

innovators and workers instead of taxing our students into an abyss of debt.

Let's fund research on medical cures instead of burying the infirm into early graves. Let us reject this abomination of a tax bill.

STOP GOVERNMENT SPYING ON AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, most Americans may not be aware of what is taking place by our government. Our government is spying on Americans and I think it is in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

In all of the talk that we have been having the last few weeks, we are missing one of the most basic issues that we hold dear: the right of privacy.

Let me explain how it is taking place.

Go back to Snowden. We didn't know about all of the spying going on in America until Snowden revealed that. I am no fan of his. I think he ought to be prosecuted, but we know information about our government spying on our Americans because of his disclosures.

Let me talk about specifically the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

What is that?

FISA allows our government to spy on foreign agents, which includes terrorists, primarily overseas. So what happens is the government goes to a FISA court.

What is that?

It is a secret court that operates in secret that issues secret warrants.

I personally have an issue with that because it reminds me too much of the Star Chamber in England where they operated in secret and tried people in secret.

As a former judge, I am very concerned about the loss of our Fourth Amendment right of privacy in the United States based on this law. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act courts operate in secret and issue warrants to go after bad guys overseas. So they seize that information and they put it in a database.

Here is what happens: while seizing that information of communication—maybe an al-Qaida guy talking to another al-Qaida guy—they put that information in a database, but also that information is seized on Americans. Incidental is what they call that. That may be a communication with an American that has nothing to do with terrorism. It could be something else. So that information is seized on Americans based on this warrant by a FISA judge on foreigners. The information is put in the database.

Here is what happens: occasionally, the government decides to go into that database that was seized without a Fourth Amendment warrant and see how many times a name comes up. They call it a query. That is another fancy name for a search. So they

search that database to see how many times Bobby Oglethorpe's name pops up. Then they go to their administrative folks and get a piece of paper that allows them then a second search.

They search that database to see if Bobby Oglethorpe is committing crimes in the U.S., having nothing to do with terrorism. Maybe it is bank robbery, maybe it is IRS fraud, maybe it violates other laws in the United States.

So then they seize that information, and we don't know how many times they do that. The Judiciary Committee has asked the Justice Department: How many times have you done that?

They refuse to tell us.

Suspicious, isn't it?

I will tell you how many times it is. According to The Washington Post, 90 percent of the account holders whose communications were collected were not the targets, the bad guys overseas. Ninety percent of them. Many of them were Americans. Nearly half of the surveillance files contained names, email addresses, and other details that the NSA marked as belonging to U.S. citizens or residents.

So what information are they getting?

Emails, communications, text messages. They seize that, then they go through that database to see if Bobby Oglethorpe is a bank robber or whatever, and all of that is done in secret. Remember, secret courts issuing secret warrants, and they don't tell anybody about that. That is a violation of the Fourth Amendment on Americans.

Let me read the Fourth Amendment: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."

Mr. Speaker, the Fourth Amendment is sacred to this country, and I include in the RECORD the Fourth Amendment.

AMENDMENT [IV.]

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in this situation, government seizes the information without a probable cause warrant. Then they search the information to see how many times Bobby Oglethorpe maybe has violated other laws, and they do it without a probable cause warrant.

That is allowed under 702 of the FISA legislation. We are getting ready to re-authorize FISA. This 702 provision should require a warrant to search that information, a warrant to take the content of that information and make it public, and file on Bobby Oglethorpe.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must set the standard for privacy, not the courts; and we are called upon to fix this spying on Americans and not allow it.

And that is just the way it is.

OPIOID CRISIS AND EFFORTS IN ARKANSAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I rise to express my concern about the opioid epidemic that is plaguing our Nation, hurting our families, reducing productivity, and, really, one of the most shocking things that we have been experiencing across this land.

I want to recognize some people in Arkansas who are making a real difference. In 2015, 392 Arkansans lost their lives to drug overdose. This crisis is terrifying and is killing our young adults and breaking up our families. They have lost acquaintances, friends, classmates, and family members to the grip of prescription drugs and illegal substances.

In Arkansas, Drug Director Kirk Lane is facing this issue head-on, coordinating the State's drug and alcohol prevention, treatment, education, and law enforcement efforts.

Curt Bradbury, who lost his son to substance abuse in 2010, has been out front and a tremendous ally in the fight to curtail the abuse of controlled substances. His contributions helped start the Arkansas Prescription Monitoring Program, a database that tracks the prescription of controlled substances across our State.

Jerry Jones' tremendous advocacy efforts in Arkansas led to the passage of Arkansas Act 820, requiring prescribers to check the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program every time they prescribe a Schedule II and Schedule III opioid.

I am proud to recognize these three individuals this morning for their positive efforts at tackling this devastating epidemic affecting our families.

HATE CAN'T WAIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this morning, to quote a great American poet and civil rights leader, a great writer, a noble American, "And Still I Rise."

