agenda, the same radical Islamic agenda that caused 30 million, mostly Muslim, Egyptians to rise up. Coming near the anniversary of that event in Egypt, the greatest peaceful uprising in the history of the world, the Egyptians said: We don't want a Muslim brother, we don't want a radical Islamist controlling our country.

It was rather tragic that the shooter—and I don't want to give him any more notoriety than necessary, so I won't mention his name—was not a lone wolf, as is so often supposed and we were led to believe repeatedly during the Obama administration. But as Reporter Patrick Poole indicates, he was yet another known wolf. The FBI knew he was and the local law enforcement knew who he was, which brings me to a point I wanted to discuss tonight.

Robert Mueller is the special prosecutor who now needs to resign. He was

the FBI Director that had the FBI training materials purged so FBI agents could not know what they were looking for in a radical Islamist. He changed the training. He purged it to please the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

As one intelligence officer said: We blinded ourselves of the ability to see our enemy.

That is what FBI Director Robert Mueller did.

When challenged in a hearing where I was questioning him over the pitiful investigation of the Tsarnaev older brother after Russia had notified us twice in the United States of his radicalization, after the second time, finally, ho-hum, Mueller's FBI not being adequately trained to recognize what a radical Islamist believes, how they act, what they do, what they are studying, what they are memorizing, what they wear, what their personal appearance is, they are not trained to recognize, they didn't know what they were looking for.

□ 2100

They didn't know what they were looking for. They go out. The best we can find out, they talked to Tsarnaev, and he said, "No, I'm not a terrorist," basically.

So, not knowing what else to do, since Mueller had destroyed the proper training to recognize radical Islamists, they went and talked to his mother who assured them, "No, he's a good boy; he's not a terrorist," and the result was people murdered and maimed at the Boston Marathon.

The result of the FBI going after those who would try to teach others what real radical Islam was, the results of dumbing down the FBI and their ability to spot people who wanted to kill others in the name of Allah: people killed at Boston, people killed in Orlando. And it wasn't any more the fault of guns in Orlando than it was the fault of a white truck in London.

It is the people who use those weapons to kill; otherwise, it is a matter of defense, the great equalizer. The truck is a great means of conveyance.

But Robert Mueller has created problems for this country, and there are a lot of people that are buried now. Perhaps they would, perhaps they would not be deceased if Robert Mueller had done his job and had been as concerned about finding radical Islamists in America as he was—as he told me, they didn't go to the Boston mosque where Tsarnaev surely gave evidence of being radicalized. That is not his words. I said: You didn't even go to the mosque to find out, to talk, to investigate.

The best he could do is come back and say: We did go to that mosque as part of our outreach program, part of the lovely sit down, chat, have some tea, whatever—I don't know what they had, water, whatever it was—make merry, chat. While Tsarnaev was plotting to murder many people, as many as he could at the Boston Marathon,

Bob Mueller and his FBI are making merry at the Boston mosque that he did not even know who started it. I asked him that. He didn't know.

I said: Did you even know that al-Hamoudi started that mosque? No, he didn't know that. Al-Hamoudi is doing 23 years—23 years—in Federal prison for supporting terrorism. And as I understand, I had heard that that was more to the credit not of Mueller's folks, but of help from England. How ironic is that?

But I see that I have a friend here. I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

HONORING THE LIFE OF COACH SPIKE DYKES

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I love everything about west Texas. I love the beautiful sunsets and the starry nights. I love that our farmers and ranchers feed and clothe the American people. I love that we produce more fossil and renewable energy than any other region in the United States.

People from all over the country rely on west Texas to make America great, but the greatest contribution from our region is our people. The people of west Texas have a distinct friendliness, a can-do spirit, a humble demeanor, a unique sense of humor; and on April 10, 2017, we lost one of our very own who embodied these attributes like no one else.

Former head football coach at Texas Tech and favorite son of west Texas, Spike Dykes carved his legacy into the bedrock of our region and into the hearts of hundreds of student athletes and thousands of fans across this country.

A small town kid from Ballinger, Texas, who achieved his wildest dreams of becoming a Division I head football coach, Coach Dykes went on to lead the Red Raiders to seven straight bowl seasons and was later inducted into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

I had the honor of calling Spike Dykes "Coach" for a short time when I walked on the Texas Tech football team, and later I had the honor of calling him my friend.

We are all saddened by his passing, and our prayers are with his children and my friends, Rick, BeBe, Sonny, and their families.

Thank you, Coach, for your colorful wit and country wisdom. Thank you for leaving a legacy of love for people and all things west Texas. Thank you for teaching us that in life, like the game of football, it is not whether you win or lose; it is who you are; it is how you play the game.

God doesn't make them any better than you, Coach. God bless.

Mr. GOHMERT. I thank my friend from Texas, a great, noble tribute.

I wish that it were I who was standing here to say glowing things about people that have been running the FBI; but President Trump as a candidate said he wanted to come drain the swamp, and the more we dig, the more it appears to be a swirling cesspool up here.