And still I rise, Mr. Speaker. I rise to take a stand on behalf of the many people who suffer harm as a result of those who incite hate. Anyone who incites hate is a person that ought to be called upon to either stop it or be removed from a position such that they can harm society.

So I rise today to take a stand against those who would incite the bigot to practice bigotry, those who would incite the racist to practice racism, the sexist to practice sexism; the

homophobe to practice homophobia, the anti-Semite to practice anti-Semitism, the Islamophobe to practice Islamophobia.

There are those who think that hate can wait, Mr. Speaker. I am not one of them. When hate emanates from the highest office in the land, when hate emanates from a person who has more power than any other person in the world, when hate emanates from the Presidency, the solution is impeachment.

Impeachment will be voted on before Christmas. I rise to stand against hate.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 26 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS) at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Ron Dunn, New Hope Ministries, Akron, Michigan, offered the following prayer:

Our Father and our God in Heaven, we praise You for Your goodness to this great Nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Direct the elected leaders of this governing body to meet the many challenges that this Nation faces today and in the future. Give them wisdom to know what is right, and the courage to act upon it. Set their feet on the path of Your righteousness and peace. Strengthen their determination to give witness to these truths by the way we should live.

Give them harmony that puts an end to disunity, love for one another that extinguishes hatred, and compassion that overcomes hostility. Inspire all people to pursue Your commandment of love for one another.

We pray this in the name of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and my God, Jesus Christ.

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 West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCKINLEY 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 PASTOR RON DUNN

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pastor Ron Dunn from Akron, Michigan, who delivered that wonderful opening prayer.

Pastor Dunn is an ordained bishop with the Church of God, and is senior pastor of New Hope Ministries in Akron, Michigan, not Ohio.

His work is well known beyond the walls of the church. Pastor Dunn has led New Hope Ministries to assist those in need in the Akron community. Under Pastor Dunn's leadership, New Hope Ministries has provided food, clothing, counseling, and even assisted local families in sending their children to summer camp. His service and work is truly an example for all of us here and across the country.

Pastor Dunn is also known in our community as the head football coach of the Akron-Fairgrove Junior/Senior High School, where he has mentored the team to grow into upstanding young men.

Pastor Dunn's life of service extends back to his service in the United States Army. Pastor Dunn is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Mr. Speaker, our community and our Nation are grateful for Pastor Dunn's service and sacrifice. It is an honor to welcome him to the Capitol today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

A TRIBUTE TO ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR GREG STANDRIDGE

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

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, over the Thanksgiving holiday week, the State of Arkansas and our Nation lost a devoted public servant with the passing of State Senator Greg Standridge of Russellville, Arkansas.

He was a 1985 graduate of Russellville High School. He was a Cyclone through and through.

Greg was coowner of CSI Insurance Agency in his hometown, was a long-time active member of First Baptist Church, and a member of the Russellville Football Booster Club. He found time to serve on boards for Workforce

Investment, Pope County 911, Teen Challenge Women's Ministry, and the Pope County Fair. He was active with the Pope County Emergency Services Rescue Unit and was a volunteer firefighter.

Greg was elected to the Arkansas State Senate in a special election in 2015 and selflessly dedicated himself to improving Arkansas while fighting his long battle with cancer.

Mr. Speaker, as former President George H.W. Bush said many years ago, any evaluation of having lived a successful life must include a measure of service to others. Senator Standridge may have died young at the age of 50, but his life was truly well lived.

I join his wife of 26 years, Karen Standridge; their children, Hunter, Lakin, Cameron, and Breonna; his mother, Jewel Simcox; his late father, Marvin Standridge; his sister and my classmate, Jeania Evans; and other extended family members in celebrating Greg's life.

Mr. Speaker, we will always remember his infectious smile that could fill every room.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT MUST STOP

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

Ms. GABBARD. Mr. Speaker, for too long, survivors of sexual harassment and assault have been isolated, shamed, and bullied into silence, while their abusers walk away scot-free with the privilege of anonymity and with no personal or financial accountability.

This has been happening right here in Congress, in media, in many sectors in our society. No one, whether it be a Capitol Hill staffer, a Hollywood actor, a schoolteacher, a soldier, or anyone in any profession, at no time should they have to choose between their job and personal safety.

Congress needs to act now to end the practice of taxpayer-funded sexual harassment settlements, expose perpetrators of sexual harassment and assault, and provide a fair and transparent path to justice for survivors. This behavior is absolutely unacceptable. It has no place in Congress or in our society. It must end.

STATE COLLEGE GREW THE ROCKEFELLER CENTER CHRISTMAS TREE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight, one of the biggest Christmas events will take place in New York City: the lighting of the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree.

This historic event has ushered in the holiday season since the first official tree lighting in 1933. Tonight's event is the 85th tree lighting, and